

# N.A.A.C.P. COVERS TO MUCH TERRITORY SAYS WRITER

## TUSKEGEE CHOIR MAKES MOVIE TONE ATOP EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

NEW YORK, Jan. 24—For the second time in one week the Tuskegee Choir won new honors and new acclaim outside its appearance at Radio City Music hall by making a Pathe movietone on top of the Empire State building Friday morning, singing for former Governor Alfred E. Smith, president of Empire State, Inc., after appearing at the city home of President-elect Roosevelt on Tuesday night.

Accompanied by Col. William J. Schieffelin, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tuskegee Institute, the 160 students who compose the choir went to the 86th floor of the Empire State building, and, directed by William L. Dawson, who is also head of the Tuskegee Institute School of Music, made four recordings for the Pathe News reel on the terrace, with Radio City in the background, where they are still being headlined. For thirty minutes, the choir, massed with their faces to the South with Brooklyn and Long Island directly in their view from the world's highest peak constructed by man, sang "Oh what a beautiful city," with Thelma Armstrong, from Port Arthur, Texas, a freshman, as soloist.

It required six elevators to bring the group up to the first terraced landing on the 86th floor. The elevators traveled 1,600 feet per minute. There was a change at the 80 floor where they took a second elevator to the 86th. Before singing, the group took a third elevator to the 102 floor, which is the last floor of the world's tallest building, where they viewed the sights of New York.

The students were under the guidance of members of the faculty, the girls being under Mrs. Annie A. Campbell, wife of T. M. Campbell, director of extension work for the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Tuskegee, and the boys under Captain A. J. Neely, registrar, and manager of the Empire State building to Radio City for their first show of the day.

### URGE DOUGLASS DAY

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 23—The National Equal Rights League, with National Headquarters here, has begun its 1933 activities along its usual lines of racial self-defense by issuing its Annual Call for a nation-wide "Douglass Day" observance by the race on February 14th.

The League holds that observance by the race annually of the birth anniversary of great characters and benefactors produced by them will be very salutary in fostering racial pride and self-respect and will inspire respect from our fellow White Americans.

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## Miseducation Detri- ment to Negro Group

NEW BOOK TELLS WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BY, FOR AND WITH THE NEGRO

By Carter G. Woodson

Editor, "The Journal of Negro History" Those who have been writing me for extra copies of my releases may be delighted to know that this same thought will be published in a few days by the Associated Publishers, 1528 Ninth St., Northwest, Wash- ington, D. C., in a handy volume entitled "The Mis-Education of the Negro," offered for \$2.15 by mail. This book is a summary of what I have been saying thru the newspapers during the last two years.

These requests for copies of my releases may indicate popularity and they may be misleading. It is an effort to find out what people think about you when they agree with what you say and do. When they differ from you, however, they are often reluctant to express themselves ac- cordingly because they do not like to hurt your feelings. A man, then, is sometimes misled by what he consid- ers the silent approval of what he is doing, and he proceeds in the wrong way until the unexpressed opposi- tion breaks out like a volcanic eruption.

Since I have been publishing these thoughts from week to week to invite attention to the valuable history of the Negro and to present the status of the race I have observed various reactions thereto. Some have frankly advised me not to write any more because I have been saying things which they believed reflected upon them, others have used their pens to the contrary to counteract what I have said, and still others have denounced me from the platform and through the press.

Most of these expressions of opinion have been in polite language same have been in the vitriolic kind. Not long ago a friend wrote me, "I asked a certain race leader whether he had read your article on the value of color; and in a rage he said, 'No I never read it. I do not like that Negro and I never read anything he writes'."

Exercising full freedom of ex- pression up friend in the South ex- pressed himself still more frankly. Without mincing words, he wrote me, "The trouble with you Negroes up that way is that you think all of us down South are fools, but I want to tell you that the biggest fools in the Negro race are up there on that side of the Pota- mac, and you are one of them."

Articles Constructive in Content These articles, however, are not in- tended to make people angry. They are given to the public as conclusions reached after careful investigation of the present status of the Negro in the modern world. Every man has a right to express his opinions as long as they are based upon facts. Exercising this privilege, therefore, I am publishing this volume that the public, both white and black, may stop for a moment and reflect in order to find out what we are doing for the Negro, what he is doing for himself, and what we are doing for himself.

In this treatment, then, we have endeavored to cover all such vital prob- lems as those which concern persons engaged in social uplift, education, and religion. We have tried to go to the very seat of the trouble and to show how we have missed the mark and have strayed away from truth and teachings. Above all, we have endeavored to show that practically every- thing Negroes do is dictated by those who oppose the race. This system of "racial uplift," then, has broken down as a method too ineffective to strength- then the race where it is weak and produce in a group men well developed from within, men with vision for new service to meet the exigencies of the hour.

I realize that in saying these strange things about the present status of the Negro that persons will react in vari- ous ways. They have never given the Negro a thought because they have been educated to believe that the Negro is not worth a thought. Their point of view is that when you apply the mind it should be applied to some- thing. Since the Negro is not anything why waste the energy involved in such a mental exercise?

If anything is to be done with the Negro, then, according to this theory as pointed out in the "Miseducation of the Negro," he must be changed into a white man. This having proved futile, however, the task of developing the race is abandoned as hopeless; and there follows the program of re- strain, of keeping the Negro in his place by segregation, terrorism, lyn- ching, and massacre. In this way the element of the population believed to be worthless will not become an im- pediment to the progress of the op- poser toward world power and racial prowess toward world power and racial prowess, themselves, poorly edu- cated even from the oppressor's point of view, seldom have a thought beyond the deeply cut groove into which the oppressor has ordained that their mind shall run. Negro leaders, then, are militantly fighting progress by holding up to their people worn-out theories of education, religion, and social uplift, which have brought the world where it is today with the black

## BOOK REVIEW

(Reviewed by Clifford Mitchell)

### "THE COMMON SENSE CONCEPTION OF THE RACE PROBLEM"

By Raphael P. Powell

181 West 135th Street - N. Y. City

The author, Raphael P. Powell, sent me his little forty-eight page essay as one of my many Christmas gifts last December. Apparently, Mr. Powell wrote this treatise while living in Boston in the year 1927 and it was then published by the Square Deal-Chronic Publishing Company, publishers of the Boston Chronicle.

First describing what "common sense" really is, the author then applies that "common sense" to the American race problem and in so doing he gives us a telescopic view of the trials and tribulations that the American Negro has undergone.

Not only does the author present his conception of the propagandized method of the whites in holding the blacks in subjugation but he also points out many weaknesses of the blacks themselves in failing to unite and work together cooperatively for the good of the race.

He refers specifically to some of our national associations and suggests methods by which, in his opinion, they can accomplish more by uniting their efforts instead of fighting each other. He also emphasizes their good and weak points and appeals strongly for the cooperation of the race laymen. Practically his entire theme is as applicable, if not more so, in 1933 as in 1927 when he wrote the book.

## PRISONS and PRISONERS

(By CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL)

They say that the pen is mightier than the sword. If that is true I would require a mighty sturdy pen to attempt that no prisoner can be a trusty mean to satisfy the many readers of this column judging by the requests that I daily receive, to write on certain in the phases of prison conditions, with a policy followed. Therefore, "who is view of perhaps bettering some of the a prisoner's conditions.

However, if the editor is willing to print it, I certainly am willing to write of my conception of what might consti- tute a prison "trusty," and thus I will be able to satisfy at least a few of the many readers who have asked me to write on this subject, among others. Undoubtedly, those interested in this subject are thinking of the "Hatch Good Time" law and its method of operation. Laws, as every one knows are interpreted in various ways. Some- times very liberally—and again, other- wise. All depending upon the inter- ests at stake and the ability or power behind those who are seeking an in- terpretation. This may not sound so encouraging but ALL prisoners will know these facts.

Policies are formulated, sometimes on the very letter of the law, and sometimes on the "intent," which brings us to the question, "what and who is a trusty?" Prisoners in Michigan, particularly first-timers who are perfect prison records, (which DOES NOT include this writer) are interest- ed in this subject because if they are a "trusty" they can receive extra good time, without the necessity of a commutation of sentence through other methods.

On first thought one would say that this side the walls. Very good, for those of fortune enough to get there, but out of six thousand prisoners it is inconceivable that any large number can be trusties at any one time. Does that mean that the hopes of the thousands of others should be blasted merely be-

cause they are not? KANSAS CITY, Kans., Jan. 24—Kansas City and Wyandotte Negroes—both Republicans and Democrats—are holding their own in the matter of getting up appointments to places of responsibility and nearly all offices in the Wyandotte court house have recently either had Negroes re-appointed or newly appointed.

### DEMOCRATS APPOINT NEGROES

OLIVET church, said that God had wonderfully blessed Portland and her people. All the meetings have been well attended and as they draw to a close, packed houses are greeting the minister. The first week's services were held at Zion with Rev. Hill of Bethel in the pulpit; the second week at Bethel with Rev. Wilson of Olivet, in charge and the last week which closed last night with Rev. Kinsard in charge at Olivet.

### REVIVAL COMES TO SUCCESSFUL CLOSE WITH TEN CONVERTS

On the closing day of the three week revival services which have been conducted jointly by the First A. M. E. Zion, the Bethel A. M. E. and the Mount Olivet Baptist Churches, ten converts have been reported. In speaking of the services to an Advocate reporter, Rev. Kinsard, who filled the pulpit all this week at Mt.

## Is The N.A.A.C.P. Shifting Gears

(By KELLY MILLER)

The January Crisis announces a list of topics to be discussed in 1933, which marks a sharp departure from the basis upon which the N. A. A. C. P. was founded and upon which it has operated more or less successfully for nearly a quarter of a century. There is indeed "need and a wide-spread demand for a re-examination of what is called the Negro problem from the point of view of the middle of the 20th century." But the patrons of this or-



KELLY MILLER

ganization have endowed and supported it to fight the political and civic battles of the race. Its work is not completed nor should its program be abandoned and race distinctions are fostered and upheld by law.

A quitter never wins, and a winner never quits. The program which the Crisis out- lines for the ensuing year is indeed an engaging one. Such topics as birth health, home occupations, education, income, government, race pride and religion are well distributed over the sociological fields. Such topical treat- ment by the Crisis will undoubtedly be intelligently and artistically done. But the few pages, limited funds and space at the disposal of the Crisis are wholly inadequate to cover such a wide field with a satisfactory degree of thoroughness. It would exhaust all of the resources of the Crisis to con- duct a survey and research for a single one of these topics so as to be of any genuine or permanent value because of the utter inadequacy of means. Dr. DuBois started out as a research worker thirty-five years ago. He is well acquainted with the great expense of such enterprise. Unless he has some undisclosed endowment for this new adventure its fate is easy to foretell. The January issue deals with the problem of birth. The cor- respondent merely throws off his hasty opinion, suggesting race suicide through birth control. If this is a fair sample of what is to follow, the Crisis will miss its function. Opportunity, TheBronzeman or Abbott's Magazine might cover such topics in personal opinions and short story as well as the endorsed organ of the N. A. A. C. P. The Crisis is not endowed for this. It is not likely that it can hope to make a race wide appeal beyond other competing magazines and newspapers in the field of research and survey.

The N. A. A. C. P. is sending out the S. O. S. calling upon the race to save this militant organization to fight its battle for equal rights. Let us hope that it will not be side-tracked into scientific and sociological discussions which can better be conducted under other agencies and auspices. The Bureau of Research of Fisk University is much better equipped for such work than the Crisis may reasonably hope to be, certainly in these days of depression. It is too true as the Crisis states that the situation has changed enormously during the past quarter of a century since the N. A. A. C. P. was organized. The world today is prying little heed to human rights, but rather to the new God of technocracy which has to do with the production and distribution of material goods and the many social problems it has been presented for the past half century. The young college-bred Negro has little time and patience with it. The N. A. A. C. P. does not appeal to the imagination of the people, white or black. But it has the dynamic motive and is based upon everlasting principle. The task is not done nor should it be abandoned until the Negro race is thoroughly aroused to the doctrine of equality before and behind the law. Although all men should abandon this principle, yet should not we. The race has worked to Dr. DuBois to carry on the work laid down by Frederick Douglass, in whom there was no variable-ness nor shadow of turning from Declaration of Independence and the Con- stitution of the United States. The schools and colleges are now turning out Negro specialists in the several fields of scientific and sociological surveys. Let us hope that in time they will yield the race the benefit of their research and inquiry. But let the N. A. A. C. P. stick to its last. Whenever an organization gives up its vital principles to suit the more attractive and popular issues of the day, usually its best days are behind it. But let us

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man as the first to be offered as a sacrifice to find a way out. Every- where today in the circles of the op- pressors of the race the last word ut- tered is that the Negro must go. A one time he was needed for drudgery; but with the elimination of this hand-icap there is no need for others to support him, and he has not learned to support himself. It will not be ne- cessary to enact additional laws, the present forces at work will do the task efficiently.

### Beware of Our "Friends"

White "friends" of the Negro who are singing psalms while the world's captains are working out the destiny of the race assure us that we do not need to worry. Everything is proceed- ing smoothly, and the only thing the Negro needs to do is to go in the way that he has gone. Ill will then be well. With this thought in mind a white educator in charge of a Negro college recently said that it is a great loss that a man like Dr. Woodson has thus soured on everything and can see nothing beautiful in life. In the "Mis- education of the Negro," however, the author does not take the position that everything in the world is wrong, but he does charge to the account of the so-called friends of the race its present plight, and he calls upon the Negro to free his mind from outside con- trol. If we are to judge the progress of the future by that of the last two generations the Negro is doomed if he fails to steer clear of the treacher- ous rocks pointed out in this volume. For the benefit of those who believe that something should be done for the Negro and that by cooperation the Negro can do that thing for himself this book has been given to the public.

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