

# 200,000 NEGROES IN STRIKE

## African Says Russia Has Atom Bomb

### SITUATION CRITICAL FOR NEGRO WORKERS

By GEORGE F. McCRAY

By the end of January it is probably that 200,000 Negro workers will be directly involved in strikes over wage increases. If this happens economic rations are certain to grip a number of large Negro communities and shake them to their very foundations.

A close look at Chicago with a Negro population over 400,000 reveals a particularly alarming situation. Should the scheduled strikes in the iron and steel non-ferrous metals, farm equipment, and meat-packing industries get under way, over 70,000 Negro workers of nearly 30 per cent of the Negro working population in this city, will become unemployed. Very few of these workers have sufficient financial reserves to carry them through a long and bitter strike.

Similarly harmful effects will be felt in Gary, Ind., Pittsburgh, Birmingham and other steel towns. Negro populations in St. Louis, Kansas City, and the packing centers of Texas will also feel the pinch because of heavy employment of Negroes in meat packing plants in these cities. Already the Negro population in Detroit feels the dagger of the General Motors strike sinking deeper into its economic flesh.

The strikes in these industries are being called by various CIO unions and judging from all information available, the thousands of Negro workers involved are supporting the strikes with enthusiasm. As a matter of fact the need for higher wages is felt far more sharply among Negroes than among other workers.

This observer has heard many Negro workers in the steel and packing industries sharply criticize their fellow white workers for not demanding higher wages particularly for laborers and semi-skilled workers. By no means is the Negro worker a day the easily exploited, timid, and unassertive laborer he was up to and during the last war.

As for the wage demands of the various CIO unions involved in these bitter disputes, they are long overdue and are justified by the facts. It might be the fault of government, business, both, but the economic system as it operates today is guilty of systematic robbery of the working population. It is now admitted in government circles that the cost of living has risen over 40 per cent. It is still rising and seems likely to continue to rise for at least six more months.

During the war wages were fixed far below the cost of living and since the surrender of Japan, take-home wages have fallen sharply as the result of the restoration of 40 hour week and elimination of overtime. Neither are wives and children contributing to family income as much as during the war.

The government this week took the first positive steps to break the deadlock over wages and thus averted impending national economic disaster. Over the heads of Secretary Chester Hoxley, OPA director, Mr. Truman has decided to back down and start to raise prices.

It is permit them to rise faster than the OPA.

# THE CAROLINIAN

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## CO-ED SHOOTS PROWLER



One of the best records in the entire nation for volunteer work for the Office of Price Administration. Mrs. Annie M. Wells, chairman; and standing (left to right) Messdames Luara Jones, Joanna Wren, Charline Mills, Ruth Hayward, Lena Johnson, Edna Davis, Leath Stewart, Lavonia A. Chandler, Anna Mae Polk, Guesie Bartholomew, Frances Lewis and Ethel McCovv.

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Investigating police said the incident was an obvious attempt to enter the student, Mrs. Edith Watson, senior of Suffolk, Va., was executed following an investigation by Dr. W. W. Harvey, Greensboro coroner, who termed it "justifiable homicide."

Johnson, who was shot once in the groin, died from loss of blood following an attempt to flee the scene, police said. He was found at 3:40 p. m., clad only in his shorts, by officers on Central Street escape from the brick wall which mark the campus boundary. Taken to the L. Richardson Memorial Hospital, he died at 8:45 a. m.

Police said that someone's "chase and obvious" efforts to enter the dormitory had awakened residents once before during the night, at 3 a. m., and that some of the students thought that the intruder had entered it at that time and had fled following an attempt to flee the scene, police said. He was found at 3:40 p. m., clad only in his shorts, by officers on Central Street escape from the brick wall which mark the campus boundary. Taken to the L. Richardson Memorial Hospital, he died at 8:45 a. m.

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MRS. HENRY PFEIFFER

### COLLEGE BENEFACTOR

GREENSBORO — The death of Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer in New York, Tuesday, January 8, robbed Bennett College of its most generous benefactor. She had been confined to a hospital and at her home, 180 Riverside Drive, for several months with a broken leg following a fall. She was eighty-five years old.

Her gifts of approximately \$850,000 to Bennett since 1934 represents a small portion of the millions she has given to colleges and other institutions in the United States and other foreign countries.

Funeral services were held Friday, January 11 at 2 p. m. at the church of St. Paul and St. Andrew in New York City. President and Mrs. M. B. McLaurin, campus night (Continued on page 8)

### YOUNG SCIENTIST TELLS OF SECRET RUSSIAN BOMB

Londerry, Northern Ireland (ANP) — Russia's secret atom bomb was revealed here last week by Dr. Raphael E. G. Armattee, the 33-year-old West African head of the Lomeshie Research center for anthropology and human biology.

According to Dr. Armattee, the new Russian atom bomb "renders the Anglo-American bomb obsolete" and can be manufactured on a "mass production scale." The new bomb was developed with the aid of two captured German physicists, he said, and generates a temperature in the neighborhood of several million degrees centigrade. He described its size as about as large as a tennis ball, with sufficient power to pulverize everything within an area of 37 miles horizontally and six and two-tenths miles vertically.

"The destructive character of the Anglo-American bomb depends upon a determined size of atomium," Dr. Armattee explained. "The Russian bomb, however, develops its force by a spin or angular motion, making it more applicable for engineering work."

The Russian physicist developed a high degree of control over atomium energy in explosives, he revealed, and will be able to use it for engineering projects involving large-scale blasting. He mentioned the name of Peter Kapitzka, who the Soviet Union last November reported engaged in important atomic research at Mount Ararat in the Armenian Socialist republic, along with Semenyonov, Zhdanovitch and Vilavov, but adding he did not know the first names of the last three Russian scientists.

The young West African physicist, a graduate of the universities of Paris and Lille, created a controversy last April by revealing that he had secured the secrets of the atomium.

(Continued on page 8)

### Last Rites Held For Poet, Countee Cullen

New York (ANP) — Funeral services for Countee Cullen, celebrated poet, were held at Salem Methodist church in Harlem Saturday morning at 11 a. m. Cullen died here Wednesday at Sydenham hospital from high blood pressure.

The 42-year-old poet, a native of this city, was the son of the Rev. Frederick Asbury Cullen, founder of Salem Methodist Episcopal church.

NEW YORK, N. Y. — The second morning of the Western Union strike by the American Communication CIO found Rev. Cullen and his wife, Edie Mitchell Cullen, he achieved fame during the period between the two world wars, and before he graduated from DeWitt Clinton High school his poems were published in newspapers. He broke into literary circles by winning a poetry contest sponsored by the Federated Women's club.

His poem "If I Have A Rendezvous With Death" by Alan Seeger, a noted poet of World War I period, he won second prize in the Witter Linnier under graduate poetry contest at New York University where he had gone to continue his studies in 1923. The Poetry Society of America announced. He graduated from the university three years later and matriculated at Harvard where he received his master's degree.

During 1925, his "Therapy for a Brown Girl" won the John Reed Memorial prize and a high tribute from Carl Van Vechten, who said his work is "characterized by a suave, unpretentious, brittle intellectual elegance," and "some of it by haunting lyric loveliness," "Copper Sun," a book of poems, appeared in 1927.

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### Wages In State Nearly Doubled In Four Years

RALEIGH — Total wages paid to the majority of North Carolina workers in industry and commerce rose from \$430,584,323 in 1940 to \$829,755,302 in 1944 according to statistical reports recently published by the Unemployment Compensation Commission of North Carolina.

The reports show further that the wage rate in the labor market resulted in raising the average weekly wage paid in this state to \$29.92. This is a 65.8 per cent increase over the 1940 wage level of \$17.41. Thus the average annual income of North Carolina wage-earners is now \$1,508.84.

These figures apply to workers covered by domestic workers' employment, of which there were 474,872 in 1940, 579,340 in 1943, and 551,775 in 1944. Data based on the employment of these many workers is therefore the most comprehensive set of figures available, although it must be remembered that they do not represent the complete working force in North Carolina.

Wage reports are filed with the Commission by all firms and industries employing eight or more persons. Exempt are agricultural workers, domestic workers, employees of nonprofit establishments and government employees — federal, state, county and city. However, a comparison with U. S. Department of Commerce figures on all wages and salaries paid in North Carolina reveals that 58 per cent of them are included in the scope of the Unemployment Compensation Commission's reports.

With respect to wage increases since 1940, there is considerable difference between various industries in the state. Weekly wages of construction workers climbed as much as 119.6 per cent from the level of \$17.02 in 1940 to \$37.37 in 1944. Weekly wages in North Carolina manufacturing industries rose 70.3 per cent from an average of \$10.51 to an average of \$29.16.

Whereas weekly wages of workers in trade and service industries, which by and large represent small establishments and are more local in character, did not increase as much as 5 per cent and remain below the state average. Weekly wages

### OPA PRAISES VOLUNTEER WORKERS

DENVER, Colo. — One of the best records in the entire nation for volunteer work for the Office of Price Administration has been established by a group of Negro women in Denver, Colo., according to reports coming into the national office of the OPA.

Not only has the group volunteered its services repeatedly and willingly, but the quality of its work has been superb — beyond all possible criticism — according to Mrs. Dora Connell, volunteer assistant supervisor at the Denver War Price and Rationing Board.

Beginning back in 1942, when price control and the whole OPA program was a novelty, offers of assistance came from various individuals.

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### VIRGIN ISLES OKAY HASTIE

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands (ANP) — Newspapers commented favorably here last week on President Truman's appointment of former Judge William H. Hastie as the first Negro governor of the Virgin Islands and pledged their support to the new executive. Judge Hastie, who said the nomination surprised him, is married to a former Virgin Islander, his second wife. They have one child as a result of this marriage.



GIVE TO THE MARCH OF DIMES THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS IT STRIKES KNOWING NO RACE-CREED-OR COLOR.

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## Packing House Crisis Involves 40,000 of Race



Chas. A. Walker, Business Manager of St. Agnes Hospital for the past year, has been promoted to the position of Superintendent. Mr. Walker will succeed Dr. A. W. Tucker, Dr. Tucker was appointed after his return from China at the beginning of World War.

The appointment is a signal recognition of the fine work which Mr. Walker has done in the local hospital as well as the splendor of the nation.

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### Because of Huge Colored Membership, Meat Workers Poorly Paid--Union Heads

By Frank Marshall Davis

Chicago (ANP) — Some 40,000 Negroes comprising around 33 per cent of the 120,000 membership of the United Packinghouse Workers of America, CIO, are involved in that union's struggle for a wage increase to meet the cost of living which was expected to result in a strike Tuesday aimed mainly at the "big four" packers: Swift, Armour, Wilson and Cudahy.

Union leaders contend their workers are among the poorest paid in industry and say this condition exists because of the large number of Negro employees. They have also pointed out that an extended strike resulting in a scarcity of meat may cause the public to neglect the racial issue and blame "Negroes getting uppity and out of hand" for this hardship.

In Chicago, center of the packinghouse industry, the Negro membership of 15,000 is half the total.

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### Pauli Murray Named Deputy Attorney General

Sacramento, Calif. (ANP) — Atty. Gen. Robert Kenny of California announced Saturday the appointment of Pauli Murray as a deputy attorney general in the department of justice at Sacramento. Miss Murray, a graduate of Howard University Law school and winner of Rosenwald fellowship, 1944-45, recently received a master of laws degree from Beal Hall of Law, University of California, in December.

This marks the first time a Negro has been appointed to the attorney general's office in California. Miss Murray was sworn in on Jan. 2. One other Negro woman attorney, Miss Virginia Stephens, also a graduate of Beal Hall of Law, serves in the California state government. Atty. Stephens works in the legislative council which gives aid and advice to state legislators in the drafting of legislation.

Pauli Murray will be remembered for her unsuccessful fight some years ago to be admitted to the University of North Carolina which bars women students.

Commenting upon her appointment, she said, "I owe this good fortune in a very large measure to the excellent legal training and inspiration received at Howard from both faculty and fellow students. I hope this appointment will inspire young Negro men and women to prepare themselves to take their rightful places in the professional and technological life of the nation."

### Jail GI Who 'Wed' Male

New York (ANP) — Arrest of a Negro soldier for marrying another Negro man masquerading as a woman in order to obtain government dependency allowances was revealed last week.

Reuben Anderson, 34, was charged by FBI agents with defrauding the government of \$1,000. E. E. Conroy, agent in charge of the New York FBI office, said Anderson enlisted in the army in 1942 and went through with a marriage ceremony in June, 1944, with "Lucy Hicks," an Oxnard, Calif. "Anderson knew that 'Lucy' was a man at the time of the so-called marriage," Conroy said, adding that Anderson had been a partner of "Lucy" in operating a disorderly house.

Conroy said the two planned to use army allowances of \$50 monthly to establish a bar and grill after the war.