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Army Revokes GI Death Sentence

NEW YORK — Less than one month after the NAACP procured the conviction and death sentence of former Private Dorris C. Abston for the alleged murder of a German civilian woman, the Department of the Army notified the NAACP that the sentence levied against Abston has been set aside and the conviction reversed.

In a letter written to the Secretary of the Army on May 21, NAACP Assistant Special Counsel Franklin H. Williams asserted that "even a cursory examination of the court-martial record indicates to an objective observer that Abston's conviction was without justification in law or in fact."

Pointing out that "no bit of circumstantial evidence adduced by the prosecution . . . remained unexplained," the NAACP attorney declared that "it is shocking and disgraceful that an American soldier should be so severely sentenced without having been proved guilty of the crime beyond the reasonable doubt required by law."

Charging that the difference in race of the parties involved "prejudiced or affected in a great degree the members of the court-martial board" who convicted Abston, Mr. Williams requested the intervention of the Department of the Army to reverse the finding or at least to give the NAACP an opportunity to appear before an authorized board to argue the facts and the law applicable to the case.

Los Angeles Ready For NAACP Meeting

LOS ANGELES — The delegates from 35 states who are scheduled to attend the 40th annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be welcomed to the city by Mayor Fletcher Bowron at the opening session, Tuesday night, July 12.

Completion of arrangements for the six-day conference was announced today by Thomas L. Griffin, president of the Los Angeles branch of the NAACP. Branch committees, he said, have carefully prepared plans for taking care of the multiple activities of the conference.

The conference program has been planned with a view to developing improved ways and means of attaining civil rights for all American citizens. The government's responsibility in such a program will be discussed by Governor William H. Hastie of the Virgin Islands, political and legal aspects of the program will be discussed by delegates, and NAACP staff members.

PASS HOUSING BILL WITHOUT BIAS BAN

By ALICE A. DUNNIGAN
WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal housing bill passed by the House last Wednesday by a vote of 328 to 185, and was sent into conference to iron out the slight differences between the House and Senate measures.

The bill passed without the anti-segregation amendment which was introduced from the floor by Rep. James G. Fulton (R., Pa.) on Tuesday.

The two Negro congressmen were divided in their opinion of such an amendment. Cong. William L. Dawson (D., Ill.) was one of the 168 who opposed such an amendment while Cong. Adam C. Powell (D., N.Y.) was among the 130 who favored it.

Mr. Fulton's amendment stated that there shall be no discrimination against any person because of race, color, religion or national origin in the rental or occupancy of any housing constructed under the provisions of this act.

Introducing this amendment in introducing this amendment a serious amendment at this time. He suggested that a vote be taken on it so that the people could see where everybody stands. He said that this same amendment has not been adopted in the 1949 Housing act through a bipartisan basis, he added. If it can work in Pennsylvania he said he saw no reason why it should not work nationally.

When a division vote was taken on the amendment, the GOP side of the house began to yell for Roosevelt. "Where is Roosevelt?" they asked while young Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., voted along with the majority of the Democrats to defeat the amendment. Only 12 Democrats and the one American Labor party representative voted

along with the Republicans to include such an amendment in the bill.

The Democrats took the position that such an amendment attached to the housing bill would mean suicide to the entire bill. This was expressed by Rep. Charles B. Deane (D., N.C.). While Mr. Fulton declared that the amendment was intended only to make this bill a real American housing act. He was surprised, he said, to hear Democrats make such an "intimidation."

An amendment offered earlier by Cong. Adam C. Powell was passed by a vote of 100-to-41. The Powell amendment asked that "preference in the selection of tenants for the dwelling units built in the project area to families displaced there from because of clearance and redevelopment activity, who desire to live in such dwelling units and who will be able to pay rents or prices charged other families for comparable dwelling units built as part of the same redevelopment."

DR. BUNCHE GETS H. U. OVATION

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — One of the world's firmest believers in peace and voluntary negotiation, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, UN Mediator for Palestine, last week received tradition-steeped Harvard university's highest accolade. The brilliant young diplomat was the recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at the 298th commencement.

Dr. Bunche received the biggest ovation of all the recipients of honorary degrees who included

Court Voids Death Sentences For Six

NEW YORK — Hailing the unanimous reversal by the New Jersey Supreme Court of the conviction of six Negro youths for the murder of 72-year-old William Horner, the NAACP pointed out last week that this was the first ruling by the highest court of New Jersey acknowledging that a confession had been obtained through coercion.

Justice Heher, in announcing the decision of the seven-justice court, declared that the conviction of the "Trenton Six" was reversed the verdict, and the involuntary nature of the confessions on which on two counts; the improper manner in which the jury returned the convictions were based.

The NAACP filed a brief as a friend of the court asking that the death sentence of the six prisoners be set aside and the convictions reversed on grounds that confessions were obtained under duress during illegal detentions and secret questioning by the police.

The NAACP brief was submitted by Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall, Assistant Special Counsel Marian Wynn Perry, and Attorney Herbert H. Tate of Newark.



WATCHMAKER— Crosby Winton, whose association with Turner's Florist as manager of the firm's jewelry and watchmaking department was announced last week.

Mr. Winton comes to Raleigh after two years with Glöinger Brothers of New York City. He is a specialist in watch repairing and jewelry making, having received his training at the New York Jewelry Trade School.

such distinguished persons as Sir Oliver S. Franks, British ambassador to the United States (LL. D.), Robert E. Sherwood, famous playwright (LL. D.), Clinton S. Golden, former national CIO officer (LL. D.), Gen. Lucius D. Clay, former U. S. military commander in Germany (LL. D.), and Judge Robert P. Patterson, former Secretary of War (LL. D.).

The following was the citation which President James B. Conant read after Dr. Bunche was presented by Dr. Reginald Fitz, university Marshal.

"Ralph Johnson Bunche, educator and diplomat. A professor of political science who has shown a practical mastery of his subject; a professor of political science who has shown a practical mastery of his subject; a tireless negotiator whose fortitude and patience have signally demonstrated the value of the United Nations."

In a special address to the 298th Harvard Alumni and their guests in the famous Tercentary theatre following the morning exercises, Dr. Bunche reasserted his faith in the UN as an invaluable instrumentality of peace. The occasion was the 1948 annual Harvard Alumni Association meeting.

The senior director of the UN Trusteeship Council, recalled the value of Harvard which he had found in the years of his own life according to which had passed since his first experience in Harvard in 1927, his own individual aptitude and particular emphasis was given to merit.

Fight Admission Of Negro Student

CHAPEL HILL — The "Anti-Epsilon Committee" of the University of North Carolina has elected Rob. Dunnegan of Winston-Salem as honorary chairman.

Students at the position represented pro and anti-Epsilon factions. The anti-Epsilon was formed last week when a group of students attending a meeting of the Nonpartisan Committee for Harold Epsilon walked out in protest over the way the committee was going about its business.

United opinions were expressed on Epsilon's application for admission to the university.

Robert E. Lee, student from Charlotte said, "I am opposed to Epsilon or any other Epsilon who may be admitted to the university and I am against Communist affiliation with this group."

Another student, William B. Dutton of Greensboro, who is studying to enter the law school said, "I am opposed to the non-partisan group because I think the Communists are connected with them, and I am opposed to this group because tonight because I am not opposed to the admission of Negroes into the university, I feel that their admission is inevitable in 1950, such as Oklahoma and Arkansas and other law last in Supreme Court actions."

Harold Epsilon is a law student at North Carolina College in Durham and has filed application for admission to the University of North Carolina law school.

CORP. BAKER VISITS HOME

Corp. Thomas Baker is in the city on a forty-day furlough. A former student at A. and T. College in Greensboro, Corp. Baker, re-enlisted in the army in September, 1947 because of the "high price" in the civilian field and the job competition. He was studying plumbing at A. and T.

"Governor," as he is known by his intimate friends, is a member of the 223d IAR and will be in the army until September, 1951, unless the competition is too great and he decides to re-enlist again.

Since re-enlisting, Corp. Baker has been stationed at Fort Slocum, Orlando, Fla., Okinawa and Japan. He is awaiting reassignment during his forty-day rest.

The former bicycle jockey and human values and intellectual maturity. Dr. Bunche asserted, "I have always admired the principles for which this university stands, the truly American principles, the spirit of tolerance, its admissions policy, its basic concept of education."

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RITES HELD — Dr. Robert L. Douglas, professor emeritus of J. C. Smith University for whom funeral rites were held at the University Church Sunday. Dr. Douglas died at his home in Charlotte on June 27. He was a native of Fairview County, N. C., and received his education at Fairfield Normal, Lenoir University, and Columbia University.

He held teaching posts at S. C. State, Hines Institute and J. C. Smith, from which last post he retired in 1918.

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