

"Denial C. Vote To Negro Affects Every American"

Roy Wilkins Heard By City's Bar Association

BY ROY WILKINS
Executive Secretary, NAACP
(From Speech delivered before Bar Ass'n of St. Louis, Nov. 18)
ST. LOUIS (ANP)—The Declaration of Independence sets forth that in order to secure the inherent, natural, God-given rights of men, governments are instituted, "deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Nothing in the political history of the Southern states, especially that since 1876, suggests that they have ever taken this passage seriously. They have granted little enough suffrage to the white masses and only a grudging thimbleful to Negro citizens. In fact, a study of some statistics suggests that a thimble is far too large a measuring instrument.

Since Mississippi is a principal seat of the South's racism and furnishes a substantial part of the leadership which is battling any concession to the existence of the Twentieth Century, some of its voting statistics are pertinent.

According to the Congressional Quarterly, only 25,821 of the 421,666 Negroes of voting age in the state were registered to vote in 1961. This percentage of 6.1 is the lowest in the entire nation. Of the 82 counties in Mississippi, 76 have less than 15 percent of the eligible Negroes registered. This 76-to-82 ratio compares with 38-to-67 in Alabama; 7-to-67 in Florida; 22-to-254 in Texas; and 3-to-75 in Arkansas.

Some of the county tabulations would make anyone except a Mississippian blush: Chickasaw, with 3,054 adult Negroes and none registered; Humphreys, with 5,561 Negro eligibles and 5 registered. (Tallahatchie is the county in which the 14-year-old boy, James Till, was lynched in 1955 and two men accused as his killers were acquitted by a jury.) Needless to point out that this system amply explains the all-white legislatures, the anti-Negro laws and the anti-Negro police action prevalent throughout the South.

Only about 60 percent of the white eligibles in the South are registered but only about 25 percent of the Negroes. This racial fact has more than state or regional significance. It affects the government of the United States and directly influences or controls aspects of the political and economic welfare of Missouri and other states outside the South. Here again Mississippi furnishes a clear example of the high mischief suggested in the Harlan dissent in Plessy.

In 1954, the year of the school segregation decision, Senator James O. Eastland polled 100,000 votes in a state which had approximately 700,000 white and 421,000 Negro potential voters. Connecticut, whose population is about that of Mississippi, cast a total of 966,000 votes for its two candidates for U. S. Senator in 1958, an off year, against 61,000 votes cast for Senator John Stennis of Mississippi that same year. Even in a Presidential election year, 1960, Mississippi mustered only 266,000 votes when Senator Eastland was reelected.



WINS COUNTY SCHOOL READING TROPHY—Rev. C. W. Ward, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Raleigh, is shown presenting a Reading Trophy to M. Grant Bentley, principal of the Jeffersons Grove School. This school had the largest percent of its membership receiving certificates in the Vacation Reading Club, sponsored by the Richard B. Harrison Public Library, Raleigh. Pictured from left to right are Mrs. A. Robinson, bookmobile librarian, Harrison Library; Mrs. M. Gray, librarian of Jeffersons Grove School; Mrs. R. Chavis, member of the Wake County Home Demonstration Council, donor of the trophy; Rev. Ward, Mr. Batey, Mrs. N. P. Wimberly, Wake County Home Demonstration Agent, and Mrs. M. H. Lee, librarian of the Harrison Library.



READ MOST BOOKS IN WAKE COUNTY—Shown here are the boys and girls of Jeffersons Grove School who were responsible for the school winning a reading trophy. These students read 10 or more books in the Vacation Reading Club, sponsored by the Richard B. Harrison Public Library.



DISCUSSES TRIP TO AFRICA HERE—Roahl Aarons, St. Augustine's College senior, is shown with a group of adults and young people at the Richard B. Harrison Public Library where he spoke recently on his visit to Africa last summer. He took part in the "Crossroads Africa" Program.



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'Must Bring Something To Church:' Thomas
GREENSBORO — "One cannot expect to get something out of a church service unless he brings something to it," Dr. James S. Thomas, of Nashville, Tenn., told the Bennett College vespers audience Sunday.

Dr. Thomas, a representative of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church and a Bennett trustee, said that the deliberate purpose of each person attending a worship service should be to seek a personal encounter with God.

"The greatest point in an individual's life," he said, "is when he has made the Great Encounter. However, the creativity of such an encounter is not automatic. A hunger for greatness and goodness are needed if one is to benefit from such an encounter."

Pointing out that nobility and usefulness live in the same environment, and that the truth of the Garden of Eden is as contemporary as yesterday, Dr. Thomas urged that every person should face every other person with dignity, "as we do not know who the person may be who will influence our lives."

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Strong Major Programs Urged For Students
GREENSBORO — Strong major programs for persons in the fine arts and facilities for creative recreation were stressed as important campus needs by Dr. Kenneth I. Brown, of St. Louis, Mo., in his address at the fall honors convocation at Bennett College Friday.

Dr. Brown, retired executive director of the Danforth Foundation and presently a visiting scholar at the college, spoke on "Creativity and the Liberal Arts" when 39 upper class students were honored for their academic achievement.

"By creativity, he explained, I mean the active doing of something creative as a poem, an essay, a musical composition, a work of art. I also mean the secondary experience of having creative appreciation for the work of others."

Dr. Brown pointed out that the longing for self-expression is universal and essential for the continued health and welfare of the liberal arts college. Creativity should go hand in hand with factual scholarship, he said.

Dr. Chauncey G. Winston, chairman of the academic standards committee, presented the honorees to President Wila B. Player, who awarded certificates.

PLEASE EXCUSE THEFT
OKLAHOMA CITY (ANP)—Christ Markoff, 38-year-old manager of an SOS service station, arrived for work on Sunday morning and found that \$100 had been taken from the cash register. Also missing was a large quantity of oil and anti-freeze, and his 21-year-old employee, Roy Bowers. In their place were two notes: One reading "I'm sorry it had to work out like this;" and the other "Chris, you are a real nice boss."

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Dear Lord, we thank Thee for this day
That turns our hearts and prayers to
Grateful for Thy loving care
Of this dear Land of Liberty . . .

For bounteous harvests that assure
Our daily bread; for love and home,
For health and hope. But most of all,
That we are free . . . to stay or roam,
To think and speak, to teach and pray
Each as he wills. Lord, help us find,
When feasting's over, ways to share
These precious gifts with all mankind!

Maureen Murdoch

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