

New Type Of Negro Leader Emerging Says Dr. E. Dorsey

Educator Points To Receding Effectiveness Of Old Leaders

ATLANTA, Ga. — The phenomenon of mass political activity among Negroes is producing a new type of leader, according to Dr. Emmett Dorsey, chairman of the Political Science department at Howard University. "The effectiveness and relevance of the traditional leadership is receding. The new leaders are emerging from trade unions and the new party politics," he said.

Dr. Dorsey, who is currently on the staff of the Atlanta University Summer School, was speaking on "Political Activities and Political Ideologies of the New Negro" to the Atlanta University Summer School Assembly.

Debating the active participation of Negroes in politics to the last decade, a startling comparison to the bleak picture of the first forty years of this century, Dr. Dorsey gave as one of the main causes the rapid urbanization of the Negro.

Before the Negro migrations to the North and from Southern rural areas to Southern cities, the Negro vote was too small to have any political influence. Now Negroes in the Northern cities vote in greater numbers than do whites of the same economic status.

The Negro has abandoned his sentimental attachment to the Republican party and has been one of the staunchest supporters of New Deal measures, of the American version of the welfare state. Dr. Dorsey said. "Negroes are no longer content to vote against discriminatory measures; they now can and do vote for progressive measures."

The Communist party fails to win many converts among Negroes, in Dr. Dorsey's opinion, because no social Utopia can compete with the American Constitution and the American creed which it embodies. The American Constitution has a liberating potential that the Communist Manifesto could never hope to have.

Negro participation in politics in the South does not yet reach state officials or members of Congress, Dorsey said. "To do just this is the determined objective of the ever increasing propaganda and organizational activities of the Southern Negro."



Dr. Karl H. Berns, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations, National Education Association, Washington, D. C., will be among the participants in the Sixth Annual Principals - Supervisors Conference at North Carolina College, Durham, on August 10-12. He is expected to talk to the group on "The Co-tenants of the Teaching Profession." Some 150 state educators are expected to attend sessions.

Dr. J. Rupert Picott, executive secretary, Virginia Teachers Association, Richmond, Va., will be among the consultants at the sixth Annual Principals - Supervisors Conference at North Carolina College, Durham, on August 10-12. He is expected to talk to the group on "Uniting Community Forces to Improve Education."

Regional 4-H Members Have Fine Record

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The 128 delegates to the eighth annual Regional 4-H Club Encampment, August 15-22, here at Howard University, have made outstanding achievements in farm and home improvements, says P. H. Stone, Federal Extension staff assistant who is directing the camp.

Selected on the basis of their accomplishments to represent 350,000 of the Nation's clubbers, the delegates have records of project completions which indicate that they have contributed to themselves and their families more than \$100,000 in savings and cash earnings, Mr. Stone points out.

Joseph Bouie of Quincy, Fla., for example, has grossed \$3,571 from corn, hogs, and calves.

Algernon Smith, a 16-year-old 4-H club girl of Clinton, Ky., has saved her parents a sizeable sum by canning 720 jars of fruits and vegetables, making 117 garments for herself and other members of the family, and by painting and papering the inside of her five-room home with the help of one sister.

And one of the Alabama delegates, Thomas Austin, 14, of Thomaston, already has \$576 saved away toward his college education. He made the money off three fat calves and three acres of cotton.

Mr. Stone also reports a Tennessee 4-H'er, Erman Portier, strong thoughts his feelings and longings for liberty.

tor, Jr., of Millington is one of the top 4-H hog raisers in the State. Last year his 200-pound champion Duroc brought him 98 cents per pound at auction. One of the delegates from Georgia, Mary Nell Perry of Lowndes County cut her family's grocery bill 70 percent by growing a garden and raising chickens last year. In addition, she sold \$80 worth of eggs.

Vernel Sturns of Reklaw, Texas, has succeeded in getting his parents started in (Continued on Page Seven)

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By Lewis

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George M. Horton, The North Carolina Negro Slave Poet Who Wrote For Liberty

By Eugene Feldman

While some slaves gained their freedom by running away or even revolting, a North Carolina slave, George Moses Horton, wrote a book of poems, hoping to realize funds to buy his freedom.

Because he was a slave George Horton was denied any formal or even private education. But he taught himself. He used to tear bits of paper from any printed matter and study the letters. So earnest and anxious was he to learn that he committed many hymns to memory. He used this method to learn how to read. It was a happy day for him when he was able to get a spelling book.

When his master realized that this slave was not a good hand for the plantation, he stationed him in Chapel Hill, seat of the University of North Carolina. There the slave George Horton was hired out and earned 25 cents to 50 cents a day for his master. But there also George Horton began to write love verses for students and charged them as much as 50 cents for some of them. It was the custom then for a young man courting a young lady to present her with a love poem. Horton later recalled that, "I composed love pieces in verse for courtiers from all parts of the state, and acrostics on the names of many tip-toe belles of Virginia, South Carolina and Ga."

Horton had many friends, some famous, who took great notice of his literature work. Among these were Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, Dr. Joseph Caldwell, president of the university, and Mrs. Caroline Hentz, a famous novelist of the period. His poems were published in book form and others appeared in the New York Tribune and some Boston and Raleigh papers.

His first collection was called "The Hope of Liberty," and this was written with the idea that he could obtain funds and purchase his freedom. Many of his white friends helped him as they formed a committee to assist in the collection of funds for this purpose. A white man by the name of Weston R. Gales of Raleigh was head of this committee. His friends wrote a preface to his book and said in

part: "George, who is the author of the following Poetical effusions, is a slave, the property of Mr. James Horton, of Chatham County, North Carolina... Many persons have now become much interested in the promotion of his prospects... They are solicitous that efforts at length be made to obtain by subscription, a sum sufficient for his emancipation..."

Not enough money was raised and George Horton did not gain his freedom. However during the Civil War when the 9th Michigan Cavalry Volunteers came down to North Carolina he escaped to their lines. He gained the friendship of Captain Will H. S. Banks of that unit and traveled to Philadelphia with him. There he lived and worked until his death in 1883. From the records of the Banker Institute it is revealed that George Horton was invited to speak to that group. A special meeting of the institute was held to receive the former slave-poet.

His first collection of poems was called-as mentioned before-"The Hope of Liberty." It was published in 1837 as "poems by a slave." In a later edition it came out along with some poems by Phillis Wheatley. In 1865 he wrote "Naked Genius." A third collection is entitled, "Poetical Works." George Horton wrote many

poems for freedom's cause and they played no small role in obtaining liberty for his people. Here are a few verses from his poems, "The Slave's Complaint," which show his energetic longing for freedom, the general longing of his people:

"Am I sadly cast aside,
On Misfortune's rugged tide?
Will the world my pains deride
For ever?
Worst of all, must Hope grow dim,
And withhold her cheering beam?
Rather let me sleep and dream
For ever!
Something still my heart surveys,
Groping through this dreary maze;

Is it hope?-then burn and blaze
For ever!"

His fire for liberty burned brightly and sparked the hearts of many who read his verses. Here is one written "On Liberty and Slavery." A few verses of this poem are quoted here:

"Come, Liberty, thou cheerful sound,
"Roll through my ravished ears,
"Come, let my grief in joys be drowned,
"And drive away my fears.
Oh, Liberty! thou golden prize,
So often sought by blood--
We crave thy sacred sun to rise,
The gift of nature's God!

George Moses Horton contributed much to the cause of freedom. His poems stirred and thrilled New Yorkers and Bostonians. It caused them to carry on the campaign for freedom that ended in the successful conclusion of the Civil War. And even in his native home of North Carolina, he stimulated people to think and was the cause of many of them working for freedom.

His memory is honored in many ways for his selfless contributions. For many years, and until recently when a new library was built, the East Branch library of Winston-Salem, N. C. was known as the George Moses Horton library. His works are included in a modern North Carolina anthology entitled, "North Carolina Poetry," by Richard Gaither Walser. And in 1935 his works were included in a collection of writings by early Negro American writers by Benjamin Brawley.

We are greatly indebted to this young Negro slave who struggled for his own education so that he could put into

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