

# Joe Louis' Tax Debt May Be Dropped



A heavy turnout of Negro voters was evidenced in Durham as North Carolina's 1956 Democratic primary went into history last Saturday. An estimated 5,000 of some 10,000 eligible Negroes participated in the election. At the Whitsett school precinct, for instance, where four voting machines were operating, a continuous line of voters all day forced precinct workers to remain on the job until well after the polls had closed to allow voters already inside the precinct a chance to cast a ballot. TIMES photographer caught these two pictures of voters as they had cast their ballots at the precinct. At left is N. J. Vincent leaving the voting machine, and at right are Cabana Morgan, who had just cast his ballot, while Reginald Dalton, precinct worker looks on.

# Bus Boycott Staged By Florida A&M Students

## The Carolina Times

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### Arrest Of Two Co-eds Trigger Protest Action

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida A and M students stayed off the city buses Monday in protest to the arrest and fining of two women students, and it appeared as if a full scale boycott was in the making by the college students.

Last Saturday, Miss Wilhelmina Jake and Carrie F. Patterson, students at the state-supported school, were arrested for refusing to move to the rear of the bus. They were charged with placing themselves in a position to cause a riot, released on \$25 bond each and bound over for hearing in police court Friday.

Several hundred students staged a mass meeting Monday following the arrests and voted to stay off the buses for an indefinite period. They cheered and applauded as empty buses passed through the campus.

It is doubted that a protest similar in scope to the one at Montgomery, Alabama will be mounted here since commencement exercises this week will bring to a close the regular school term and send the students home from the campus.

Student leaders declined to refer to the action as a boycott. Broadus Hartley, president of the student body, told newsmen, "I wouldn't call it a boycott. We're just refraining from riding the buses until we can have assurances that we will receive better treatment."

Hartley said that Saturday's arrests were "the latest in a series of incidents in which we have been humiliated by bus drivers."

Sunday night, a small wooden cross was burned on the lawn of the house in which the two women students were living. Their landlady, Mrs. Eloise Kendrick, said they subsequently moved into the college dormitory.

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### For Retirement Pay

## Webster's Widow Sues A&T Board

GREENSBORO — A suit has been filed by the widow of the late N. C. Webster to reclaim some \$1,800 paid by the former A and T College bursar into the state teachers retirement fund.

The action was revealed by the A and T College trustee board Tuesday.

In a summons seeking relief listing Mrs. Hattie Webster as plaintiff, action is being brought against certain officers of the college, officers and members of the trustee board and the board of trustees of the North Carolina Teachers and State Employee Retirement System.

The action asserts that an amount approximately equal to the \$1,886.60 paid into the retirement fund has been turned over to the college by officials of the Retirement System to be applied to shortages charged to Webster upon his dismissal from the school.

Webster was convicted in March 1955 on four counts of embezzlement and sentenced to a 15 year prison term. Shortages amounting to nearly \$40,000 was uncovered by an audit of the college account in Feb., 1953. Webster was subsequently dismissed for "irregularities in (Please turn to Page 8)

### Bill In Congress To Relieve Brown Bomber Of Tax Debt

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Congress may get Joe Louis off the ropes in his long and losing battle with government tax collectors.

A bill was introduced in the House Tuesday by Rep. Sieminski (D-N.J.) to relieve the former world's heavyweight boxing champion from all outstanding income taxes owed the government since 1939.

Louis' much publicized income tax troubles stem from unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest reported to total nearly one and one quarter million dollars.

At the peak of his fighting career, between 1937 and 1948, the Brown Bomber grossed more than four and one half million from gate receipts. Representative Sieminski called on Congress to wipe out Louis' income tax debt as an acknowledgment that Joe has done a lot for the United States.

Recently, the former terror of heavyweight circles has turned to wrestling in an attempt to

square himself with the government. Roundly criticized by former fans and sports writers, Louis admitted in a recent national magazine article that wrestling is "a bad act," but sees it as the only way he can hope to pay off some of the back taxes.

Sieminski's three page bill gave a glowing account of Louis' achievements and noted that Louis gave the entire proceeds of his last two fights in 1942 to war relief agencies, and stated that he was "generous beyond any fighter on record."

"He has given American youth more than just the show of a fighting champion, more than just words that tell of his prodigious feats in the ring," Sieminski said.

"Joe Louis gave to every young American boy engaged in athletic competition a manner of conduct, a conscientiousness of purpose, a goodness of heart, and a belief in God. Whenever he was called upon, he was there to help."

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## Big Switch To GOP By Negroes Seen

NEW YORK — Negro voters, consistently Democratic since 1936, appear to be swinging toward the Republican Party and are markedly critical of Adlai Stevenson, a study in THE REPORTER revealed this week.

"It is safe to say that if Stevenson were to run against Eisenhower tomorrow," the study reports, "the Negro vote would show a very marked swing away from the Democratic Party."

In a copyrighted article, "The Negro Vote and the Democrats," Robert Bendiner, recent winner of the Benjamin Franklin Magazine Award, also reports that a good segment of the Negro press is moving away from the Democrats, and he quotes the editor of the Chicago Defender as predicting "a major shift in political alignments" by Negroes this year.

Bendiner, who interviewed Negro political and civic leaders across the country, attributes the feeling against Stevenson to his "gradualist" stand on desegregation and the bitter opposition by Southern Democrats to the Supreme Court's decision.

Bendiner points out that from 1936 through 1952, the Negro vote has run close to 80 per cent Democratic, and in close elections, like the Truman-Dewey campaign, could have cost the Democrats their victory with less than a 15 per cent switch in key states like California, Ohio and Illinois.

Today, he says, after interviews with Negro political and civic leaders, the swing against Stevenson and the Democratic Party would result in a loss of votes greater than the decisive 15 per cent difference.

However, Bendiner adds, "the saving grace, from the Democratic viewpoint, is that the re-

bellion appears to be working down from the top and may not go deep enough into the rank and file by November to be as disastrous as Republican strategists fondly hope."

He says, too, that continuation of a prosperous economy is still another factor that will be decisive in November.

Nevertheless, the study reveals that "political unrest among Negro voters has been swelling ever since the first Southern reactions to the Supreme Court's ban on segregation in the schools."

Leaders of the revolt include officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an organization theoretically nonpartisan, but which "has run in easy harness with the New Deal-Fair Deal party," Bendiner says.

Recently, he reports, the NAACP's Washington Director, Clarence Mitchell, warned that if the Democratic Party persists in weighing itself down with such an "albatross" as Senator James O. Eastland, of Mississippi, it may have to "kiss our votes good-bye."

Negro politicians across the nation told Bendiner that most criticism is directed against Stevenson.

"Everywhere I went in Negro communities, I found this word 'gradualism' the red rag..." Bendiner reports. "Colored leaders, Democrat and Republican alike, seemed appalled at the staff work that allowed Stevenson to use the hated word..."

A New York leader, Bendiner says, said simply that Stevenson "has lost status among Negro voters" who feel he is "pussy-footing and playing for Southern support."

### Funeral Rites Held For Mother Of AMEZ Bishop

CHICAGO, ILL. — Funeral services for Mrs. Harriet Edgerton Walls, mother of Bishop William Walls, senior bishop of the AMEZ Church, were held Tuesday at Chicago's Great Walters A.M.E. Zion Church, with Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw of Wilmington, N. C., officiating.

Mrs. Walls, who had for a number of years been the only living mother of a bishop in the A.M.E. Zion Church, died in her home in Chicago on May 18, several days after celebrating her 92 birthday.

Several hundred persons, including bishops, general officers, ministers, district workers and layity of other denominations crowded the church to pay last tribute to the 92 year old woman who was acclaimed throughout the A.M.E. Zion denomination as "Mother Walls," and, in 1955 was selected as Mother of the year in the Missionary Seer.

Bishop Stephen Gill Spottswood of the 7th Episcopal District, comprising Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Texas and Colorado, delivered the eulogy. Telegrams of sympathy were received and acknowledged by Bishop C. Eubank Tucker of Louisville, Ky., from throughout the country and from leaders of such organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the



Rev. William H. Fuller, pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist church of Durham, was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by Shaw University last Monday at the school's commencement exercises. Rev. Fuller is active in many civic, social and church interests in the city and state. For more details, see story on this page.

Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Zion Church, also from Roland Hayes, famous singer of Brookline, Mass., and leading officials in State governments.

Mrs. Walls was born in Rutherford County, N. C. in 1864, little more than a year after Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, and less than a year before he was assassinated.

She married Edward Walls of Rockingham when she was 18, but eight years later he was killed in an accident.

Mrs. Walls had lived in Asheville, N. C., until her four children were through high school. Bishop Walls was her only son; of her three daughters, Daisy, a school teacher, died after a short illness. Surviving besides Bishop Walls, an aunt, Mrs. Ella Brooks of New York City; two sisters, Mrs. Muzie Noble of Tucson, Ariz., and Mrs. Anna Taylor of Chicago.

During her later years, or her last 26 years in Chicago, Mrs. Walls resided with Bishop Walls, who recently celebrated his 71st birthday.

Mrs. Walls specialized in raising funds for orphans in India, South America, Africa and the Virgin Islands. She was interested in children's work in the community, and the Church, being associated with Mrs. J. Worthing Fisher of Chicago in organizing children's classes, and leading them to the Communion.

Burial was in Lincoln Cemetery in Chicago.

## Sheepskins To Be Passed Out This Week Will Crown Hopes For Hundreds In North Carolina Colleges

For hundreds of young men and women in North Carolina's colleges, this week will bring to fruition hopes and dreams cherished by them their parents and their friends over the past four years.

This is graduation week for a good number of colleges in the state and degrees will be awarded to hundreds of eager young graduates in commencement exercises.

A few Tar Heel colleges held commencements last week.

Some 400 students are expected to receive graduate, professional and undergraduate degrees at North Carolina College's final program in its 45th commencement in Durham on Tuesday.

Commencement week activities begin Friday with the traditional senior class night directed by Miss Clara Wertz of Charlotte.

Alumni meetings, a special reception for new graduates by the Durham alumni association, a students' art exhibit, the Dean of Women's breakfast and the President's receptions are highlights on the college's commencement calendar.

Baccalaureate services are set for Sunday at the college gymnasium, at four o'clock. Dr. William Holmes Borders, pastor of the Wheat Street Baptist church of Atlanta, will be the speaker.

Commencement activities will culminate on Tuesday when degrees will be awarded at the final program in the gymnasium

The exercise will start at 11 a.m. Dr. Karl Bieglow, professor of education at Columbia University, will deliver the commencement address.

**BENNETT COLLEGE** — "The Negro and white should be educated together not simply because it is the Negro's right but because each has something to give to the other, and each is poorer without the other," declared Dr. Harold Taylor in the commencement address at Bennett College in Greensboro on Monday.

"It is not enough to advocate moderation in the solution of problems, what is needed is the will and the humanity to support the cause of the Negro and to find ways in which the Negro child can be given his place in the white school, and the white society, — not as an invited guest, but as a welcome friend, declared Dr. Taylor in the usual address. Dr. Taylor is President of Sarah Lawrence College.

It was Bennett's 83rd commencement.

Some 71 young women were awarded degrees by the college's president, Dr. Willa B. Player. Dr. Matthew S. Davage, prominent Methodist layman of New Orleans, delivered the baccalaureate on Sunday.

**SHAW UNIVERSITY** — Over at Raleigh last Monday, 81 students were awarded degrees at Shaw University's 91st commencement. The Honorable Armond W. Scott, municipal court judge for the District of

Columbia, delivered the commencement address at Memorial auditorium.

Baccalaureate services had been held Sunday at the University church. Dr. Frederick West, minister of the Hilyer Memorial Church of Raleigh, delivered the sermon.

Honorary degrees of Doctor of Divinity were conferred on Rev. William H. Fuller, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist church of Durham, Rev. Thomas Kilgore, Jr., pastor of the Friendship Baptist church of New York, and Rev. O. A. Sherrill, executive secretary of the General Baptist State convention.

Rev. Fuller was described by University officials who recommended the degree as an "energetic minister and church builder, outstanding leader in church organizations, a man of broad interests in civic and social welfare and a staunch supporter of Christian education."

**KITTRELL COLLEGE**

The 70th commencement program for Kittrell College was scheduled to be held June 3 through June 5 in the college's Duke Memorial auditorium, according to an announcement released Monday by Dr. R. W. Wisener, president of the school.

The baccalaureate sermon will be delivered on Sunday, June 3, at 2:30 by Dr. T. P. Duhart, pastor of the St. Paul A.M.E. church of Chapel Hill. Dr. Frank R. Veal, president-elect of Allen University at Columbia, S. C., will deliver the commencement address on Tuesday.

Among the dignitaries to be present for the occasion is Bishop Frank Madison Reid, recently assigned to second episcopal district of the A.M.E. church.

**J. C. SMITH UNIVERSITY** — The eighty-eighth annual commencement of Johnson C. Smith University will begin in Charlotte on Sunday, June 3, and end Wednesday, June 6, when 98 candidates from the college and 6 theologians expect to receive their sheepskins.

The commencement address will be delivered by Dr. Clifford J. Earle, secretary of the Committee on Social Education and Action of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The Reverend Charles Winslow Talley, field representative of Atlanta Synod, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon.

### MRS. MOCK DIES

Mrs. Eva Bishop Mock, one of the founder's of the DeShazer Beauty College, died in Durham at Lincoln Hospital Wednesday afternoon at 3:20 o'clock.

She had been suffering from an undisclosed illness for sometime. She was admitted to the hospital two weeks ago.

Mrs. Mock, who served as dean of the college since its founding, is a sister of its president, Mrs. J. DeShazer Jackson.



PRINCIPALS AND HIGHEST HONOR STUDENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE'S 45TH FINALS — The principals and the five candidates for "summa cum laude" honors during North Carolina College's 45th finals are shown here against a background including an aerial view of the campus with its three new buildings for biology, commerce, and education. Pictured upper left are President Alfonso Elder, Dr. William Holmes Borders, baccalaureate speaker; Dr. Karl W. Bieglow, finals speaker; lower left Dr. George

T. Kyle, dean of the undergraduate school; Dr. Joseph H. Taylor, chief marshal. Students, left to right, in panel are Emma Elizabeth Bullock, Tarboro; Walter Navarro Davis, Norfolk, Virginia; Pheriby Christine Gibson, Raleigh; Eloise Frances Gould, Hamlet; and lower right, Wade Melvin Kornegay, Mount Olive. Buildings pictured were completed during past school year. Education Building left is in operation now; Commerce Building Center and Biology Building, right, are expected to be available sometime during the Fall semester.