

# Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii:32.

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## REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE, 27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, N. A. A. C. P., BALTIMORE, MD., JULY 3, 1936

### Preamble

Another year has passed with little fundamental change in the material status of the Negro. Discrimination in public and private employment and in the apportionment of relief continues practically unabated. Notorious is this discrimination in the South where under the bourbon regime which yet remains in power the plight of American Negroes steadily grows worse. Lynching goes steadily on, encouraged by the opposition of certain Southern Senators and Congressmen to federal anti-lynching legislation; by the timidity of other Congressmen who do not come from the South, yet who hesitate to force action by Congress on this issue; by the failure of the Department of Justice to function; and by failure of the President to express himself to Congress on this issue. The rise of the Fascist organizations like the Black Legion, the lynching of white labor organizers in Florida, the flogging of Southern white men and women in Arkansas, are arousing thoughtful Americans to a realization that mob violence knows no color line and that the lynchings of one racial or religious group inevitably leads to the lynchings of others.

In the face of this dark picture, however, certain notable gains stand out. The pressing forward of the campaign against discrimination in tax-support, educational institutions has resulted not only in the opening of doors hitherto believed closed permanently against Negroes, but in a remarkable awakening of public consciousness to the nature and extent of this discrimination. The increasing independence and militancy of Negro voters in breaking away from meaningless party affiliations and the vigorous struggle in the Seventy-fourth Congress for anti-lynching and other legislation are creating a new respect for the intelligence and aggressiveness of Negro voters. Coupled with this has been the repudiation of venal politicians, white and Negro, who have failed in their duties and obligations. Such successes as have been gained in staying the hand of bigotry raised against Negroes in courts of law, as in the sweeping decision won in the United States Supreme Court in the cases of three Negro sharecroppers in Mississippi unjustly condemned to die and subjected to incredibly brutal torture; the staying of imposition of sentence in the Scottsboro and other cases affirm anew the wisdom of uncompromising struggle for the defense of the defenseless. Remarkable progress has been made during the past year by younger people in the understanding of the fundamental, economical, political and social background of the race problem, and significant steps have been taken towards joint action by white and Negro groups in attacking problems common to both racial groups.

These are sign posts, we believe, towards that unity of understanding and effort in creation of a new and more just society.

This Twenty-seventh Annual Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in convention assembled, goes on record as follows specifically on these issues:

### Education

We pledge ourselves to press forward with increased vigor the struggle against jim-crow and segregated educational opportunities in all public institutions of learning wherever they exist. We recognize as funda-

mental that so-called "equal but separate accommodations," whether in educational institution, public conveyances or in any other phase of life are a negation of the democratic principle. We recognize fully that access and impossible of attainment we face a difficult struggle but we are not deterred by the obstacles in our path towards the goal of full and unlimited educational opportunity.

### Lynching

We appreciate the efforts by our friends in the 74th Congress to secure action on anti-lynching legislation through the signing of a petition for a Democratic caucus, the discharge of the judiciary committee and other means. We vigorously condemn the opposition or timidity of those members of both houses of Congress which blocked the consideration of the anti-lynching bill. We condemn the tactics of certain leaders of the Democratic party who used chicanery to block the taking of a definite stand by the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives on the anti-lynching bill. We condemn the Audit and Control Committee of the Senate which failed to consider the Van Nuys resolution for a Senate investigation of lynching. We deplore the failure of the Republican minority in the House to take an official stand on the bill. We urge that all candidates for election to the Seventy-fifth Congress be asked to pledge themselves unequivocally not only to vote for an effective anti-lynching bill as soon after Congress convenes as it is possible, but to support petitions to the Democratic Caucus and the Republican Conference for unequivocal declarations of party policy on this legislation, and to sign a discharge petition should hostile members of the Judiciary or other committees of either House of Congress attempt again to block a vote. We record our appreciation to the growing number of Senators and Congressmen, Republican, Progressive and Farmer-Labor, and Democratic, who fought vigorously in the Seventy-fourth Congress for consideration of an anti-lynching bill. We view this fight not as one primarily for the benefit of Negro Americans, but for the benefit of all Americans, since lynching is no longer a minor, a sectional, nor a racial matter.

### Walsh-Healey Bill

We approve passage by the Congress of the Walsh-Healey bill to establish decent standards of wages, hours and working conditions in the manufacture of articles purchased by the federal government. We urge the Seventy-fifth Congress that a further step be taken by adoption of an amendment prohibiting discrimination on account of race, creed or color in employment in the manufacture of goods for the federal government.

### Sharecroppers

We pledge anew our support of the heroic struggle of white and Negro sharecroppers to secure for themselves just and humane conditions. Involved in this struggle is much more than the immediate demands of the sharecroppers. We recognize that there will be no lasting solution of the problems sharecroppers face until there is a fundamental reorganization of the economy of the cotton-raising industry. We deplore the apathy and indifference of men in high places, including the Majority Leader of the Senate, who have remained mute to the brutal outbreaks in the State of Arkansas. We urge upon Congress the passage of legislation which will directly benefit disinherited sharecroppers and pro-

vide for genuinely cooperative subsidies for their welfare instead of legislating for the benefit of landowners, banks and others who would profit from human misery.

### Political Action

We serve notice upon the political parties that we are fully aware of their shortcomings, both so far as platform pledges are concerned and fulfillment of these pledges. We serve notice that the Negro voter is becoming increasingly intelligent and independent and refuses any longer to be fooled by empty phrases and that we will not forget broken promises.

We reaffirm our determination to ignore party labels and to vote for men and measures which mean most to the greatest number. We repudiate politicians of all races who seek to advance their personal fortunes at the expense of the Negro voter. We pledge ourselves to utilize this power wisely, effectively and unselfishly in those States where the Negro vote holds the potential balance of power.

### Relief

We condemn the general discrimination based on race and color in work and relief. We urge officials, both national and local, to work more vigorously towards a fair dispensation of relief funds and work among Negroes. We have learned from bitter experience over a period of years that certain States can not be trusted to distribute monies for relief and other public purposes without discrimination against Negro Americans. We, therefore, view with disfavor proposals to return relief to the States.

### Social Security

We pledge ourselves to work unceasingly and vigorously for passage of more adequate social security legislation which will include farmers, domestics, casual labor and other large groups of workers, who, in many instances, are kept in such groups by discrimination by certain types of employers and labor unions.

### Labor Unions

We urge support of and active participation in the effort for organization of industrial unions in the American labor movement without regard to race or color.

### Federal Employment and Civil and Military Service

We vigorously condemn the policy of systematic discrimination in employment because of race or color by the various Federal and State governmental departments, including the army and navy and the National Guard. We urge the President of the United States to use his influence and power to eliminate the evil practices which violate the fundamental citizenship rights of Negro citizens.

We unostentatiously condemn the present policy of discrimination in the administration of civil service. We urge, therefore, impartial enforcement of all civil service laws and regulations, the use of fingerprints instead of photographs for identification purposes, and that appointments be made in order of priority.

### Ethiopia

We vigorously urge that the United States refuse to recognize the sovereignty of Italy in Ethiopia. To do so would be to put the stamp of approval upon the most shameful act of wholesale murder and robbery of modern times.

### The Press

We commend the daily and weekly press for publishing and making known to the people of the country the record of Negro achievement, particularly in regard to the program of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for equal educational opportunities and against lynching. We hope a greater number of daily papers will give more notice to Negro progress and successes as building a better understanding and a better America for all people.

### Negro Business

We urge the race and all people to give generous support to the development and strengthening of Negro business, but we insist that Negro business maintain the same high level of economy and service as any other business in the same field and we insist that Negro business give its employees the same protection and security for employment and a decent living wage as any other business.

### Justice in the Courts

We demand the abolition of discrimination against Negroes in jury service in the courts and the full right to participate in the administration of justice. We remind the American people that the real test of the administration of justice is the ability of public officials to do their duty impartially and courageously in the face of prejudice and passion.

We insist upon the right to vote and denounce the methods used in some States to deprive Negro citizens of their suffrage.

We remind Negroes that part of their present disfranchisement is due to their own indifference, and neglect to register and vote; and we insist that all citizens shall regard the ballot as a priceless heritage of citizenship and that they exercise it always for purposes of better government.

We proclaim our loyalty to the United States, the Constitution and true principles of justice and democracy for which this country is supposed to stand.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Baltimore Branch, to the citizens of Maryland, to the newspapers and to the officials of the State of Maryland and Baltimore who have joined in making arrangements for our Twenty-seventh Annual Conference. We voice our thanks to all, individually and collectively, who have so generously helped to make this Conference a success.

### NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, July—(ANP)—Through a mistake several weeks ago, the city of Chicago was named as the meeting place for the 1936 annual convention of the National Medical Association, but since then every resource has been utilized to correct the error and fix the time and place of the convention as August 16-22, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Philadelphia headquarters of the 42nd annual conclave will be established at the Barrett Junior High School, 16th and Wharton Streets, and a full calendar of events, professional, technical and social, has been planned for the delegates and visitors.

### Governor and Mayor to Welcome Medics

Dr. W. Harry Barnes, of Philadelphia, National President of the Association, and his Committee on Arrangements, announced that the big welcome meeting will be held on Monday, August 17, at Tindley Temple, and that the principal address of the evening will be delivered by Governor Earle, of Pennsylvania, and Mayor Wilson, of Philadelphia. There will also be speeches by association members from different sections of the country.

A capacity crowd of doctors, nurses, hospital and medical attendants and local residents is expected to attend the big National Hospital Association meeting which will be held on Sunday evening, August 16, at Mother Bethel A. M. E. church. At this meeting, modern hospitalization methods and the advanced made in the treatment of bedridden patients, will be discussed.

## CHERAW SECOND PRESBYTERIAN PARISH, CHERAW, S. C.

The month of June has been a month that has been filled with activities in the Cheraw Second Parish. The first Sunday the regular services were held. Our pastor, Dr. G. W. Long, preached a soul-stirring sermon at the 11 o'clock service, while (Rev. H. L. Counts, the associate pastor, held Sunday School and preaching at Laney Mission.

At 8 o'clock Dr. Robert Scott Ingliss, D. D. L. L. D., pastor emeritus of the Third Presbyterian church, Newark, N. J., gave a very interesting practical address on the history and work of the Presbyterian Church. He called attention to the great work that the Presbyterian Church is doing to evangelize the world. His message will long be remembered and it is our hope that Dr. and Mrs. Ingliss will be with us again soon.

The Second Sunday being Children's Day our pastor preached a special sermon to the children, telling of their place in the world and the grave responsibility that was to be theirs since they are to be the men and women of tomorrow. He said that if they are to meet these responsibilities in the fullest sense of the word, they must surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

At 4 o'clock Rev. H. L. Counts preached at McDonald Mission to a very appreciative audience. His subject was: "Distant Discipleship." He stressed two points as to why we follow Christ afar off. First, we are not certain about him; secondly, we are not willing to pay the price of discipleship.

At the 8 o'clock service a very interesting program was rendered by the students who had returned home from school. The program was given under the auspices of the Sunday school with Mr. John S. Cole, a recent graduate of the School of Liberal Arts, Johnson C. Smith University, and Miss Thelma Cotton, a student at Barber-Scott College, as leaders.

The third Sunday was a day to be long remembered in our church. Fathers' Day and Business Men's Day was observed. At 11 o'clock our pastor preached a special sermon to the fathers of the church and we must confess that he was at his best. He gave advice to the fathers and told them of their responsibilities as heads of the homes. At the same hour Rev. Counts held Sunday school and preached at Laney Mission. His subject was: "The Winds of God." All seemed to have enjoyed this wonderful message.

At 4 o'clock the Children's Day exercises were rendered by the Sunday school under the direction of Miss Limuel Munnerlyn and Mrs. Bertha McLelland. The program reflected the highest type of training. The contributions were very liberal and the Sunday school and church were able to send \$12 to the Board.

At the 8 o'clock service the meeting was turned over to the business men of the town. Our pastor, Dr. Long, presided, while a very interesting program was rendered, having a representative from each business enterprise in the city. After the program, at the suggestion of Dr. Long, a business men's club was organized, with Mr. Marine Allen as President; Mr. Joseph H. W. Morris, Secretary, and Mr. O. W. Williams, Treasurer.

The fourth Sunday at the regular 11 o'clock service our pastor used as his theme, "Possessing Our Possessions." He said "There are certain things that belong to us that we should take possession of. Among other things, he said: "There are the things that are for our health, for our educational ad-

vantage and for the development of our spiritual life that we should take possession of." The message was an inspiration and was enjoyed by all.

At 4 o'clock Rev. Counts preached at McDonald Mission. His subject was: "Building a Bigger Life." He said that a life that has not God in it is not big enough; a life that shuns handicaps and difficulties and one that is self-centered is not big enough. At the 8 o'clock service to the town church he preached on the subject, "Elements of Kingdom Building." The text was taken from Nehemiah 6:3. He said that the Kingdom of God is to be built in this world by good, consecrated men and women; men and women who will shoulder their personal responsibilities.

Our Daily Vacation Bible School began Monday, June 15, and ended July 5th. The three weeks' session ended with a picnic on July 3rd, and the closing on Sunday, 4 P. M., July 5th. Seventy enthusiastic children were registered, and all seemed to regret when the last day came.

The faculty consisted of Dr. G. W. Long, pastor; Rev. H. L. Counts, director; Misses Thelma Cotton and Ola Sellers, Beginners; Misses Ethelyn Wilson and Mamie Wilson, Juniors; Miss Zulee McManus, handicraft; Miss Pearl Robinson, games and recreation. We feel that the Bible School was a success and that a great deal of work was done.

The other organizations of the church are doing their best to carry on the work of Kingdom building.

### WILLIAM PICKENS COMPLETELY EXONERATED IN AUTO DEATH

Bakersfield, Calif., July 10—William Pickens, Director of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was completely exonerated of any criminal negligence in an automobile accident, May 30, near here, in which a young hitch-hiker, riding with Mr. Pickens, was fatally injured, and Mr. Pickens suffered a broken right arm.

At the hearing here, Mr. Pickens was represented by Thomas L. Griffith, Jr., of Los Angeles, and Walter A. Gordon, of Berkeley, California. They were able to prove that the testimony of highway patrolmen was not credible.

Mr. Pickens is winding up his work on the coast with a State conference of N. A. A. C. P. branches this week, after which he plans to take a short vacation in Hawaii. He will return to New York in the Middle of August.

### ELECTED PRESIDENT OF PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE

Chicago, July—(ANP)—In keeping with the modern trend of selecting young men to head the country's outstanding educational institutions, the Rev. Dr. M. L. Harris, 29 years old, has been elected President of Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Ark.

Announcement of the appointment was made this week by the Board of Trustees of the College, and Dr. Merrill J. Holmes, of Chicago, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in charge of the department of educational institutions for Negroes. Dr. Harris, said to be the first Negro to receive the Ph. D. degree from Ohio State University, is a native of Tuskegee, Ala., and was born in 1907. For three years he has been a member of the faculty at Samuel Houston college, Austin, Texas.