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WPA POLITICS GET MITCHELL IN BAD

Congressman May Face WPA Committee

BY ALBERT ANDERSON
WASHINGTON, (A. N. P.)—Stunned at the sensational exposure of the Chicago Daily News, in which the name of Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell figures prominently in a controversy over the political aspects of the WPA and the obtaining jobs through congressional assistance, blame Washington waits the second act in this remarkable drama.

In the last session of Congress special emphasis was placed upon political influences in WPA and a specific clause inserted, making the intercession of Congressman or any other officials in the appointments to WPA a felony, punishable by a fine or an imprisonment or both.

Addressed to a white voter in the 1st ward of Chicago, Mr. Mitchell's own district, the letter as published in the Chicago daily is as follows:

"I am in receipt of your letter of Nov. 1 and in reply I write to say that I shall be very glad to take your case up with the WPA if you will get a letter from your ward Committeeman, requesting me to handle this matter for you.

"It is an unbroken rule of Democratic organization in Chicago, that each person seeking help from his congressman must first get a letter from his ward

committeeman requesting the congressman to take care of the matter. I must, therefore, insist that you get a letter from your committeeman first, and then I shall be very glad to do everything in my power to help you.

"With very best wishes, I am, Cordially and sincerely yours, ARTHUR W. MITCHELL."

Written on official stationery, the letter is being offered as evidence that politics is rife in the WPA setup in Illinois, but the fact that the only Negro congressman now in office is party to it has even the staidest residents registering amazement.

Conjecture is rife as to whether Mr. Mitchell will be called before the congressional committee investigating WPA activities in certain states, including Illinois.

An attempt to contact Col. Harrington and Howard W. Hunter, his assistant administrator of the WPA, on Saturday for an opinion in the matter were futile, although Alfred W. Smith of the race relations division made several attempts to secure such an appointment.

It has been rumored, however, that a subpoena will be issued by the congressional committee on WPA for Congressman Mitchell to appear before it early in January.

McNutt Passes Buck On Jim Crow Question

NEW YORK — That Social Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt will leave the matter of stopping discriminatory practices governing the employment of Negroes in the personnel administration of social security benefits in the States, entirely up to state officials, was indicated in an exchange of correspondence between McNutt and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a letter addressed to the Administrator November 21, the Association sought to have the Social Security Board revise its standards for a merit system of personnel administration, by inserting a clause prohibiting discrimination against any person on account of race or color.

The Association contended that the rules adopted by the Board November 1, 1939, offer no protection whatever against employing Negroes in the various state agencies set up to carry out the operations of the Social Security Act, because the only grounds on which discrimination is prohibited are religious and political.

Passing the buck to the states, McNutt said in a reply sent to the Association Dec. 9:

"The states are now in the process of formulating their rules and regulations and you may therefore wish to have your local representatives make contacts with the appropriate state officials."

Blasting away the ground from under McNutt's statement, the NAACP said:

"It is utterly futile in most instances for Negroes to make any appeal to public officials and state civil service commissions in those states of the deep South where the majority of Negroes live. The discrimination is in direct ratio to the density of the Negro population."

Placing the basis for action squarely on the Social Security administrator, the NAACP stated:

"The chief weapon against this discrimination is the power out of Washington. You can thus understand our great disappointment that you, as Administrator of Federal Security Agency, decline to amend the standards by asking that they (the Board) prohibit discrimination on account of race and color as well as on account of religious belief."

To Form Health Bill Committee

NEW YORK — The following national organizations have responded to call sent out by the NAACP to form a coordinating committee to consider the inclusion of health insurance in the Social Security Act.

TO ATTEND CONCLAVE



A. Moore Shearin, secretary-manager of the Southern Fidelity and Insurance Company and former Grand Polemarch of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, who will head the North Carolina delegation to Dallas where the annual session will be held Dec. 27-30th.

Predicts Anti-Lynch Bill Passage

HAMMOND, Ind. — The Gaganan Fish federal Anti-lynching bill, which comes up for a vote on the floor of the House January 8, will pass by overwhelming majority.

This was the prediction made Sunday by Representative Wm. T. Schulte, who was the chief speaker at a meeting held at the St. John A.M.E. Zion church here to launch the annual membership drive of the Hammond branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Praising the leadership given to the long fight to pass the bill by Walter White, executive secretary of the Association, Schulte said that he, together with a great many Congressmen, had cooperated in fighting for the bill. Other speakers at the meeting included:

MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT



Mrs. Jacquelin DeShazor Jackson, general manager and supervising instructor of the De Shazor Beauty College, who announced this week the addition of three special instructors in chemistry, business and electricity to the beauty college faculty. The new special instructors are Dr. L. H. Knox, Prof. I. Boyd Oglesby and Prof. J. H. Nance.

Will She Be Colored Or White?

OBERLIN, O., (ANP)—Facing the necessity of deciding whether a child should be raised as white or colored, Common Pleas Judge D. A. Cook last week declared that never before had he been called upon to decide a case with such ar reaching racial, social and humanitarian considerations.

The child—two years old pretty fair-skinned and curly haired, was left motherless by a gas explosion last month in her mother's home. The child's father is colored, whose custody is also being sought by the family of the white mother, who now are temporarily caring for the little charge.

Atty. Eva Parker of Oberlin, the father's lawyer, told Judge Cook she believed it best for the child's future that she be reared by colored. Atty. Samuel Deutch, representing the white mother's family, maintains that inasmuch as the child is to all appearances, of the white race, it should be reared as white.

Therein lies the issue that challenges the wisdom of a modern Solomon. Judge Cook says that both sides in the controversy are without bitterness and interested only in what is best for the child. He said they had agreed to abide by his decision in the matter.

Eagles Squad Feted

To show their appreciation of the wonderful showing made by the N. C. College football team, a group of fans, led by E. R. Merrick, sponsored a banquet in honor of Coach Burghardt and the football squad Tuesday night Dec. 19 in the auditorium of the N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Words of congratulations were spoken by R. L. McDougald, R. N. Harris, J. M. Hubbard, and F. R. Strowd, all alumni of the N. C. College.

Responses were given by Dick and George Mack, Walter Warrick, "Dago" Johnson and Gene Morse, of the football squad. All of the talks of both fans and players were high in their praises of Coach Burghardt for the excellent showing his team has made this year despite the lack of reserve material.

In his response, Coach Burghardt thanked, through those present, the citizens of Durham and the squad for the wonderful spirit of cooperation and support which he received this year and further stated that he was well satisfied with the showing which the team has made. Next year, he concluded, with a few more men added to the squad, the Eagles should have a banner year.

Master of ceremonies for the occasion was E. R. Merrick, Secretary and Treasurer of the N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Co.



MARRIAGE ANNOUNCED

Insistent rumors that Miss Katie Kelly, pretty physical education instructor at North Carolina College for Negroes was secretly married were confirmed

last week when intimates received announcements of a reception honoring Mrs. Katie Kelly Martin and Dr. Felix Breaux Martin. The reception will be

given by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Prescott Mack on Wednesday evening at the Arkoma, Tuskegee, Alabama.

Whether or not Mrs. Martin will continue at her duties at the local college could not be learned but is thought that she will continue through the current year.

San Antonio Plans Great Kappa Conclave

SAN ANTONIO, (ANP)—With Mayor Maury Maverick and his commissioners "cooperating in every manner," the people of this city are excitedly awaiting the coming of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity next week when some 500 delegates will meet here in the 29th annual grand chapter of the organization.

The session will open on Dec. 27 and continue to the 30th, and, although the order is to "go easy" on the social affairs, the arrangements committee is having a difficult time keeping the locals from planning too many parties of one kin and another. There will be no social affair during any of the business hours however.

In extending the official welcome of the city Mayor Maverick wrote to James E. Scott, Washington, national head of the Kappas:

"As mayor of San Antonio I want to take this means of thanking you for bringing your national convention to San Antonio."

"Myself and the commissioners will cooperate in every manner to make your visit with us a success and we hope it will remain a pleasant memory."

Noted for his liberalism, Mayor Maverick, former congressman, is expected to speak at one of the meetings of the

G-Men Told Of N. C. Peonage

NEW YORK — The Department of Justice at Washington was asked by the NAACP this week to investigate an apparent condition of peonage in the vicinity of Yanceyville, N. C. The NAACP request, sent to Henry A. Schreinhaut, head of the Civil Liberties unit of the Department of Justice, cited an advertisement which appeared recently in the Yanceyville Caswell Messenger as follows:

"NOTICE—I forbid any one to hire or harbor Herman Miles, colored during the year 1939. A. P. Dabbs, Route 1, Yanceyville."

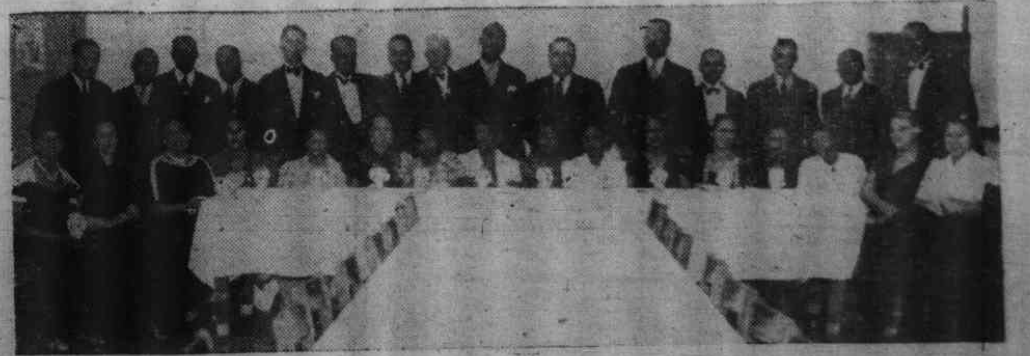
The Chapel Hill, N. C. Weekly investigated in the area covered by the advertisement and

reveals that the insertion of such notices, reminiscent of slavery area of North Carolina. Although such practices long ago were outlawed by the Supreme court, the North Carolina investigator reported that the people in the area ignored this fact and that judges and politicians had not dared to act in a contrary manner. The NAACP urged the Department of Justice to take action under the peonage laws.

Writes Book Of Poems

GUTHRIE — "Laying Leaves" a new book of poetry by Miss Ida Rowland, instructor at Angston University has just been released by the publishers.

PICKWICKS, THEIR WIVES AND GIRL FRIENDS



Above is shown the Pickwick Club of Charlotte at a recent banquet sponsored by the group at West Charlotte High School. From left to right, front row, Miss Lula Mae White, Mesdames James Ross, John

Lyles, A. S. Grier, L. D. Grier, Roy Perry, Louise Harris, Ernest Friday, T. B. Haynes, James Taylor, G. T. Nash, Harry Mills, Misses Mary Lee Causer, Mesdames Calvin Edwards and C. R. Brewington.

Back row, Messrs Friday, L. P. Harris, G. T. Nash, Bernard Johnson, L. D. Grier, John Lyles, Roy Perry, A. S. Grier, James Ross, James Taylor, C. R. Brewington, Harry Mills, Harry Henderson, and J. W. Crawford.

MERRY CHRISTMAS