

# Verdict Withheld In Trial Charging Philander Smith Professor, Civil Rights Advocate, With "Contempt"

By L. C. Bates  
Dr. Lee Lorch, Professor of Mathematics at Philander Smith College and well-known civil rights advocate, was tried for contempt of congress in Federal District Court in Dayton, Ohio, April 4 and 5. At the conclusion of the trial, Judge Lester Cecil with held all rulings on motions presented and directed prosecution and defense attorneys to submit written briefs containing final arguments. This will take 30 to 45 days and no time has been set for the issuance of a definite verdict by the Court.

The indictment under which he was tried is the second indictment in the case, the first having been dropped a year ago at the government's own request, and is based on the alleged refusal of Dr. Lorch to answer certain questions at a hearing of the Un-American Activities Committee held in Dayton, Ohio in September '54.

Testifying at the recent trial, Rep. G. H. Scherer of Cincinnati, Chairman of the subcommittee before which Dr. Lorch testified, asserted that he (Scherer) had no information "that he could recall" except that three witnesses before his Committee had stated in 1950 that Dr. Lorch had Communist connections in 1941. The other government witness, Frank S. Tavenner, Committee counsel, admitted at the trial that these same witnesses had named over 280 other persons at the same time and that the Committee had not subpoenaed any of them so far as he knew, except for Dr. Lorch. Defense lawyer Fyke Farmer of Nashville, Tenn., asked Scherer how the Committee knew where Dr. Lorch was in 1954 when Scherer's own testimony established that his last official information about him concerned the year 1941. Scherer did not answer that question.

Later, however, pressed by Farmer for a definition of Un-American Activities, Scherer replied that "they are the kind of activities in which your client engaged."

Dr. Lorch was subpoenaed from his home in Nashville, Tenn., to testify before that Committee right after he had attempted to enroll his daughter in a so-called "colored school", the only public school within walking distance of his home, following the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, outlawing segregation in education. He was then serving as Head of the Flak University mathematics department and vice-president of the Tennessee NAACP Conference.

It was brought out at the trial that one of the witnesses who had asserted in 1950 that Dr. Lorch had Communist connections in 1941, Mrs. Martha Edmiston, has been convicted of fraud, and that another, her husband, has admitted that he also committed the same fraud of which his wife had been con-

victed, although he was never tried for it.  
Dr. Lorch's other attorney, Judge Hubert T. Delany of New York, submitted a motion to the court listing 16 reasons why the case should be thrown out.

One of these reasons is that the indictment alleges that the 1954 hearings were supposed to concern themselves with "investigating Communist activities in the Dayton-Yellow Springs area," whereas the Un-American Activities Committee did not ask Dr. Lorch a single question concerning that area. Another reason is that the Committee did not hold a lawful meeting when it acted to institute contempt proceedings against him. Four of the nine congressmen on the committee

submitted affidavits to the Court testifying that they were not at the meeting and had not even been notified of it. Congress as a whole has never voted a contempt citation against him, and this is also an issue.

Other reasons included the lack of legislative purposes which the Constitution requires of all congressional hearings. In addition to general arguments on that point, Judge Delany brought out that Congress had already adjourned when the 1954 hearings were held and so it would have been impossible for the committee to have introduced and legislation anywhere based on the hearings before which they subpoenaed Dr. Lorch.

## DURHAM SOCIALS

**DeShazor's Alumni Meets**  
On Monday evening, April 1st, Mrs. Marie Johnson was the hostess to the DeShazor's Alumni at her home in Franklinton.

Mrs. Piccola Jones conducted the business session.

The following persons joined Mrs. Cecil Reid and Mrs. Eva B. Young.  
Members present were Mesdames Piccola Jones, Fidela Brooks, Josephine Perry, Mabel Burnette, Callie Ashford, Willie E. Watkins, Magnolia Leake, Classic Brown, Margaret Harris, Earlie Gates, Alvena Monroe, Montez Brady, Eunice Ellison, Victoria Moore, Hazel McCoy.

The next meeting will be April 15 at the home of Miss Hazel McCoy.

Mrs. Margaret Marsh thanked the hostess for her hospitality, thereby closing the "Garden Gate."

**SILVER TEA**  
There will be a Silver Tea at the home of Mrs. Margaret Jefferson 510 Dowd Street, Sunday April 14th, from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. The public is invited.

The Amey Jubilee Singers gave a reception at the Green Candle Restaurant Saturday, April 6th, at 8:00 P.M., in honor of the Founder-Mrs. Elizabeth Bullock, President; Mr. Ernest Colly and Directress, Miss Josephine Davis.

The following guests were present, Rev. and Mrs. A. W. Lawson; Rev. and Mrs. E. L. McZeke; and Mr. Willie Bullock.

On March 23 the meeting of the Youth Council was held at the home of Mrs. McCoy, with Alphonse Evans as host.

The business session was conducted by their president, Mrs. Umstead. Alphonse Evans led the devotion by singing Faith of Our Fathers. The Lord's Prayer was repeated by all, followed by Bible verses. Miss Ella Pane was elected corresponding sec-

retary.  
Three persons were taken in as members; Misses Sandra McKinnie, Faye Ray and Shirley Patterson.

After the business session was over, the meeting adjourned. Members present were: Mrs. Umstead, Mrs. McCoy, advisor, Laverne Pratt, Vernetta Pratt, Mildred Williams, Shirley Patterson, Willie Ethel Taylor, Alphonse Evans, Sandra McKinnie, Faye Ray, Phyllis Starks, Jean Llywellyn, Howard Hill and Ella Pane.

On Monday evening April 1st the K.T.A. Club was entertained at the home of Mrs. H. B. Galloway, 402 Dunston St.

The business session was presided over by the president, Mrs. Gladys McKinnie. After the business session games and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Members present were: Mesdames Mildred Blue, Classic Brown, Margaret Gillis, Christine Gilmore, Lois Henderson, Iris Lawrence, Gladys McKinnie, Elveta Monroe, Annie Perry, Mable Powell.  
Mrs. Margaret Gillis thanked the hostess for an enjoyable evening. The club will meet April 15 at the home of Mrs. Margaret Gillis.

## -Mother-

(continued from page 3)

etteville community.

The Omega Beta sorority was organized in 1950 and now has a membership of 18 young women. The present corps of officers are Evelynthine Humphrey, junior of Wade, Vice President; Ruth McAllister, junior of Raeford, Secretary; Bettye R. Allen, junior of Lillington, Treasurer; Johnnie P. Murphy, junior of Godwin, Journalist; Margaret Evans and Mary Dunham, juniors of Fayetteville, Representatives to the Student Council; Annie M. Hutchinson,

sophomore of Bervar, and Rosa Foreman of Farmville, Representatives to the Pan-Hellenic Council.  
Lois P. Turner of the Area of English is the faculty advisor.

## Hampton Grad On U. S. AG Staff In Paris

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
Winston G. Thorburn, first Negro agriculturist to be appointed to a U.S. agricultural attache post in a major foreign country, is serving as a diplomatic representative of American agriculture in Paris, France.  
Thorburn, a graduate of Hampton Institute, was appointed assistant agricultural attache at the American Embassy in Paris last September by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In this key assignment, he is charged with the responsibility of assisting in the gathering and reporting of significant information on agriculture and agricultural trade in France.

In carrying out this responsibility, Mr. Thorburn works with a staff of French nationals in gathering and translating the information.

Thorburn also assists the attache in promoting and safeguarding the agricultural marketing interest of the United States in France. Among other things, they are promoting increased French consumption of American cotton.

The 29-year-old assistant agricultural attache is a native of New York, but received part of his early training in Kingston, Jamaica of the British West India. Before taking the embassy post, he served as an analyst in the Asia and Middle East Analysis Branch of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. Earlier, he was assistant manager of the Hampton Institute dairy farm.

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## Book Given Member Of Garden Club In Honor Of Husband

The monthly meeting of the Nature Lover's Garden Club met in its regular session at the home of Rev. and Mrs. T. H. Brooks on Raleigh Road, with the president, Mrs. E. R. Chavis presiding. After the opening of the traditional "Garden Gate" and the preliminaries that followed by the Chaplain, Mrs. Susie Cooper, a lively business session was entered into and many plans for the ensuing season.

An interesting feature of the meeting was the presentation, through the Courtesy Committee of a book to Mrs. J. F. Gibson, a fellow member in memory of her late husband, The Rev. J. Franklin Gibson, who for many years was a leader in the Religious, Civic and educational circles of North Carolina and particularly this vicinity.

The book will be placed on the "Memorial Shelf" in the Granville County Library.

The title of the book, "The Will To Believe" is a graphic account of what the reader himself can discover within himself in the way of a new power and potentiality for self-realization.

Mrs. G. S. Grant, serving as chairman of the book selection committee made the selection

## Reception Held For Newlyweds In Durham

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Freeland of 410 Dunstan Street, gave a reception for Mr. and Mrs. Marion D. Thorpe, Sunday the 24th of March. Mrs. Freeland is the sister of Mr. Thorpe.

The event was held at the Freeland home honoring the bridal couple. A number of relatives and friends attended.

A motif of Green and White was used in decorating the home. In the dining room, which was adorned with white carnations was a refreshment table which was centered with the wedding cake and flanked by burning tapers.

Mothers of both bride and groom wore pink lace dresses and corsages of white carnations.

Mrs. Thorpe the former Miss Lula Glenn is a student at North Carolina College and majoring

in Sociology. Mr. Thorpe, also a student at North Carolina College is majoring in Psychology. Assisting in entertaining were Mrs. Aletha Thorpe, Mrs. Dorothy Phillips, Mrs. D. B. Martin, Miss Emma Lash, Miss Valerie Wilson, Miss Gladys Chavis, Miss Faye King, Miss Joan Benson, Miss Shirlene McLendon, Miss Evelyn Clapp, Miss Mattie Giles, Miss Isabelle Gladden, and Miss Bettye Page.

## Career Day At Georgetown Hi

JACKSONVILLE  
On Tuesday, April 9, 1957, Georgetown High School sponsored a "Career Day." The purpose of the event was to stimulate the juniors and seniors in regards to furthering their education, and to point out specific areas into which opportunities are available for qualified persons.

The program consisted of two parts, a morning session, the general session held in the gymnasium, and an evening session, the consultant meetings.

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY.  
Administrator's Notice  
Having Qualified as administrator of the estate of James R. Williams, deceased, late of Dur-

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ham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at No. 401 Pine Street, Durham, North Carolina, on or before the 27th day of March, 1957, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 1957.  
W. A. Amey, Sr. Administrator of the estate of James R. Williams, deceased.  
M. Hugh Thompson, Attorney.  
March 30—April 6-13-20.

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