

Literacy Test Step Nearer Showdown

Walk-Out Over Negro Pastor

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. The Reverend Nelson B. Higgins, given the task of rebuilding a church whose membership has been decimated over the past twenty years by its refusal to accept Negroes, found himself immediately confronted with the problem of a missing congregation.

The entire active membership of Normandie Avenue Methodist Church, some forty-three white persons, resigned in protest to the appointment of the Negro minister to the heretofore all white church.

Rev. Higgins, appointed last month by the Southern California - Arizona Conference of the Methodist Church, is scheduled to make his first appearance in pulpit Sunday. He is a former teacher, and at one time taught and coached athletics at Hillside High School in Durham, N. C.

The mass walk-out by the church membership appears not as critical as it first seemed. According to Dr. Ray Ragsdale, supervisor of some fifty-eight Methodist churches in area, the new pastor is already receiving more support than had been given the church in several years. He predicted a sharp increase in membership as the result of Rev. Higgins' (Please turn to page Eight)



REV. N. B. HIGGINS

On Dixie Resistance

Ike Is Called Upon To Break Silence

DETROIT, Mich. "When Hungarians resist oppression, they are called heroes; when American Negroes legally and peacefully resist oppression, they are called agitators. "Our government sends ob-

servers to Hungary, organizes airlifts, sets up refugee camps, and opens immigration doors; but it does not say a mumbling word to the Deep South states about persecution, nor does it offer to aid a single black refugee.

"Instead, Alabama fines our American freedom fighters \$100,000. Georgia assesses a so-called income tax of \$17,000. Texas, Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia and Louisiana have barred them from going to court to test their rights.

"As we call the roll of states, we wonder if there ever was a civil war, if the Constitution ever made us citizens, if, indeed, slavery does not still exist."

Thus spoke NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins in a plea to President Eisenhower to speak out against "repressive measures" inflicted by southern states (Please turn to page Eight)



MRS. LOUISE LASSITER

Third Move Next In Chain Of Legal Action

SEABOARD An action challenging the validity of the state law requiring prospective voters to pass a literacy test before they can qualify to vote moved one more step along the long and intricate path it must take before a final decision can be rendered.

Last Friday, the two women who brought the court action had their appeals from denial of registration by a Seaboard registrar rejected by the County Board of Elections.

The board upheld the decision by Mrs. Helen Taylor, precinct registrar who refused Mrs. Louise Lassiter and Mrs. Ellen Edwards after they would not submit to the literacy test.

Immediately following the board's decision, attorney James R. Walker of Weldon, representing the women, served notice of appeal to Superior Court.

The hearing by the County Board of Elections became necessary as the result of a series of actions by the General Assembly and a federal court.

Mrs. Lassiter, who had been denied registration in the spring of 1956 on the grounds that she failed to pass the literacy test, brought action in federal court to have the literacy test provision declared invalid. She was permitted to be joined in the action by Mrs. Ellen Edwards and Mrs. Sarah Harris, both of whom were also denied registration. Mrs. Harris subsequently died.

In March, the General Assembly passed a new statute dealing with registration qualifications. The new law contained the literacy test as required by the old law but added a provision for appeal from a registrar's decision to the board of elections, and if necessary, to Superior Court and State Supreme Court.

When the case was argued before a three judge federal court in Raleigh last month, attorneys for Mrs. Lassiter and Mrs. Edwards contended that the portion of the North Carolina constitution which contains the literacy test requirement was in conflict with the federal constitution, and consequently the law which put the constitutional provision into effect was also invalid.

The court struck down the state constitutional provision (Please turn to page Eight)

The Carolina Times

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BISHOP GETS 'SUPPORT'



Seven North Carolina Mutual home office employees who received service certificates at ceremonies formally retiring them last week at the home office in Durham are pictured here. Left to right are William F. Flintall, William G. Leathers, David C. Deans, Mrs. Charity Rivera, Mrs. Mary B. Doby, E. R. Merrick and Mrs. B. A. J. Whitted.

Florida Boycott Body Backs Embattled Cleric

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Support embattled for A. M. E. Bishop D. Ward Nichols came this week from an organization which led a bus boycott here.

A statement released by the Reverend M. C. Williams for the Inter Civic Council of Tallahassee pledged a vote of confidence for the young prelate and promised to make available records which would clear him of "alleged irregularities" in handling of funds.

Presiding bishop of the 11th A. M. E. district which includes most of Florida, Nichols is under fire from many quarters in the church. He faces a general church trial at Jacksonville on July 30 on five charges, most of which deal with improper use of church finances. Nichols, third ranking member of the board of Bishops — the supreme spiritual authority of the church — was suspended by the General Church board at a recent New York meeting.

In its statement pledging support to Bishop Nichols, the Inter Civic Council statement declared: "... whatever sentence is meted out to him will also be meted out to our present generation and the unborn generation."

The statement went on to point out that the organization had given Bishop Nichols a "standing vote of confidence" and described him as "man of integrity, forthrightness and love." It also depicted him as a fighter for freedom for Negroes.

The statement by Rev. Williams was also accompanied by a copy of a letter addressed to the Bishop by Williams. The letter promised to turn over financial records of the organization which would clear the bishop of the charges.

The letter and the statement were dated June 26. Both were signed by Rev. Williams. Charges which the bishop (Please turn to page Eight)

Race Issue Backfires For Probe Subject

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Out of the clear blue sky — as the saying goes — the race issue injected into the Hoffa bribery trial this week. The Government's star witness, John Cye Cheasty, was suddenly cross examined by defense attorney Edward Bennett Williams with race questions by which it was obvious that the real intent was to discredit Cheasty and his testimony.

The race question had no link with the trial at all. For three and a half days Cheasty had been testifying that Teamster chief James R. Hoffa had bribed him to steal secrets from the Senate racket committee as one of its staff members. Cheasty says he secretly cooperated with the FBI instead of catching Hoffa red-handed.

Thereupon Williams asked Cheasty about "when you were employed by the city of Tallahassee to investigate the NAACP to break a buy boycott." Cheasty insisted on telling the whole story here. He said he had gone to Tallahassee last July, and after a 16 day probe, he recommended that the city hire Negro bus drivers, treat all drivers the same and "cut out the color line on buses." He (Please turn to page Eight)

Seven Leave N.C. Mutual

Seven North Carolina Mutual employees, including two of the firm's top-drawer officials and a son of the founder, were formally retired in ceremonies at the home office in Durham last week.

Heading the list of retiring personnel was E. R. Merrick, son of the late John Merrick who organized the Company back in 1896. Merrick was a vice president and treasurer.

In addition to Merrick, two other top officials, D. C. Deans, Jr., and Mrs. B. A. J. Whitted were given certificates of service on their retirement. Deans was also a vice-president and had staff duties as agency director. Mrs. Whitted served in the dual capacity of assistant - treasurer and cashier.

Others leaving the Company's office who received service certificates last week were Mrs. Charity Rivera, claims inspection clerk; Mrs. Mary B. Doby, chief clerk of the Controller's Department; William F. Flintall, maintenance engineer; and William G. Leathers, janitor-messenger.

Close friends and relatives of the outgoing personnel were on hand to witness the formal ceremonies at the home office, during which they were awarded the certificates and given a farewell address by the company president.

In his farewell message, President W. J. Kennedy, Jr. praised them for their service to the company and challenged them to maintain the kind of interest displayed on their jobs in civic and religious welfare of their communities.

Certificates were presented to each of the seven by J. W. Goodloe, secretary of the company. Departure of Merrick virtually brings to a close an era of second generation leadership of the firm. He had been with the company for 49 years, starting in June, 1908 as field representative. Subsequently, he became assistant secretary (1916), treasurer (1923) and was elected a vice president in 1934. He is also a member of the board of directors.

Deans, who put in most of his service away from the home office, had a total of 37 years in the firm's employ. He went to work for the Mutual in 1920 as district manager in Richmond, Va., and rose to regional supervisor. (Please turn to page Eight)

A. & T. Trustee

SANFORD A prominent Lee County educator received another honor last week when appointed to the trustee board of A. and T. College at Greensboro.

William Bartelle Wicker, a native of Lee County and in which he has labored, successfully, in education for more than 30-years, will bring to college a wealth of educational experience and background.



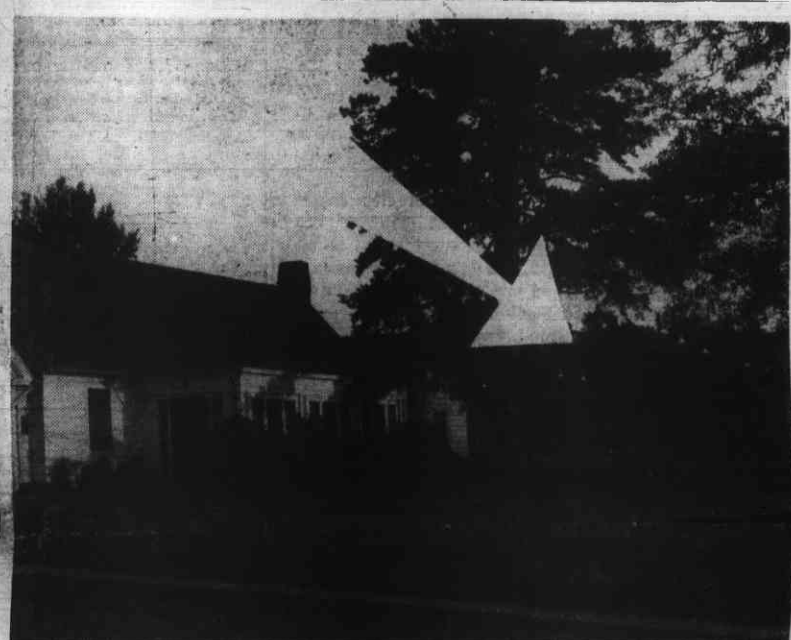
Above is Miss Zelma Elizabeth Amey, 17 year old daughter of Rev. Henderson Amey of Third Street in Durham. She was one of two Negro high school graduates whose applications to attend Women's College in Greensboro this fall were recently accepted. The other student is Claudette T. Graves, June graduate of Dudley High in Greensboro.

Scottish-Rite Masons Convene

WINSTON-SALEM A meeting of the state Grand Calvary Scottish-Rite Masons and Eastern Star affiliates is in progress at Winston-Salem Teachers College. The assembly began Wednesday, July 3rd and is scheduled to end Sunday, July 7th.

A banquet, being held on the college campus at 8 p. m. July 4th, is one of the main features of the meeting. Highlighting the entire event, will be a big parade to begin at 2 p. m. Sunday, July 30th from Shiloh Baptist Church to Teachers College Campus.

J. E. Misenhour of Kannapolis is grand counselor and chief presiding officer of calvary sessions.



The Forest Hills tennis courts, a portion of which can be seen in this picture, will be the setting next week for the climax of the Southeastern Open Tennis Championships. The extreme edge of tennis courts bordered by wire fence (designated by arrow) can be seen in right of picture. Building at left is tennis club house.

Located in a fashionable white residential section, use of the courts for the tournament will mark the first time that an all Negro tournament will be played there.

Only one of the city's tennis facilities equipped with lights, tournament officials requested use of the court in order to schedule night matches. See details of tournament, page five.

NAACP Pledges Fight To End "As Long As We Breathe"

DETROIT, MICH. "We will keep up the fight, on crutches, on one leg, with one arm or with one eye, as long as we can see, think, act and breathe — as long as we are alive," said NAACP national secretary Roy Wilkins here last Saturday as the NAACP closed its 48th national convention.

Wilkins speech made it clear that there would be no let up in the association's drive for elimination of racial discrimination and segregation.

"If our convention here in Detroit had a theme, it was that we will not be dismayed, that we will continue to press forward. If I sense correctly the feeling of the delegates, it is that in goodwill, but firm determination, we continue in the NAACP tradition of attacking evils, and attacking again, until victory is won. We will attack them in North as well as the South, and we will have, as we always have had, an affirmative, positive program, as well as a program of protest."

The convention passed a resolution urging passage of the civil rights bills and heard addresses by man prominent Americans, including Walter Reuther, United Auto Workers chief Sidney Poller, vice-president of the American Jewish Congress, and Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., vice chairman of the Americans for Democratic Action.

Accepting the 42nd Spingarn Medal on behalf of "the 50,000 Negro citizens of Montgomery,

Ala., the Rev. Martin Luther King, leader of the famed bus protestant movement in that city, warned that there can be no rest "until segregation and discrimination have been liquidated from every area of the nation's life."

The medal was presented by the Rt. Rev. Richard S. Emrich, Bishop of Michigan, who praised King as a man of "quiet courage who has worked and suffered for justice."

Kelly Named
Kelly M. Alexander, president of the North Carolina

branch of the NAACP, was one of seven top ranking NAACP members chosen to select candidates for the Board of Directors for the Association during its convention.

The committee will name sixteen candidates to run for the Board for three year terms beginning next year.

Alexander is already a member of the Board of Directors.

Ike Wires Praise
President Eisenhower's mes-

age of congratulations to the NAACP was read at the opening session of the organization's annual convention last Tuesday prior to the keynote address by Dr. Channing Tobias, chairman of the NAACP board of directors.

"As you have helped — by word and deed — to bring substance to the principle that all men are created equal and all men should take an equal share in the responsibilities of government... you have contributed to the national community," a portion of the message read.

Ouster Of Second Count Against Walker Is Asked

SEABOARD Superior Court here was asked last week to "quash" or "dismiss" a writ of mandamus filed with the court by Attorney James E. Walker of Weldon with "disturbing" a registrar.

The motion to dismiss the indictment was filed with the court by Attorneys Herman Taylor and Samuel Mitchell of Raleigh last Saturday.

The indictment grew out of an incident at a Seaboard precinct in the spring of 1956 when Walker protested Mrs. Helen Taylor's denial of registration to his clients.

Several charges against Walker flowed from the incident, one of which was assault on a female, on which he was convicted last August. He was given a \$500 fine and a suspended sentence.

Walker went to jail for two days in order to bring the ap-

peal to the State Supreme Court. However, the court refused to hear it on grounds of procedure.

The original charge was assault, but when the appeal reached the higher court, it was broken down into two or more different charges by Solicitor E. R. Tyler. The grand jury found true bills charging Walker with assault as well as with interfering with or disturbing a registrar.

The indictment charging Walker with disturbing Mrs. Taylor specifies that he "unlawfully and wilfully by his own boisterous and violent conduct" did disturb Mrs. Taylor while in performance of her duties.

The motion asking dismissal contends that the "disturbing" charge should be quashed or dismissed for the reason that the statute upon which the in-

dictment is presumably based is too uncertain, indefinite and unreasonable to support a criminal charge.

Mrs. Markham Dies Suddenly

Mrs. Maggie Markham, died unexpectedly at her home, 618 St. Joseph Street, Tuesday morning of this week at approximately 7:00 o'clock.

Mrs. Markham, confined to a wheelchair for the last five years, since suffering a fractured hip, was up at 6:06 a. m. She seemed to be her usual self as she talked with her son, Delaney Markham, soon afterwards. He spoke to her a few moments later, and noting that (Please turn to page Eight)