

# INTERVIEW

By JOHN MYERS

Mrs. Virginia Collins has spent her life in New Orleans, Louisiana. There, for the past thirty years, she has been involved with peace movements. She is the mother of Walter Collins, famous black draft resister, serving five years in prison in Texarkana, Texas for draft refusal.

Mrs. Collins is currently vice-president of the Republic of New Africa and was until recently a member of the national board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

She is national coordinator of the International Committee for Black Resisters. This group works to free black men convicted for refusing to be drafted or who are in prison for other political reasons. It also seeks to make their cases known throughout the world and to provide them with legal help.

Mrs. Collins is the mother of ten children, the youngest in their teens. Her father and her grandfather were active in the struggles for freedom and civil rights for black people in Louisiana.

C. T.: Mrs. Collins, you are in the triangle area visiting the universities to circulate a petition for your son. What do you hope to accomplish through this?

Mrs. C.: Walter received five, five-year prison sentences for

draft refusal. This, in itself, was illegal due to the fact that each time his board called him, we all went and handed out anti-war literature. Five times, Walter was thrown out of the draft board station. He did not get a chance to refuse. These facts were considered irrelevant in court.

When Walter was arrested, he was not allowed time to even pick up a toothbrush. Normally, the defendant, in a case such as this, is notified in time to take care of personal matters, and allowed to turn himself in.

There have been many breaches of justice in this case and all appeals have been turned down. Our last chance is through this petition. We are filing it not only in the United States, but in Europe and Asia to bring the case to the courts of International Law. We sincerely think we can get Walter freed with the petition. There is no peace without justice. You must have both. That is what we hope to accomplish.

C.T.: What is the Republic of New Africa?

Mrs. C.: We are a black republic under captivity. We are going back and examining the 14th. amendment of the constitution concerning citizenship. We are not sure blacks in American are even citizens. If we find we are citizens then



MRS. V. COLLINS

we demand the rights of every citizen of this country. If we are not true citizens, then we shall file suit for land grant with the Court of International Law.

The land grant will encompass the southern black belt of our country, predominantly, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. Under international law, you may claim land on which you have fought, died, and still remain.

C.T.: Are you advocating the removal of whites in these

areas? Mrs. C.: Certainly not. Whites could remain in their present positions if they wished. However, the governments would be turned over to the people of the republic.

C.T.: Mrs. Collins, Do you think you stand a chance of accomplishing this purpose? Mrs. C.: If we carry our cause to an International Court we feel sure of obtaining one of our goals. We feel sure of getting either equal citizenship or the land grant.

## --Lawless

Cont. from 3A

Apartments in New Orleans to Dillard University, the Lawless Memorial Chapel on Dillard's campus, a clinical laboratory in Bellison Hospital in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem; a similar project in the Hebrew Medical School in Jerusalem, a lecture auditorium in Roosevelt University, a summer camp for talented children at Fisk University, the Theodore Lawless Gardens, an 800-apartment complex in Chicago, an experimental laboratory at the Provident Hospital in Chicago and others.

He taught for many years in Northwestern University, he held degrees from many universities, six in all, was a diplomat of the American Board of Dermatology and Syphology and of the American Congress of dermatology.

He is survived by a sister Mrs. Gertrude Lawless Martin of Chicago and other relatives. He was a bachelor. Many friends from over the nation were present at the funeral services. He was buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery.

## --Scene

Cont. from 5A

sends a hello to Gwen. Happy belated birthday to James Everette Day, and Coleman Earl Cameron from your main squeeze. LaWanda still loves, oh what's his name? and Marian loves her same guy, but who does Michelle lak'? Bye now!!

## Mrs. Thelma Lennon is Russell Memorial Womans Day Speaker

Sunday, May 16 has been set for the Annual Observance of Women's Day at Russell Memorial C. M. E. Church.

Mrs. Thelma C. Lennon, Director of Division of Pupil Personnel Services, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, will be the Women's Day Speaker at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Her present position involves assisting local school units throughout North Carolina in providing support-

ive services to elementary and high school students. She works directly with school guidance counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school health personnel in their efforts to assist classroom teachers to provide more effective learning environments for students.

Mrs. Lennon, a Raleigh native, is quite active in the religious, educational, political and cultural affairs of Durham and North Carolina.

Mrs. Lennon's professional affiliations include—Chairman of the Commission on the Occupational Status of Women—sponsored by the National Vocational Guidance Association, member of the Board of Trustees of the National Vocational Guidance Association, member of the Board of Directors of the Educational Leadership and Human Relations Center—a federally-funded project housed at St. Augustine's College for the purpose of facilitating school desegregation.

Mrs. Lennon holds the Undergraduate degree from N. C. Central University and the Master's Degree from Boston

University, Boston, Mass. She pursued further training from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

She is a member of White Rock Baptist Church. Mrs. Lennon is the wife of John D. Lennon, Dean of Men, North Carolina Central University.

Other program participants are Rev. Essie Faucette, Mesdames Barbara Harris, Eunice

McArthur, Louise Price, Esther Bellamy and Rosanna Utley and Miss Brenda Bethea.

Mrs. Eunice McArthur is Chairman of the Women's Day activities and Mrs. Emma Jean Harris is Co-Chairman; Mrs. Mayme H. Perry is Chairman of the Program Committee.

Rev. L. H. Wheelchel is the pastor of Russell Memorial CME Church.

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## N.C. Central Taps Talladega Graduate For Dean's Post

Dr. Joseph A. Pittman, acting dean of the graduate school at North Carolina Central University, has been appointed dean by Dr. Albert N. Whiting, president of NCCU.

Pittman succeeds Dr. Helen G. Edmonds who was appointed Distinguished Professor of History.

Pittman is a graduate of Talladega College. He holds a master's degree in mathematics from New York University and the doctorate in educational research from Columbia University.

He taught at Delaware State College, West Virginia State College, and Bennett College before joining the NCCU faculty in 1947. At N.C. Central, Pittman has been professor of education, chairman of the department of education, and dean of the undergraduate school.

Cosmic ray hazards revealed by space helmets.



HONORED ON MOTHER'S DAY — West Durham Baptist Church began its celebration of Family Week Sunday, May 9. At the 11:00 a.m. service, Mrs. Willie Mae Richmond, 1009 Cana Street, an outstanding mother of the church was honored.

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