

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. LII.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1930.

NO. 40.

THE N. A. A. C. P. IN POLITICS

By Walter White, Acting Secretary

For The Associated Negro Press

The days of the American Negro's political immaturity are coming to an end. Most of the Negroes in the United States are not permitted to vote. Where Negroes can vote, therefore, they must establish their vote as an effective instrument in the long struggle for full emancipation of the race.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has long advised the Negro to become an independent voter, to disregard party labels where real and fundamental issues are involved. In the course of its leadership, with this principle as a guide, the N. A. A. C. P. has had politics thrust upon it. It is in politics because in that field, as well as before the courts of law and of public opinion, the Negro has vital issues at stake.

This year especially has been intensely significant in the Negro's political history. Against all the pressure the administration could muster, it is generally conceded that Negroes blocked the appointment to the United States Supreme Court of a Southern Judge who publicly expressed his hostility to the Negro's participation in the nation's political life. It was because the Negro was formidable in doubtful States as a voter, that he could muster the necessary votes in the United States Senate to defeat the nomination of Judge John J. Parker, of North Carolina, by a vote of 41 to 39.

The defeat of the Parker nomination has been called the major political demonstration by the Negro in the United States since the Civil War. That may be true. But the N. A. A. C. P. feels that that epochal Senate vote is only the beginning of the demonstration, that it must now be carried to a conclusion, and at the election polls this November.

There were Senators who, despite all the pressure which the Administration brought to bear upon them, heeded the appeal of colored people and voted against Parker. Such are the Kansas Republican, Arthur Capper, and the New York Democrat, Robert Wagner. There are other Senators who chose to disregard the pleas and protests of Negro citizens. These Senators made their choice in full knowledge of what they were doing, for there is no Senator in Congress who did not have the attitude of colored voters on the Parker nomination completely and exhaustively put before him by the N. A. A. C. P.

It is among the friends and foes of the Negro's struggle for full civil rights, irrespective of party, that the N. A. A. C. P. this year carries on the political demonstration begun in the Parker episode. In Kansas, William Pickens campaigned against Senator Henry J. Allen, who seeks re-election. In Delaware and Rhode Island, where Senators who voted for Parker are seeking re-election, the colored voters will make their votes felt.

But the quintessential demonstration had been focussed in the pivotal State of Ohio. Here the colored vote is strong, estimated at 250,000. And in this State the disregard of colored citizens' wishes was particularly flagrant. The National office of the N. A. A. C. P., its Ohio branches, and a multitude of other groups and individuals wrote, telegraphed, visited in person, and besought Senator Roscoe McCulloch, not to vote to seat upon the Supreme Court of the United States a judge who had expressed hostility to the Negro's exercise of the most sacred right of citizen-

ship, the ballot. Senator McCulloch turned a deaf ear to the pleas of colored people. His was one of the 89 votes cast in favor of seating Judge Parker. Under the circumstances the task before Negro voters in Ohio is an obvious one. Colored people, under the leadership of the N. A. A. C. P. made the issue on which Judge Parker went down to defeat. They have no choice now but to push that fight to the limit.

Accordingly the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is advising colored voters to use their personal influence and their ballots to bring about the defeat of Senator McCulloch in the coming election. Such action was unanimously urged by the executive committees of the Association's Cleveland and Cincinnati branches. As I write, there approaches a state-wide conference of the Ohio branches of the N. A. A. C. P. in Columbus, at which plans will be completed for active opposition to the candidacy of Senator McCulloch. The Negro is coming to realize that his pleas for justice will be listened to with greater attention according as they are backed by an informed and vigilant electorate prepared to reward friends and to dismiss foes.

In this realistic attitude toward politics, the Negro includes an estimate of the forces which may aid or hinder his campaign. In Ohio, for example, Senator McCulloch who is running on a dry platform, is facing a pronounced anti-prohibition swing among a large group of voters. If so happens that in that State many wet Republicans will vote for a wet Democrat rather than for a dry Republican. The N. A. A. C. P. is not concerned with the politics of prohibition one way or another. But we do realize that the prohibition question tends to make the Ohio vote a closer and more significant one than would otherwise be the case. And the Negro's vote in the situation therefore assumes an added importance.

Political action of this sort is not precisely new for the N. A. A. C. P. We had considerable experience of political engineering during the nation-wide campaign which made lynching and the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill a national issue. And a conspicuous example of punitive action against a Congressman who voted against the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill was furnished in 1922 by the Anti-Lynching League and resulted in his defeat by 7,000 votes on November 7, 1922.

What has been done once can and must be done again. Politicians whose first thought is not for abstract human rights but for votes and for their offices must be taught that the Negro can cast his votes so as to enforce his civic rights. That is what the N. A. A. C. P. has set out again to demonstrate in the Ohio senatorial election this year. Win or lose, the demonstration, we believe, will have its effect in political circles. And it cannot but help to pave the way for other more impressive demonstrations and more far-reaching victories. Those victories will be sought by the N. A. A. C. P. as heretofore on a non-partisan basis. Party labels must be disregarded. We will back our friends where we find them. For we believe that is the way of political maturity for the Negro electorate of the United States.

The man who is out of money, out of work and out of health is out of luck; yet his break may be just around the corner.

YADKIN WESTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Western District Sunday School Convention of the Presbytery of Yadkin, Synod of Catawba, met with Oakland church, near Bear Poplar, N. C., on Wednesday, August 13, 1930.

At 3 o'clock P. M. the Superintendents' Conference opened with Mr. P. W. Steele, President, presiding. The subjects discussed in this meeting were: "The Need of Selecting Our Best Material as Delegates to Our Convention" and "The Superintendents' Knowledge of the Program and Activities of Our Church." These subjects were very forcibly discussed by Prof. J. R. Walker and Supt. Wm. A. Cowan. Mr. Cowan brought out the fact that the Superintendent should know the program of the Church in order to interest the young people and keep them at work.

At 7:30 P. M. the Convention was called to order by the Vice-President, Mr. P. W. Steele. Prayer was offered by Rev. L. M. Onque. The welcome address was made by Superintendent R. M. Miller, who, in well chosen words, welcomed the Convention to the church, homes and community. Prof. J. R. Walker responded to this address.

The retiring President, Mr. T. C. Murdock, delivered the annual address, using as his subject, "The Great Aim of Our Convention." This address was full of helpful thoughts for both superintendents and delegates.

The following officers were elected: President, Supt. J. R. Walker; Vice-President, Supt. Wm. A. Cowan; Recording Secretary, Miss Inez Correll; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. John H. Smith; Treasurer, Mrs. S. M. Murray; Financial Secretary, Rev. W. A. Hawkins.

Thursday morning, August 14, the Convention opened at 9 o'clock with devotional exercises.

Bible study was conducted by Mr. H. N. Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan brought out some very helpful points and every one was benefited.

The reports of the different schools showed a decrease in membership, yet some very profitable work otherwise.

A paper, "The Sunday School's Task of Reaching the Unsaved," was read by Mrs. Thelma Rankin. She based her talk upon seven purposes, which are: (1) Individual Efforts. (2) Influential Superintendent. (3) Interesting lesson period. (4) Lively Social Functions. (5) Christian Teachers. (6) Influence of pastor. (7) Followers of young people. This was a very helpful paper.

Thursday Afternoon Session

A demonstration in lesson presentation was given. Teaching a class of primary children was illustrated by Mrs. L. M. Onque; teaching a class of adults, by Mrs. A. B. Eccles.

A paper, "The Need of Qualified Leadership in the Sunday Schools," was read by Mr. John Wood. He said a qualified leader should be a willing, consecrated and trained person.

Rev. F. C. Shirley was present and as usual gave to the Convention much information on all lines of Sunday school work.

At 4:15 P. M., Supervised Recreation was conducted by Miss Correll and Rev. L. M. Onque.

At 6:45 vesper service was conducted by Rev. L. M. Onque. This sermon was one of the high spots in the Convention. All the delegates and other friends seemed to have been very favorably impressed, worshipping out in the open. Many

of the good old spirituals were sung, adding much interest to the occasion.

Thursday Evening, 8 o'clock
The Convention opened with a song, and prayer by Rev. J. H. Ward.

A paper, "Our Great Major Emphasis in the Sunday School—What Shall It Be?" was given by Miss Margaret Phifer.

A paper, "The Missionary and Educational Value of the Special Day Program," was presented by Miss Bernice Holt.

Solo, Mr. John H. Smith. Address, Rev. F. C. Shirley.

Thursday Morning, August 15
The Convention opened with a song and worship service.

At 9 A. M. Bible Hour was conducted by Mr. H. N. Sullivan. He used the blackboard and showed the two paths—the narrow path, leading to heaven, including peace, joy, honor, purity and love; and the broad path, leading to hell, including bad company, intemperance, disobedience, folly, idleness. He explained this lesson so well that even a child could understand. He also gave many Bible references.

A demonstration of the workers Conference was carried out by Mr. John H. Smith in the absence of Mr. John A. Smoot.

A memorial service was conducted for the members of the Convention who have died since last meeting. This service was very impressive, and was conducted by Rev. B. F. Murray. The deceased persons are: Rev. J. L. Hollowell, D. D., Mr. H. C. Cowan, of Tradd Street, Mr. T. L. Hart, of Center, and Mr. J. H. Cowan, of Mt. Tabor.

Friday Evening Session

The annual sermon was preached by Rev. J. G. Murray, of Mooresville. He used as his text the 6th chapter of Matthew and the 10th verse. His subject was: "The Kingdoms."

He said: God wants His disciples to claim relationship with Him and to reverence Him because He is holy. The kingdoms of the world will not endure; they only last for a while because they are only temporal kingdoms. The kingdom of God will endure forever; it is an everlasting kingdom. This kingdom is over all the kingdoms of this world and God is the ruler of it. All the other kingdoms are subjected to Him and He wishes the kingdom of this world to be as the kingdom of heaven in obedience to His will.

God rules the kingdom of heaven with love and His heavenly subjects do His will at all times. We are in training in this earthly kingdom for the heavenly kingdom. We are co-laborers with God in helping to make the kingdoms of this world the true kingdom where all the subjects will with loving obedience do His will at all times.

After reading the resolutions the Convention closed to meet at Logan church the second Thursday in August, 1931.

Too much praise can not be given the good people of Oakland for the way in which they entertained the Convention. Food was plentiful and the spirit of hospitality was very high. Every one present went away praising the people of Oakland and their pastor, Rev. J. H. Ward, for the good times spent in their community. We will not forget the people of Mt. Tabor church and other nearby churches for the good dinner on Friday. The Convention will be anxious to come to Oakland again.

JOHN H. SMITH.

The late President Eliot of Harvard used to say that the strongest appeal he was ever able to bring to bear on wayward boys was to bring home what had been sacrificed for them and the pain of their failure to those who cared.

METHODISTS SOUTH URGE CRUSADE AGAINST LYNCHING

Atlanta, Ga.,—Oct. 6.—Expressing the fear that the persistence of lynching is due in no small measure to the failure of religious leaders to impress their people with the heinousness of this crime, the Southern General Conference Commission on Co-operation with the C. M. E. Church, has issued an appeal to every pastor in the connection to "cry aloud against his crime of crimes until every community is determined that it must be ended once for all." Meeting in Atlanta a few days ago just after two lynchings had occurred, the Commission expressed the opinion that the situation is serious in the extreme and called upon ministers, officers of the law, and all other good citizens to wage "determined and unrelenting war upon this blighting survival of barbarism."

Officers who "weakly or willingly" yield to mobs, according to the Commission, "should be made to feel the full weight of public execration, and, if possible, to answer legally for their breach of public trust."

The paper was signed by Dr. J. W. Perry, Home Mission Secretary, of Nashville, Tenn.; Prof. N. C. Newbold, of the State Department of Education, Raleigh, N. C.; Dr. Theodore J. Jack, of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. E. C. Peters, President of Paine College, Augusta, Ga.; Mrs. J. N. McEachern, of Atlanta, and Dr. W. W. Alexander, Director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation. The statement in full is as follows:

"Year after year our Church, through its various conferences and other official groups, has voiced the severest condemnation of lynching, as a sin against God and a crime against society. Yet lynchings have gone on, to the world-wide discredit of our boasted civilization and our most sacred professions of faith. Just now we are in the midst of a peculiarly depressing resurgence of this type of crime.

"It appears obvious that the solemn warnings of the Church on this subject have not been taken seriously, due in no small measure, we fear, to the failure of religious leaders themselves to bring them seriously to the attention of the people. We therefore appeal afresh to every pastor in our connection to cry aloud against this 'crime of crimes' until every community is determined that it must end once for all.

"It is obvious, also, that in many cases officers under oath to uphold the law have weakly or willingly yielded to the mob, thus equally becoming guilty with the actual lynchers themselves. Such officials should be made to feel the full weight of public execration, and, if possible, to answer legally for their breach of public trust. We call upon all good citizens and upon the executive and judicial departments of the several States to do their utmost to bring such recreant officials to account in the courts of justice and at the bar of outraged public opinion.

"It is the sacred duty of the courts, also, to do everything possible to bring to justice the members of lynching mobs, to the end that the law may be vindicated and others deterred from committing like crimes.

"The situation, as we see it, is serious in the extreme and challenges every religious leader, public official and Christian citizen to determined and unrelenting war upon this blighting survival of barbarism. Otherwise we will may question whether civilization itself can survive."

MT. PISGAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

By Mrs. Marguerite Person Wimberly

Sunday morning, our minister, Rev. W. D. Burgess, chose for his text St. Luke 18th chapter and the 7th verse. His subject was: "Delayed Answers to Our Prayers." Rev. Burgess made some striking points relating to his subject. He cited an instance where a mother had prayed for her son to accept Christ. After a while the mother died, but her dying prayer was that her son accept Christ. This touched the son so much that he was glad that his mother had prayed, and even though the mother was sleeping that sleep that knows no waking, and the answers to her prayers were delayed, her son did accept Christ. Rev. Burgess said oftentimes we pray to God and want our prayers answered immediately, but God, who never makes a mistake, oftentimes delays our prayers for a purpose.

Immediately after the sermon Rev. Burgess opened the doors of the church, and asked who was willing to accept Christ? Without any hesitancy two young men, namely, Messrs. Clyde Malone and John J. Wimberly, and two young women, Mrs. Esther Fox and Miss Annie Lee Whitehead, accepted Christ and were received into the church.

Mrs. Reba Graham, a missionary representing the Presbyterian Church, spoke to some of the members of the Missionary Society Friday. We were very pleased to have with us this meeting Mrs. Helen Douglas, Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Arlice, of Wilson, N. C.

The many friends of Mrs. W. S. Armstrong were pleased to see her out after a short period of illness.

Mrs. W. S. Armstrong had a lime party for the benefit of the Missionary Society at her home on Myrtle Avenue last week. Quite a number came and a neat sum was realized.

Mrs. Viney Murray, a member of the city school faculty and a congregational member of our church, is in Parkview Hospital. We hope for her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Mae McCoy had at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Rawlins, Miss Lillian Andrews, who is a teacher in the city schools of Washington, N. C., to spend the week-end with her.

Mrs. Rena J. Person is visiting friends in Washington, D. C. From there she expects to go to New York City. Mrs. S. C. Baskerville visited her niece and cousin, Miss Hattie Whiteley, and Miss Eunice Bryant in Goldsboro last Sunday.

Mrs. Flowers Carthorne has returned from New York City where she visited friends.

Mrs. W. D. Burgess and son, Cain D., have returned to their home in Snow Hill, N. C., after a visit to Rev. W. D. Burgess.

ANOTHER REVIVAL AT BIG OAK CHURCH, VA.

On the fifth Sunday in August many of us met again at his historic old spot to join in songs and prayer in our annual revival. There were visitors from many of our neighboring churches who joined with us in one of our most inspiring meetings. The Lord blessed us with eight souls. One is the father of one of our little girls who came to Christ last year. All will join our church and will be baptized on the second Sunday.

Our pastor, Rev. R. L. Hyde, and Mrs. Hyde are still working with us for the Master most zealously, and Big Oak is still going upward and onward. "It is good to be here."

ALICE L. POWELL.