

INTER-GROUP TELLS REAL STORY

The National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Connecticut State Board of Educational Commission are to be congratulated upon the fine Inter-group Exposition that they sponsored February 20-22 at the Hartford Times Radio Center,

They assembled there the exhibits of 35 groups that are all working all over America to make this country a better place for all people to live. Hundreds of men, women and children in Hartford got an opportunity to see these racial problems focused upon the public attention as never before in this city.

Through visual-aid, through literature, through motion pictures and through speakers and open discussions many were able to appreciate the pitfalls that produce race hate and misunderstanding.

This would easily have been the most significant mass educational effort that has been made in the state except for the unexpected inclemency of the weather.

The co-chairmen that were directly responsible for this wholesome effort in the field of race relations were Mr. Frank T. Simpson and Dr. Palmer P. Howard.

FRIENDS TROUBLED BY FRIENDS

New York—While it is undisputable that the American Friends Service has done a herculean job in the field of race relations, recent reports seem to indicate that they have endless trouble impressing the validity of their doctrines upon those within their own folds.

It would seem that many Friends schools definitely refuse to admit Negro students. And when they are approached on the matter the inquirers are referred to the American Friends Service Committee. They say that just so soon as the committee sends such students, they will be happy to receive them. But the committee points to the fact that the schools are failing to educate for better racial attitudes.

But outside on everybody else the Friends have been relentless in their efforts and have made some real progress. So much so, that as people review the adamant attitude of many Quaker schools, they begin to feel that the philosophy is one that says, "do not do as I do, do what I tell you."

One Quaker has recently said, "If the Friends of today had been as true to their principles as the Friends of yesterday, half the colored people in the U. S. would be Quakers."

To which a wit replied, "Yes, perhaps they have thought of the possible embarrassment in having such a large Negro membership."

PROS AND CONS TALK OF NOWELL

Washington—William O. Nowell of Detroit, a former member of the Communist Party testified about their subversive activities about the country before the House Committee on Un-American Activities the other day.

As a result of this testimony there is a great division of opinion; a division that is so intense that it is alleged that threats have been made upon his life and that the F.B.I. has offered to afford him protection if he sees fit.

Mr. Nowell made one major accusation when he stated that he felt the race riots of 1943 in Detroit were precipitated by the agitations of the Communists. This was a major revelation to most of the social and civic organizations who have studied the causes, for they have practically all agreed that the racial disturbances came out of certain long time social ills that had built up a good deal of suffering and bitterness.

So now the pros and cons are battling the whole matter furiously with the con having unearthed the fact that Mr. Nowell was also agent for Gerald K. Smith's fascist organization. And are suggesting that the House Committee on Un-American Activities ask him about them and the nature of his affiliation.

NAACP ENTERTAINS HAITIAN MINISTER

New York—Dr. Jean Price-Mars, Foreign Minister for the Republic of Haiti and other members of that country's diplomatic representatives to the United States, were feted at a late afternoon reception by officials and members of the staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The affair, held in New York's Wendell Wilkie Memorial Building on February 4th, was well attended by prominent figures from professional, diplomatic, educational and cultural groups.

Although the Haitian diplomat was appearing in an unofficial capacity, his informal, extemporaneous address was noted with significance in the metropolitan press. Dr. Price-Mars, speaking in French which was translated by Dr. Rayford W. Logan, expressed the gratitude of the population of the Negro Republic for the inspiration provided by the NAACP to colored peoples the world over.

In addition to the Foreign Minister, Haiti was represented by the Hon. Charles D. Josephs, Haitian Ambassador to the U. S.; Hon. Ernest Chauvet, former Haitian Minister to Great Britain and Dr. Desir, Haitian Assistant Consul in New York.

43 NEGRO CATHOLICS FOR EVERY DAY OF 1946 JOURNAL REPORTS

Bay St. Louis, Miss. — Approximately 43 Negroes became Catholics in the United States every day during 1946, reports St. Augustine's Messenger, religious journal published here. In addition, Negro Catholics opened 14 new churches, seven schools, two hospitals, and two clinics, the magazine reports, noting that most of this construction took place in the Southern States of Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and North and South Carolina.

In spite of construction difficulties, new churches were built in Terrell, Tex.; Ofahoma, Miss.; Rock Hill, So. Carolina; McAlester, Okla.; and Jackson, Miss. In Franklin, La., a combined church, rectory and a school has been erected, and in Americus, Ga., a frame house has been remodeled to serve as a mission church.

New Catholic schools were established in Canto, Miss., Winston-Salem, No. Carolina, Bastrop, La., Dallas, Tex., Lumberton, No. Carolina, and Montgomery, Ala.

The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, whose motherhouse is in San Antonio, Texas, have begun construction of a 75-bed hospital in Beaumont, Tex., that will cost \$400,000. In Houston, Tex., a large hospital has been dedicated to Saint Elizabeth, and in Pensacola, Fla., Our Lady of Angels Maternity Hospital, with a 20-bed capacity, has been opened. A new addition to Good Samaritan Hospital, Selma, Ala., providing 78 more beds, brings the hospital's capacity to 128 beds. The first floor, with a capacity of 30 persons, is being used as a home for the aged.

During the year, several communities of Catholic Sisters broadened the scope of their work. The Sisters of the Holy Family opened a new school in Bastrop, La., and assumed charge of a school in Marks-ville, La. Other Sisters opening or assuming charge of a school are: the Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany, N. Y.; Franciscan Sisters of Milwaukee, Wis.; Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, Columbia, Pa.; Sisters of the Holy Ghost, San Antonio, Tex.; and the Ursuline Sisters, of Louisville, Ky.

PRIEST DIRECTS DRAFTING OF MINN. FEPC LAW

St. Paul, Minn.—Under the leadership of Father Francis J. Gilligan, professor of moral theology at St. Paul Seminary, the Governor's Inter-Racial Commission here has drafted a proposed Minnesota Fair Employment Practices Act for submission to the legislature. The proposed measure is patterned after the New York State law, and emphasizes conciliation, with appeal to courts as a last resort.

THE NEGRO AND HIS BOOTSTRAPS

Every time I hear a white person suggest that the Negro must pull himself up by his bootstraps, any number of questions come into my mind. But perhaps there are two that haunt my thoughts more than others. The first, is just what do such people have reference to? Do they mean being industrious, ambitious, orderly and developing a sense of responsibility? And I always conclude that that is what the honest ones mean.

But right on the heels of that thought comes the question of who really controls the keys to these accomplishments and what are they? They are the right to work and be rewarded on the basis of ability and diligence; the right to house one's family in the midst of cleanliness and order; the right to live healthy, moral lives and the right to develop a sense of responsibility as a law abiding citizen.

All of these things are the conscious or subconscious objectives of all men whose thoughts have not been perverted by unfortunate examples and environmental circumstances.

However, for Negroes and all other minority groups, the keys to these better things of life are all in the hands of a limited number of people in the majority group. And if they are not intelligently disposed in the matter of sharing, then the unfortunates must endlessly dash themselves up against barriers as frightened sparrows do against the windows of a light house in a storm.

So when our white brother talks to us about pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps, we wonder how long it is going to take him to appreciate the fact that he really determines have any boots.

For instance, a few weeks ago whether or not we are to even be told the sorrowful story of an intelligent young Negro couple that was denied the right to buy an home by the real estate forces of the community. They were trying their best to pull themselves up by the bootstrap method but the boots were taken away.

A few days later I read a letter of recommendation that an important executive of an insurance company wrote in behalf of an ambitious Negro. He implied very definitely that all Negroes are mentally inferior to white people. Here again the Negroes boots were taken away and his spirit crushed.

But these experiences are daily affairs for Negroes so when I recently talked to another victim about what a bank representative had done to him, it was merely a continuation of a general pattern.

This young man and his wife are ambitious, law abiding, intelligent people. They too want

a home. They happened to have some white friends who like them and inasmuch as they are planning to build a new home, agreed to sell their present one to their friends. They completed their arrangements and then the happy couple went off to a bank to determine the requirements for a mortgage.

The bank sent an appraiser out to see the property. When he looked at the house he was flabbergasted and immediately thought it was much too good for Negroes. He indicated this with his first statement which was, "Why in the world did you sell this to Negroes?"

Fortunately the owner represented this question and showed it but the appraiser could not believe his ears or eyes, so he lustily pushed on with his racial bias by suggesting that he could get the owner a third more, if he would change the purchaser.

Now why is it amazing that Negroes can never seem to get an economic foothold, decent environmental circumstances, v i r o n m e n t a l circumstances guard for law and order, when better health and a higher reasure up to standards, they are every effort they make to mea-

No, all this talk about better immediately pushed back? self up by the bootstraps is of race relations and pulling ones no avail, unless the controlling interests are morally and intelligently disposed to do right. Men of their intelligence and importance must know this and it is up to them to furnish Negroes with boots that have straps.

PRIEST SPEAKS AT URBAN LEAGUE INSTITUTE

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Rev. George B. Ford, pastor of Corpus Christi Church, New York City, and Vice President of the Citizens' City-Wide Committee on Harlem, gave the principal address at a non luncheon meeting here which opened the Institute on Human Relations. Father Ford's topic was, "Democratic Living in Our Life-Time".

Sponsors of the Institute, which was arranged to consider interracial, intercultural, and interreligious problems, were the Pittsburgh Urban League, local Round Table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the American Service Institute and the Jewish Community Relations Council. Sessions were held at the Roosevelt Hotel.

NEGRO ELECTED OFFICER OF CHURCH SOCIETY

Richmond—Richard Brown, Catholic Negro of St. Joseph's parish, Norfolk, has been selected Marshal in the Tidewater area of the Holy Name Society, Catholic spiritual organization. The organization's membership is predominately white.