

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

67 Center St.
Wethersfield, Conn.
February 27, 1947

Mr. Leo Parskey, Hartford Attorney, will speak on "Weaknesses of the Governor's Fair Employment Practice Bill" at a regular meeting of the Hartford Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at 8:30 P.M. Wednesday, March 5, at the Women's League, 20 Avon St., Hartford. Mr. Parskey, who is chairman of the legislative committee of Hartford Chapter No. 1, American's Veterans Committee, will discuss legal loopholes in the Administration-sponsored legislation through which the intent of the law might be evaded. Mr. Percy Christian, president of the Hartford Branch, NAACP, will preside at the meeting, to which all interested persons are invited. The NAACP, Mr. Christian stated, is especially interested in the passage of a State anti-discrimination law, and supports the Ward-Gillie bill as the best of such measures now pending before the State Legislature.

Submitted by
Robert E. Hart
Publicity Committee, NAACP

NEW FIELD SECRETARY ON NAACP BRANCH STAFF

New York, N. Y.—The employment of a new assistant field secretary, Miss Marion O. Bond, was announced on February 26th, by Gloster B. Current, the NAACP director of branches. Miss Bond, who replaces Miss Norma Jensen, will take up her new duties with the Association on March 1st.

Miss Bond has been national sales representative with the Pepsi Cola Company for the past five years. A graduate of Lane College, Jackson, Tenn., Miss Bond has traveled extensively throughout the country, and has a working knowledge of practically every large city in the United States.

She will continue the work Miss Jensen has been engaged in since October, 1945, specializing in the field of intercultural education for the NAACP.

Miss Jensen, in her studies, has visited some forty school systems in over fourteen states. She is leaving the Association to get married, and to take up graduate work at the University of Chicago in preparation for a teaching position.

HEALTH FOR ALL

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If given at least three months before exposure, the vaccine will usually prevent the disease in 85 per cent of children. In others who are vaccinated, the attack will be much less severe. Doctors advise that the vaccine be given to all children between four months and three years of age.

In the next article, a recently discovered drug used in treating certain diseases will be discussed.

—By Ersa Hines

The Future Is Yours

From the moment I decided to become an architect, it was never out of my mind. This is a clue to the success of

JOHN L. WILSON, Architect
New York City was an anxious host when the United Nations moved in: neither its housing situation nor the disposition of some of its citizens were exactly beaming in welcome to its peace guests. But the City was determined in its efforts to offer UN its best, selected the "World of Tomorrow" Building in Flushing Meadow Park, and graciously lent its architect, John L. Wilson, to coordinate the work of the private firms who won the rebuilding bid.

This special assignment was only one of several Mr. Wilson has in the course of his work as architect with New York City's Department of Parks. Another, which recent visitors to New York will remember, is the newly completed "Harlem Meer" at the 110th end of Central Park. The work, started by the WPA was taken over by the city and completion and design of both the building and the lake fell to Mr. Wilson. Another of his assignments is the Vanderbilt Gates and fence marking the beautiful, formal Conservatory Gardens entrance at 104th and 105th streets on 5th Avenue. The buildings and gardens of the Bronx Zoo ("The Greatest Zoo in the World") and Bronx Botanical Gardens are his special charges.

John L. Wilson was fourteen years old, living in Birmingham, Alabama, when he decided to become an architect.

"I remember very well," he says, "a Negro architect named Rayfield who was building a CME church in Birmingham. He used to come around with blueprints under his arms and I was fascinated—

"I liked to draw—I liked mathematics—and these were two important points in my favor

"From the moment I decided to become an architect, it was never out of my mind. I began reading everything I could find in the libraries. My father's work as a Methodist minister took us to New Orleans, La., where I finished high school and college at New Orleans University. There were no architectural courses to take—but there were mathematics courses, and I kept up with my drawing. The librarians there saved for me every book they could find on the subject. I was obsessed with my ambition that everybody in the community knew John L. Wilson was going to be an architect one day.

"I taught mathematics for a year at Philander Smith College in Arkansas when I finished college, and after that year, with money saved, I came to New York and entered Columbia University School of Architecture. After two years my

money gave out and I had to leave school for two and a half years. I worked at all kinds of jobs, mainly a draftsman in architectural offices until I had enough money to finish studying for my degree."

Being an expert draftsman is an invaluable asset to an architect—even if his ultimate dream is that of pure creativeness in building. Mr. Wilson's first jobs on finishing Columbia were taken with a view to perfecting his ability as a draftsman. He worked with the City of New York as junior and then senior draftsman—using his free hours to plan and sell his own architectural ideas. In a few years, he opened his own office. His reputation as a versatile architect grew. His jobs have ranged from associate architect for the New York City Harlem River houses, the designing and building of a countryhouse for a wealthy New York manufacturer, to the alteration and modernization of a 90-year old Greek revival house in upstate New York, and renovations of numbers of New York commercial houses, churches, theatres and apartments.

Remembering his own dream at fourteen and the difficulty young Negro architects have in getting apprenticeship training, Mr. Wilson's eye is always alert for the chance to help ambitious young men. He has nurtured several as apprentices in his office. They have, through his contacts, gone into other positions—some with white firms, others to municipal or federal posts.

"One of the most encouraging signs I see now," he observes "is the readiness with which architectural firms will take on trained, efficient, creative minds—without regard to race. But a youngster going into the field must remember

An architect must be both an artist and a business man

He must be able to draw, and he must know mathematics
He must know the building trades

He must have patience and tact

He must be well-trained
He must work hard.

For the thousands of Negro youth scattered through the country, the National Urban League emphasizes Mr. Wilson's advice, and it adds: It only happens that Mr. Wilson lives in New York. In many cities throughout the country Negroes are succeeding in this profession. It points to the brilliant careers of Paul R. Williams, Los Angeles, California; the McKissack Brothers in Nashville, Tennessee; Hilyard Robinson, Washington, D. C.; Ferdinand L. Rousseve, "New Orleans, Louisiana; Benjamin McAdoo, Jr., Seattle, Washington, as a few examples.

"The Future Is Yours—Plan and Prepare!"

NAACP ASKS UN CONSIDER PLIGHT OF AMERICAN NEGRO

New York, N. Y.—Resting its case on the purpose stated in the United Nations Charter that there shall be respect "for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, religion or language" the NAACP, on February 21st, presented to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations a statement on the denial of human rights to minorities in the case of citizens of Negro descent in the United States and appealed to the United Nations for redress.

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, in the introduction, states that "There are in the United States of America, fifteen millions of native-born citizens, something less than a tenth of the nation, who form largely a segregated caste, with restricted legal rights, and many illegal disabilities . . ." and charges that the effect of this "has repeatedly led the greatest modern attempt at democratic government to deny its political ideals, to falsify its philanthropic assertions and to make its religion to a great extent hypocritical."

Tracing the history of the Negro in the United States, and the economic and social background of his present disfranchised state, Dr. DuBois asserted that "there remains today a block of one hundred and thirty-four electoral votes and corresponding votes in Congress which could not be subjected to democratic control or changed in accord with methods, making "party government ineffective." The federal government has been made, therefore, a government which "continually casts its influence with imperial aggression throughout the world and withdraws its sympathy from the colored peoples and from the small nations."

In conclusion, Dr. DuBois states, "We have a recrudescence of race hate and caste restrictions in the United States and of these dangerous tendencies not simply for the United States itself but for all nations . . . We appeal, then, to the United Nations to step to the very edge of their authority in protecting this minority of citizens in the United States, in order that the world may be at peace."

Prepared by W. E. B. DuBois, director of special research, NAACP; Earl B. Dickerson, president of the National Bar Association; Milton R. Konvitz, associate professor at Cornell University; William R. Ming, Jr., associate professor, University of Chicago Legal Institute; Leslie S. Perry, administrative assistant, NAACP and Rayford Logan, professor of history, Howard University, the statement contains an introduction and chapters on the denial of legal rights of American Ne-

TOP HOUSING ADVISORS GET THE AXE

Washington—What for several weeks has been merely a ruly what to expect, has now become with no one knowing exact- come a clearly defined reality in National Housing.

Frank Creedon, national housing expeditor let his axe swing the other day and it severed 400 persons from the housing division payroll. While this was expected in a measure, it was hoped that some semblance of effectiveness would be retained in the minority group picture. But while Dr. Frank Horne was away on the field trip, Miss Ann Mason, liaison representative for local mayors' emergency housing committees and Donald Wyatt, specialty on labor affairs, were both dropped from the rolls. In Mr. Creedon's own office he issued a termination notice to William Clark, information specialist.

The dropping of these top persons not only weakens the whole housing picture from the standpoint of the group but it is contrary to the assurances that Mr. Creedon is alleged to have given.

Though there are marked indications that there will be stiff protests over these steps, the fact that Congress seems to be bent on severer budget slashes, makes the prospects for restitution, seem slim.

groes from 1787 to 1914; the legal status of Americans of Negro descent since World War I; the present legal and social status of the American Negro; patterns of social discrimination against Negroes and a review of the charter of the UN and its provisions for human rights and the rights and the rights of minorities and decisions already taken under this charter.

In that section of the statement which deals with the present legal and social status of the American Negro, William R. Ming, Jr., examines in detail "the appalling contrast between the breadth of the rights which are guaranteed by law to every person and those few which Negroes, generally, are permitted to enjoy . . . when the political and social institutions of their country fail miserably to protect their lives, liberties or property." His discussion emphasizes the paradox between "The American Creed," as set forth in the Declaration of Independence, in the Constitution and the statement of the "Four Freedoms" all of which authorize no distinctions based on race, color or previous condition of servitude, and the actual condition of Negroes who are discriminated against legally in the various states of the country solely on the basis of race.

Dr. Rayford Logan wrote the last chapter, on the UN Charter.