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on the

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By MAX BEDACHT
IWO General Secretary

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NEGRO HISTORY WEEK BULLETIN

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NEGRO HISTORY WEEK Bulletin

FEBRUARY, 1945



Issued by the International Workers Order, Inc., 80 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

Discussion Outline on Negro History

INTRODUCTION

Two basic features of American Negro history:

1. The struggle for **liberation**. The fight to overthrow the slave system. Period from American Revolution through the Civil War.

2. The struggle for **integration**. The Negro people aspire to achieve full and equal citizenship on the basis of integration with the American nation as a whole. Characterizes period after Civil War. Conditions for realizing this objective in the immediate period have been created by the war against fascism.

Negro **initiative** plus Negro-white **unity** are the most creative factors in American Negro history.

In fighting for his own interests, the Negro has fought for the interests of the nation as a whole; conversely, the worst enemies of the Negro, like the Civil War Confederate and Copperhead or the pro-fascist today, have been the worst enemies of the nation as a whole.

History reveals that not only human justice and decency, but also the **national interest** demands full and equal citizenship for the Negro people.

Just as labor in a white skin could not be free as long as labor in a black skin was enslaved, so no national minority can be safe from persecution as long as the largest minority suffers from discrimination.

Historically, the Negro may profitably be approached as a **builder of the American nation**, despite all efforts to restrict his creative role.

THE FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY

1. Negro Slave Revolts.

Contrary to the myth that the slaves were "content" and "submissive" is the evidence of many scores of insurrections from 1663 to the Civil War. These emphasize initiative of the slaves themselves. Their action inspired the Abolitionist movement.

Most famous revolts were led by:

Denmark Vesey (Charleston, S. C., 1822).

Nat Turner (Southampton Co., Va., 1831).

What to Do

Devote one of your February meetings to discuss the problems of the Negro people.

Invite a representative Negro leader and white national group leader in your community to speak at your lodge meeting.

If possible issue a leaflet, or announcement, of this meeting to the community, and make an effort to bring Negro neighbors to your meeting.

Adopt a resolution supporting a permanent FEPC and calling for an end to discrimination against the Negro people.

Support and attend the Negro History Week celebration in your city (organized in the Negro communities or on a city-wide scale).

Recruit Negro members into the Order—help to reach the good goal to build the IWO in the Negro communities.

Keep in touch with the Negro Organizing Committees in

Chicago—65 E. 35 Street. Tel. Victory 4941

Detroit—5461 Brush Street. Tel. Trinity 1-0448

New York City—143 West 125 Street. Tel. UNiversity 4-3418

2. The Abolitionists.

Negroes struggle side by side with whites in a common effort. Through press and pulpit, Abolitionists awakened the country to the moral horror of slavery. They organized the Underground Railroad. A political vanguard, they brought about a realignment of parties on the slavery issue. Leading white figures included William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, John Greenleaf Whittier, Thaddeus Stevens, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott.

Leading Negroes:

Frederick Douglass, slave-born, great orator, publisher of "Frederick Douglass's Paper," wrote a famous autobiography. The most distinguished Negro in American history, whether as writer, statesman, orator, organizer. He

said: "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

Women: Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, both escaped slaves. The latter was called "The Moses of Her People."

3. John Brown.

His raid on Harper's Ferry, Va., in 1859 was a high-water mark in the anti-slavery movement. Five Negroes were in Brown's band of 21. They were joined by Negroes from the local plantations.

4. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. It freed all slaves of persons still in rebellion against the Union.

5. The Thirteenth Amendment was passed by Congress during the war, on January 30, 1865. It outlawed slavery in the entire country.

(See Henrietta Buckmaster: **Deep River** and **Let My People Go**; Steve Kingston: **Frederick Douglass**; Herbert Aptheker: **Negro Slave Revolts** and **The Negro in the Abolitionist Movement**; Earl Conrad: **Harriet Tubman**.)

THE NEGRO IN AMERICA'S WARS

A record of distinguished service in every great war.

1. The American Revolution.

At first denied opportunity to enlist, but Washington revoked Continental Congress order prohibiting enlistment. War necessity demanded this.

Over 5,000 Negroes served in Continental Army, and every one of the colonies had colored troops. Negroes served with the Navy as pilots.

Notable heroes: Crispus Attucks, escaped slave, "first martyr of the American Revolution," killed resisting British in Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770.

Peter Salem: killed Major Pitcairn, commanding officer at Bunker Hill.

Deborah Gannett: served for 17 months as a regular soldier under name of Robert Shurtliff.

2. The Civil War.

As above, enlistment first rejected. Military necessities plus agitation by the

For Unity, Victory, and Security—Build the I.W.O. among the Negro People—RECRUIT!

Discussion Outline on Negro History—Continued

Negro people and abolitionists caused policy change.

Serving with Union forces: over 82,000 Northern Negroes, about 125,000 from Slave States.

At close of war there were 120 regiments of Negro infantry, 12 heavy artillery, 7 cavalry. About 75 Negroes held commissions.

Some leading figures: Frederick Douglass helped recruit with his famous appeal, "Men of Color, to Arms!"

Harriet Tubman courageously served as scout, nurse, spy.

Robert Smalls, pilot of Confederate steamship, brought her into Northern port.

Victories over Jim Crow in Union Army won in fights against recruitment only for labor battalions, wearing of uniform different from white troops.

3. The War Today.

Negro people justly proud of great contribution to the war, despite limitations on their services which still prevail.

War Department reports that at end of September 1944 there were 701,678 Negroes in Army, of whom 411,368 (nearly 60%) are overseas.

Secretary Stimson and General Eisenhower highly commend valor and gallantry of Negro troops.

Typical headlines: "Negro Troops Take Villages in Italy" (New York Times, Nov. 1, 1944).

"Many Awards Go To Negro Soldiers; 29 Receive Bronze and Silver Stars and 168 Purple Heart in Europe and the Pacific" (Times, Dec. 18, 1944).

Victories over discrimination: On July 8, 1944, War Department re-issues an order banning Jim Crow in Army post exchanges, buses, entertainment places. (Not uniformly enforced in South).

On April 7, 1942, Secretary of the Navy Knox announced new policy: Navy would accept Negroes for general enlistment and as non-com. officers. Negroes in Navy, as of Dec. 1, 1944, totalled 152,000.

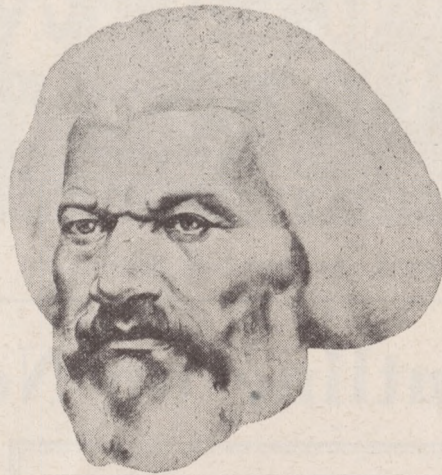
Highest rank is Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, commander of the Negro fighter group of the 15th Army Air Force.

In U. S. Merchant Marine, Liberty ship bearing name of famous Negro is sailed by mixed white and Negro crew under command of Negro captain. Valiant services of Negro WACS, WAVES, SPARS.

Unsolved Problems:

Only 5,800 commissioned Negro officers, an unequal proportion. Too few Negroes permitted in combat areas. Unfair treatment of Negro Seabees. Restrictions on Negro nurses, despite urgent nurse need.

(See Herbert Aptheker: *The Negro in the American Revolution* and *The Negro in the Civil War*).



FREDERICK DOUGLASS, the great leader of the Negro people, Lincoln's friend and advisor.

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION

1. Some outstanding scientists and inventors:

Benjamin Banneker, surveyor and astronomer, made first American clock in 1770.

Jo Anderson perfected the first harvester machine, the reaper.

John Ernest Matzeliger, mechanic, invented the automatic shoe-making machine.

Granville T. Woods, who worked in Edison's New Jersey laboratories, leading scientist in creation of electric railways, telegraph systems.

Louis H. Latimer, helped perfect the



JOHN BROWN, martyr of Harper's Ferry, towering, immortal hero of anti-slavery struggles.

Maxim gun; Solomon Harper in 1909 invented self-exploding airplane torpedo; Dr. Charles E. Drew, leading authority on preservation of blood plasma for emergency transfusions.

George Washington Carver, slave-born, pioneered in development of new industrial products from the sweet potato and peanut. His methods for dehydration of fruits and vegetables have saved valuable shipping space in this war.

2. Music.

Great cultural contribution of Negro folk music and spirituals.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, one of the best known modern composers. A great contemporary composer is William Grant Still.

W. C. Handy, originator of "The Blues."

Paul Robeson, Marian Anderson, Roland Hayes.

3. Literature.

Phyllis Wheatley, poet of the American Revolution, commended by Washington.

Frederick Douglass, leading orator and journalist of the Abolitionist movement.

Charles W. Chesnutt, story writer, and Paul Laurence Dunbar, poet.

Outstanding writers today include Langston Hughes, Margaret Walker, and many other poets and novelists.

4. Theatre and Film.

Heightened interest in Negro artists during this period: Robeson's "Othello" broke all previous Shakespearean records in this country. "Anna Lucasta," "Carmen Jones." Pearl Primus in the dance, Lena Horne in films.

(See *The Negro Caravan*, edited by Sterling A. Brown, Arthur P. Davis, Ulysses Lee).

NEGROES IN INDUSTRY AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT

From the Civil War to World War I: relatively few Negro industrial workers. Most Negroes lived in the Southern Black Belt, were farm laborers, tenants, sharecroppers, dependent on the South's declining cotton economy.

However, Negroes were members of the first national labor federation, the National Labor Union, formed in 1866. A national Negro labor convention was held in Washington, December 1869. Negro groups were affiliated with the Knights of Labor, predecessor of the A. F. of L.

During World War I hundreds of thousands migrated to industrial centers and cities of the North. With economic crisis of 1929 and depression, they suffered worse than rest of the population, mass unemployment.

Until formation of the CIO (1935-1937) Negroes remained largely unorganized, discriminated against not only

The Negro People and the National Groups in the United States

by JESSE MINTUS

AMERICA is the saga of brave peoples who have been coming for hundreds of years to these shores from many lands to build a nation of vast industrial and agricultural resources. It is the story of men and women who contribute freely and generously of their talents and their cultures to mold, in the cause of freedom and democracy, a rich American culture.

But it is a story not without pathos and tragedy for those millions who, in successive generations, make up the nationality and racial groups of America, including the Negro people. Treated unjustly in many instances, suffering much discrimination and often persecuted, the Negro people and the national group communities nevertheless gave and are giving their all to America—because it is their country, to preserve it in time of peril—such as now—and to strengthen it as a shining example to all the world of a democracy in which all men have equality and security.

During periods in American history when reaction has been in the saddle, the so-called minorities (Negroes, Jews, and other nationality and racial groupings) have been subjected to the ruthless attacks of vigilantes, the Ku Klux Klan, anti-Semites and to anti-alien propaganda. As the people struggle and find their way to unity among themselves, these anti-American forces, ever-menacing as they are, are being routed.

Spirit of United Nations

The battle for democracy is moving the free peoples and nations of the world under the same compulsions: greater solidarity for the realization of the common goal of greater democracy. The spirit of United Nations is reflected in—and, in turn, is influenced by—National Unity in our own country.

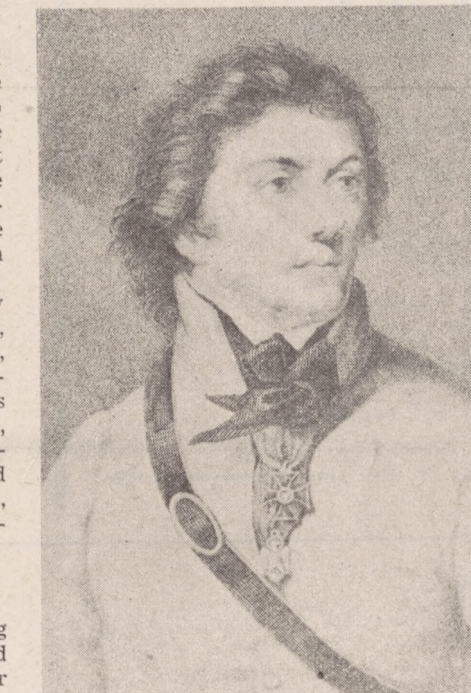
This development has tremendous significance for the Negro people and the nationality groups of America. It unfolds new vistas of democracy. The dynamics of progress demand that these Americans shall no longer be second-class citizens; but that there must and shall be complete integration into all phases of American life. The signpost of Victory points the way: marching together, no group can afford to falter, rather it must find courage and sustenance in each other's strength.

The overwhelming majority of the Negro people and the national group communities are working people. The problem of economic and social security is their common problem. Political disfranchisement and social discrimination have reduced the workers, particularly, to the lowest economic levels. The struggle for **integration** into American life means that jobs and decent living con-

ditions must be made available. It means that fair employment practices must guarantee, in the post-war period, proper treatment in regard to job equality, seniority, and wages.

For the Negro People

In working together for common goals with other progressive and democratic forces in America, the Negro people and the nationality groups must assume vital



KOSCIUSZKO, great Polish democrat who aided American Revolution (1776) and who in his activities and will contributed to the freeing and to the education of Negro slaves.

responsibilities of their own. The social and cultural heritage which the people of the nationality groups brought with them to this country never included anti-Negro discrimination. In these white communities, every trace of discrimination, injected by those who have pro-fascist and reactionary associations, must be eliminated. The schools, churches, trade unions, civic and fraternal bodies in which men, women and children of whatever national origin carry on their daily lives, must reflect in every way, the spirit of unity and cooperation. For the Negro people, there is the responsibility of active participation and leadership in civic and industrial life. Without such participation, the problem of integration will remain unsolved to the detriment of all America.

The epochal course of world and American history has pushed these problems to the fore. History will be thwarted if we do not start now to build the future.

ROLE OF NEGROES BLOTTED FROM AMERICAN HISTORY, GWENDOLYN BENNETT TELLS IWO GATHERING.

"The role of the Negro people has been completely omitted from American history text books," declared Gwendolyn Bennett, director of the George Washington Carver School of New York, in a talk on Negro History Week before officers, functionaries and employees of the International Workers Order.

"American history should properly include all ethnic groups which helped to make it," Miss Bennett declared in reviewing the role of the Negro in American history from the time of the War of Independence in 1776.

Pointing out that the status of the Negro is the testing ground of the war against Fascism, Miss Bennett said: "The ill treatment of the Negro is one of the causes for the growth of anti-Semitism. Once we submit to persecution of any people we make fertile the ground for future hatreds to grow."

Many lodges of the International Workers Order are scheduling Negro History Week activities as part of the Order's national campaign to strengthen American unity by enrolling 6,000 Negroes into the IWO by May 31, 1945.

In New York, Lincoln Steffens Lodge 500 is presenting a \$150 war bond to a young Negro for outstanding contribution to American culture. An eminent Negro authority will make the presentation at the annual entertainment of Lodge 500 at Manhattan Center on Sat., Feb. 3rd.

Lodge 817, of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order, IWO, Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, will conduct a Negro History Week celebration on February 9th. Neighbors of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church will be guests of the lodge. The program will include songs by the Mt. Zion Choral Group under the direction of Rev. A. B. Richards; and talks by Bertina Hunter, IWO General Council member; Rev. S. L. Arrington of the Mt. Zion Church and Maud Jett of the IWO Negro Organizing Committee.

Sam Patterson, IWO New York Campaign Director, will speak on "The Meaning of Lincoln Today" before members of Lodge 500 on Feb. 9th, in connection with Negro History Week.

Selected Events

(Continued from page 5)

ment Practice Act, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1941.
27—Paul Laurence Dunbar, born, 1872.

July

1—Abolition of slavery in the Dutch West Indies, 1863.
4—Booker T. Washington began his work at Tuskegee, 1881.
17—The arming of Negroes approved by Congress, 1862.
18—Lemuel Haynes, Negro preacher to whites, born, 1753.
28—Fourteenth Amendment declared ratified, 1868.

August

1—Slavery finally abolished in British dependencies, 1834.
4—Robert Purvis, Negro abolitionist, born, 1810.
20—Twenty Negroes brought as slaves to Jamestown, 1619.
21—Nat Turner's Insurrection, 1831.
23—African Methodist Episcopal Church incorporated, 1796.
24—Independence of Liberia proclaimed, 1847.

September

1—Hiram R. Revels, first Negro U.S. Senator, born, 1822; took office Feb. 25, 1870.
18—Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 passed.
24—Jupiter Hammon published his Address to the Negroes of New York, 1786.
28—David Walker, author of the "Appeal" against slavery, born, 1785.

October

9—Ethiopia becomes 30th nation to join the United Nations, 1942.
16—John Brown's attack on Harper's Ferry, 1859.
28—Levi Coffin, founder of the "Underground Railroad," born, 1798.

November

9—Benjamin Bannaker, Negro inventor and astronomer, born, 1731.

December

2—John Brown executed at Charles Town, W. Va., 1859.
8—First war casualty of U.S. Armored Forces was Robt. H. Brooks, son of Kentucky sharecropper family, 1941.
12—Joseph H. Rainey took his seat as the first Negro member of the House of Representatives, 1870.
14—John M. Langston, Negro Representative in Congress, born, 1829.
15—Colored Methodist Episcopal Church established, 1870.
18—Thirteenth Amendment declared ratified, 1865.
28—The American Colonization Society organized, 1816.

(Credit: Most of the dates in this Calendar supplied through the courtesy of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.)



EXECUTIVE ORDER 8802

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

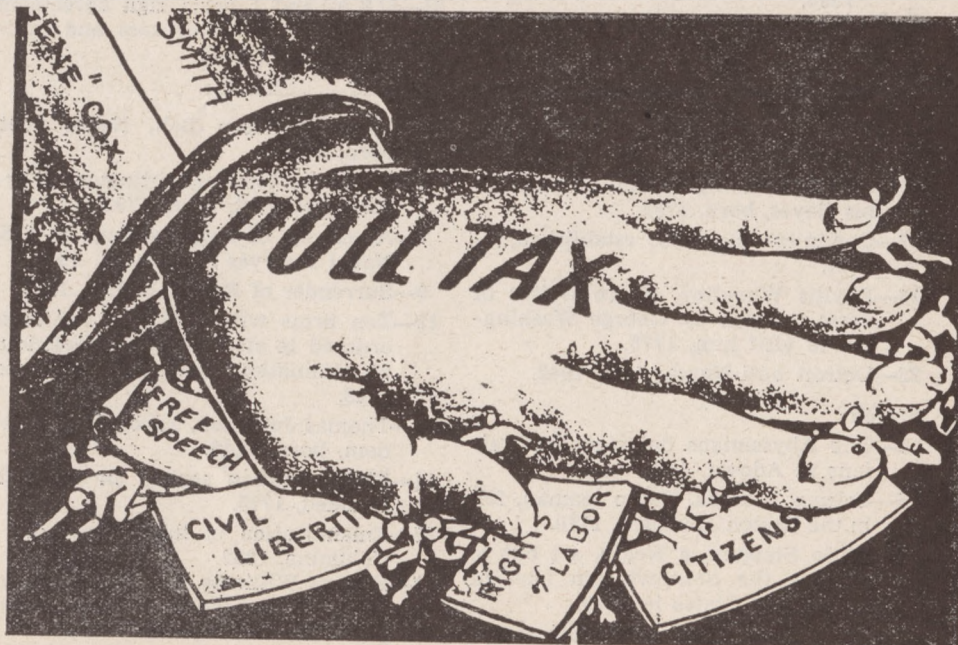
I do hereby reaffirm the policy of the United States that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or Government because of race, creed, color, or national origin, and I do hereby declare that it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in furtherance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin*

Franklin D. Roosevelt
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE WHITE HOUSE
June 25, 1941

*Excerpt from Executive Order 8802

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S historic order, which laid the foundations for the establishment of the FEPC, which must be made into permanent Federal and State agencies.



THE POLL TAX SYSTEM must be abolished by passage of Federal and State bills in 1945.

For Unity, Victory, and Security—Build the I.W.O. among the Negro People—RECRUIT!

Discussion Outline on Negro History—Continued

by employers but by labor organizations. CIO program stands for full equality.

This war has caused the most rapid and profound change since the Civil War.

In 1940: 131 Negroes employed in aircraft; by July 1944: 120,000 in aircraft and auto. In 1940: 1,782 in electrical and machinery equipment industry; July 1944: 100,000.

Over 1,500,000 Negroes are employed in war production industries.

In 1936-7: 150,000 Negroes in unions. By December 1944: 850,000 (Labor Research Ass'n. estimate). Over 400,000 in CIO, over 350,000 in AFL, over 100,000 in other unions.

Major Problems Ahead:

Assure permanent F.E.P.C., created by President Roosevelt to uphold democratic employment opportunities.

End discriminatory practices still existing in many unions, particularly the A. F. of L.

Secure adjustments in the seniority system to guarantee the Negro's right to work. This is a particularly important problem. Some employers may use the period of re-conversion to eliminate Negroes from employment, which they were prevented from doing during the war period. Organized labor has a duty to uphold Negro's right to a job and will gain from this. Since in many plants Negroes have low seniority (being relatively recently employed because of previous discrimination), it will be neces-

sary to protect the hard-won seniority system at the same time that the Negro's right to work is protected. It will be desirable to maintain the present proportion of Negroes employed during the period of reconversion and re-hiring.

The creation of a large body of Negro workers, with nearly a million unionized, is a tremendous factor in shaping the destiny of the Negro people, a powerful force for achieving full integration into the whole American nation. It has strengthened the labor movement as a whole and broadened the base of American democracy.

NEGROES AND POLITICAL ACTION

1. Significance of Reconstruction Period

Howard Fast's novel, *Freedom Road*, has dramatized meaning of the post-Civil War period as the most democratic in Southern history.

Genuine rights were achieved through joint efforts of the newly emancipated Negroes and the "poor whites" working together in the state legislatures and constitutional conventions.

This democratic coalition enacted constitutions providing universal suffrage and education without color discrimination, recognition of women's rights, no property qualifications for holding office, representation according to numbers.

But the Republican Party betrayed the democratic revolution, connived with Southern Democrats to restore power to former slave-masters. Ku Klux Klan terror plus "white supremacy" propaganda separated Negro-white allies. A long period of semi-feudalism replaced Reconstruction democracy.

2. The Situation Today

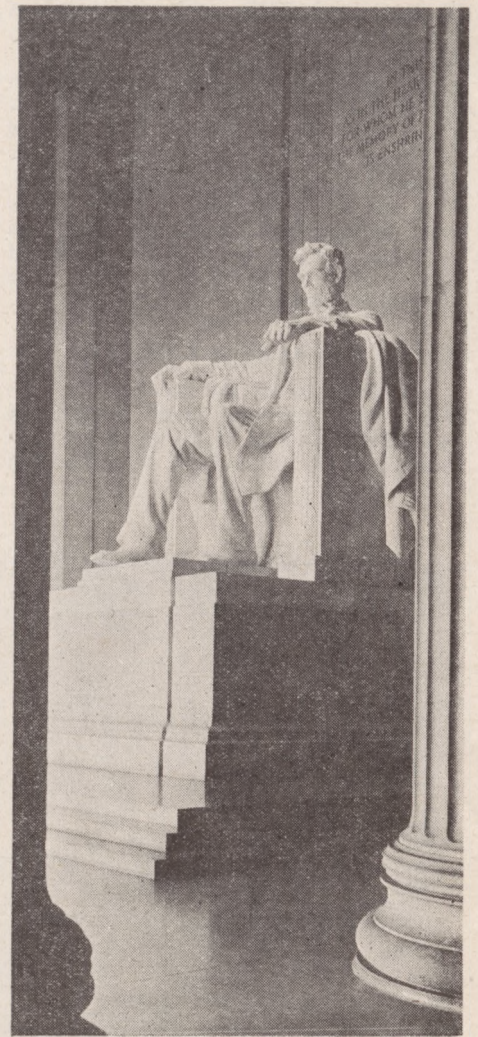
Inherited from the post-Reconstruction era are many discriminatory laws and institutions, such as the poll tax, designed to prevent the Negro's political action for democracy.

During past quarter of a century great advances have been made to protect Negro's civil rights as a result of such historic struggles as the Scottsboro case.

But the war period itself has witnessed the greatest upsurge since Reconstruction. The alliance between the Negroes and progressive whites in the camp of national unity has been reformed.

The Negro people support Roosevelt and his war policies. In the last election, the pro-Roosevelt vote in the main Negro communities, with few exceptions, reached what is probably an all-time high. The independent political action of the Negro people has shown itself in a decisive break with the Republican Party.

At the same time, the Negro people have, together with progressive whites, increased their just demands for full democratic rights as a requirement of victory and lasting peace.



LINCOLN, great emancipator, immortalized in marble monument, Washington, D. C.

A number of significant victories include, in addition to F.E.P.C.:

On April 3, 1944, the United States Supreme Court voided the Texas "white primary" law, ruling that Texas must allow Negro citizens to vote in primaries. This affects eight Southern states.

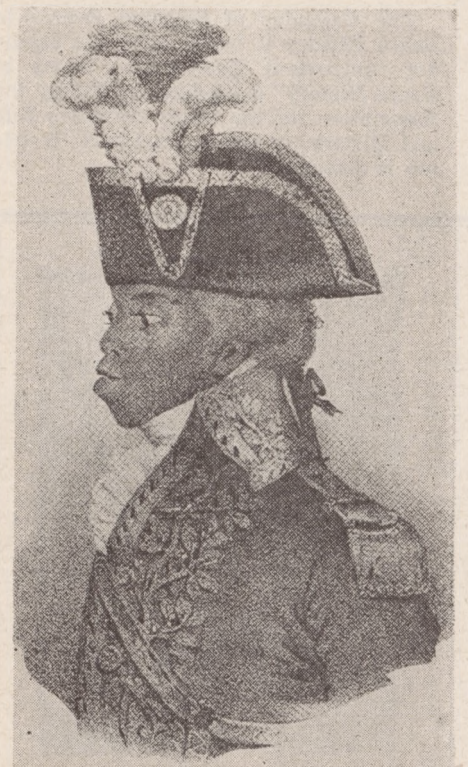
The election to Congress of A. Clayton Powell. The election to the New York City Council of Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Negro Communist, who won as the result of a combined Negro-white vote.

Formation during the election of a Progressive Democratic Party in South Carolina, including Negroes and whites.

(Continued on next page)

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Frontispiece by Lois M. Jones



TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE, liberator of Haiti, great figure in Negro history, admired by many.

For Unity, Victory, and Security—Build the I.W.O. among the Negro People—RECRUIT!

Discussion Outline on Negro History—Continued

It supported FDR, and nominated a Negro candidate. For the U.S. Senate, Osceola E. McKaine.

The fight against the poll-tax has won increased support in and out of Congress. Only the filibustering tactics of Southern reactionaries has so far prevented passage of an anti-poll tax law. The legislative program to achieve this must be strengthened and extended. The poll tax remains the major instrument for disfranchising Negroes and poor whites in the South.

3. The Perspective of Integration

On the basis of the great gains, economic and political, made during the war; the shake-up of the South's semi-feudal system; the outlook for peace and

prosperity powerfully registered in the concord of Teheran; the cementing of the alliance with democratic whites, particularly the labor movement—the Negro people see as an immediate political task the achievement of equal citizenship. Their political perspective, shared by all genuinely forward-looking Americans, is the realization of a full and integrated share in the life of the country.

The reactionaries will do everything in their power to frustrate this objective, toward which all the forces of history are now working. It is the task of democratic America to establish guarantees that the reactionaries will not again succeed, as they did after the Civil War, in reversing progress.

To achieve progress it is necessary to **root out race prejudice**, which has always been the favorite weapon of American reaction as of German fascism today. There is not the slightest scientific evidence to support the theory of "superior" and "inferior" races. This is an ugly myth. The United Nations include various types of men, white, yellow, black; all races of man fight shoulder to shoulder against Hitlerite barbarism. To discriminate on the ground of race or color is to play Hitler's game. Every intelligent human being must cleanse his mind of racist superstition. National minority groups must be especially alert to the sinister, divisive character of "racial superiority" ideas. Such ideas are un-American, unscientific, and inhuman.

FREE FOR IWO MEMBERS ONLY

To every IWO member who starts a membership in the BOOKFIND CLUB with an initial payment of \$1.35 and by selecting one (1) of either of these two great novels on the role of the Negro in American history—"Freedom Road" by Howard Fast, and "Deep River" by Henrietta Buckmaster—a copy of Louis Adamic's "My Native Land" will be sent absolutely free as a gift.

Enroll now by sending \$1.35 in postal money order (cash at your own risk) and selecting either "Deep River" or "Freedom Road." Address your letter to: IWO Publications Dept., Room 1203, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

CALENDAR CREDIT

The Calendar of Selected Events in Negro History is based upon the calendar "Important Events and Dates in Negro History" published in 1936 by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, of which Carter G. Woodson is director.



CRISPUS ATTUCKS, escaped slave, first martyr of the American Revolution (Boston Massacre).

BUY and HOLD WAR BONDS FOR VICTORY



Red Cross Photo

For Unity, Victory, and Security—Build the I.W.O. among the Negro People—RECRUIT!



ONE OF THE MOST HEROIC FEATS of the Civil War was the assault on Ft. Wagner, led by a thousand Negro soldiers of the 54th Massa-

chusetts Regiment under the command of Col. R. G. Show, who died with his brave men. Democracy hails this noble white Colonel.

Selected Events in Negro History

January

- 1—Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln, 1863.
- The "Liberator" first issued by William Lloyd Garrison, 1831.
- Haiti declared its independence, 1804.

- 31—Ethiopia's independence restored by Great Britain, 1942.

February

- 12—Abraham Lincoln born, 1809.
- 14—Frederick Douglass' "Birthday."
- 22—George Washington, the liberator of his slaves, born, 1732.
- 27—Dominican Republic established, 1844.
- 28—Phyllis Wheatley, Negro writer of verse, invited by George Washington to visit him, 1776.
- 28—Detroit anti-Negro riots, 1942.

March

- 1—The Abyssinians defeated the Italians at Adowa, 1896.
- 5—Crispus Attucks, Negro seaman, fell in the Boston Massacre, 1770.
- 7—Little Stephen, a Negro, set out to explore the Southwestern part of the United States in 1539.
- 17—Texas as a republic abolished the slave trade, 1836.

- 23—The abolition of slavery in Porto Rico, 1873.

- 25—Slave trade abolished by British Parliament, 1807.

- 30—Promulgation of the 15th Amendment, 1870.

- 31—U.S.A. and Liberia sign agreement granting U.S.A. airbases and military control, 1942.

April

- 3—James Madison Bell, Negro poet, born, 1826.
- 4—Thaddeus Stevens, distinguished reconstructionist, born, 1792.
- 7—Admission of Negro seamen in U.S. Naval reserves announced, 1942.
- 9—Surrender of Robert E. Lee, 1865.
- 12—Ten firms with U.S. war contracts ordered to stop racial and religious discrimination against employees, 1942.
- 13—Thomas Jefferson, advocate of freedom, born, 1743.
- 14—First abolition society in the U.S. founded, 1775.
- 16—Emancipation in the District of Columbia, 1862.
- 17—Francis Williams, first Negro college graduate in Western Hemisphere, published Latin poem in 1758.
- 18—Booker T. Washington, "born", 1856.

May

- 6—The Will of Thaddeus Kosciusko, providing for the education of Negroes, 1798 . . . Italian troops occupy Addis Ababa, 1936.
- Return of Haile Selassie to Addis Ababa, 1941.
- 6—Martin R. Delany, Negro army officer and author, born, 1812.
- 9—John Brown, the martyr, born, 1800.
- 10—Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, a Negro woman, invited to sing before Queen Victoria, 1854.
- 14—Abolition of slavery in Brazil, 1888.
- 20—Toussaint L'Ouverture, Haitian liberator, born, 1743.

June

- 3—The United States recognized Haiti and Liberia as nations, 1862.
- 10—Richard Allen started independent African Methodist movement, 1794.
- 14—Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," born, 1811.
- 20—Charles Waddell Chestnutt, Negro novelist, born, 1858.
- 21—Henry Ossawa Tanner, famous Negro-American painter, born, 1859.
- 22—Joe Louis knocks out Nazi champion, Max Schmeling, 1938.
- 25—Executive Order 8802, Fair Employ-

For Unity, Victory, and Security—Build the I.W.O. among the Negro People—RECRUIT!