John W. Davis Meets Hoover Committee On Unemployment

NEGRO MEMBER IN INTERVIEW URGES OPPORTUNITY FOR WORK RATHER THAN CHARITY

Washington, Oct., 9th—(ANP'—That the relief of Negro workers, unemployed because of present unstable conditions in industry could best be effectuated by the use of colored socia' workers and community leaders in the national and local setup of relief organizations throughout the country, was the opinion of Presient John W. Davis of West Virginia State College, as expressed in an interview here last Saturday following his meeting with other members of the Sub-Committee on Cooperation with National Groups and Organizations of the President's Organization on Unemployment Relief:

President Davis was appointed by President Herbert Hoover to represent the interests of Negro workers on two important sub-committees: The Sub-Committee on Cooperation with National Groups and Organizations, of which Eliot Wadsworth of Boston is chairman and with which he met last Friday; and the Sub-Committee on the Administration of Unemployment Relief, of which Fred C. Croxton is chairman and which is scheduled to meet in the Department of Commerce Building here October 5th.

Negro Unemployment Figures Run High

Encouraged by the cooperation and friendly interest shown by the members of the committees working for unemployment relief, Mr. Davis pointed out that the sub-committee on Cooperation with National Groups and Associations represented the key to suffering, distress and need as now existing throughout the nation and which will exist during the coming winter. "Early in the deliberations of this committee I urge both the consideration of and machinery for the relief among Negroes," he stated. "The National Urban League, with 42 local branches distributed in various sections of the country, estimated in March 1930 the number of unemployed Negroes as being 330 thousand. A conservative estimate today places the number at 600 thousand. In every instance where figures were available the percentage of Negroes among the unemployed is higher than their population percentage warrants, sometimes running as high as four times the proportionate amount, and in some instances five and six times as high.

Prejudice Apt To Be A Factor

President Davis pointed out that other factors besides normal economic depression were at work in creating abnormally high percentages of unemployed Negro workers, and he showed serious objections to the tendency of some sections of the country to give unemployed colored laborers charity instead of work. "Various Negroes", he said. "In most instances, members of this group are the 'last to be hired and the first to be fired'. Even in the distribution of relief, there is frequently the disposition to give Negroes baskets of food rather than a job. Such use of the basket of food becomes and establishes an undesirable dole."

ANNOUNCE PUBLICATION OF BOOKLET OF HUGHES' POEMS

New York, Oct 9—(ANP)—A new booklet containing six dramatic recitations in rhymed verse by Langston Hughes, author of "The Weary Blues" and "Not Without Laughter," was announced by the Golden Stair Press Friday. Decorations for the booklet have been drawn by Prentiss Taylor.

The booklet bears the title, "The Negro Mother." The ballads published are The Colored Soldier, Broke, The Black Clown, The Bib-Timer, The Negro Mother and Dark Youth:

PARSONS CHOIR FAVORABLY COMMENTED

One of the many outstanding features of the Kansas A. M. E. Conference which met at St. John last week, appeared on the program Sunday night when the Parsons Choir rendered a concert of several selections. The choir was one of the best that has been heard in Topeka for years. Miss Bessie Fads, Mrs. Essie Williams and Mr. S. O. Claton featuring. Mrs S. O. Claton directs the choir, and her ability was clearly manifested.

BARNES OPENS AT MICHIGAN THEATRE

Chicago, Oct. 9th—(ANP)—Walter Barnes, leader of one of the city's most popular song-and-dance musical aggregations opened up a widely-advertised engagement at the Essaness' Michigan theatre on Garfield boulevard Sunday night. The organization has just completed a tour under the auspices of the Music Corporation of America.

The Negro Year Book

By Arthur C. Parker

The fine record set for the past decade by the "Negro Year Book, an Annual Encyclopedia of the Negro" is well maintained in the 1931-1932 edition, just published by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Every phase of life among Colored American citizens, and a sufficiently comprehensive outline of the activities and interests of Negroes in other countries. Where opinions in regard to facts are presented, they are quoted from accepted leaders of our people, and not given as those of the compiler, Monroe N. Work. The self-effacement shown by Dr. Work is literally a case of the humble being exalted, because the excellence of his selection cannot fail to redound to his credit among careful students who use his book.

A few things have been included that this reviewer would have left out, and more have been left out that he would have included. For example, one might well argue that the list of periodicals published by or for Negroes should be classified as to type; for example, general newspapers, literary magazines, technical publications, etc. Instead, the classification is purely geographical. Likewise, one might think that the labor unions in which Colored Americans are at present organized—pitiably few as they are—should be listed with the many other types of groups given.

These, however, are minor points Any real criticism rests not upon the compiler, but upon the activities pictured. One may not like to see, for instance, that many of our influential citizens are turning away from the Republicans, who have sold them out, to the Democrats, who have also sold them out. One may not like to see that others—luckily not many—have gone Communist, and thus placed themselves in position to get killed to further an alien propaganda which purposely makes martyrs of the desperate so that it may give spice to street corner harangues. But the duty of a good reporter is to set forth the facts, and facts these are, whether one like them or not.

And one must point out with sorrow that social and economic stupidity is confined to no race. Ethiopian, Mongolian, Caucasian all seem blind to the fact that the only present hope is for the workers of the world, forgetting differences of color, to unite against our present stupid capitalist system in which men starve because they grow too much food. The sooner we band together to build by peaceful means a new order that will produce for use and not for profit, the sooner we will be able to read a "Negro Year Book" which will proclaim freedom for the oppressed.

WANTED—Newsboys to sell papers he Topeka Plaindealer.

Music Master

DUKE ELLINGTON

..During his recent engagement in Washington, D. C., Duke Ellington, Harlem's aristocrat of jazz, was invited to call at the White House and Meet President Herbert Hoover. Duke is the first colored entertainer ever to be received by the chief executive of the nation.

Duke Ellington and his famous Orchestra are about to begin a six months' tour of motion picture theatres for the Paramount Publix circuit which will take this celebrated organization into most of the large cities of the east and middle west.

Although the last Ellington dance tour was a tremendous success, the Duke and his band were such a sensation on the stage, particularly during their four engagements within six months at the Oriental Theatre in Chicago, that Publix theatre officials prevailed upon Irving Mills, his personal manager, to book another tour of their circuit

The Ellington unit is dividing its time this month between independent theatres in Philadelphia and Washington, following which it plays one week at the Stanley Theatre in Jersey City, then begins its Paramount route.

TWO COLORED STARS IN NEW PAUL GREEN PLAY ON BROADWAY

New York, Oct. 2—(ANP)—Two colored actresses, Fanny De Knight and Rose McClendon, share honors in a new play about the South, "The House of Connelly", by Paul Green, which received a stirring welcome on its opening this week in the Martin Beck Theatre The play portrays the breakdown of the old white slaveholding aristocracy of the South and is set in the year 1905. It is produced by the Group Theatre, a company of young actors under the auspices of the Theatre Guild. Miss McClendon was one of the stars of "Porgy", "Deep River", and "In Abraham's Bosom", Pulitzer Pride Play of 1928.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG PLAYS TO EIGHT THOUSAND IN HOUSTON

Houston, Tex., Sept., 30th—(ANP)—Louis Armstrong, king of the trumpet and his Okey Recording orchestra, played to a capacity crowd, in Sam Houston Hall here last week. The crowd which heard him and danced to his music was estimated at eight thousand and was composed of representative members of both races Armstrong and his Recording Orchestra were brought to Houston by the Magnolia Amusement Corporation, a new Organization among Houston Negro Business Men, headed by J. B. Grigsby, President The American Mutual Insurance Company and of the Texas Negro Baseball Association. This Corporation will specialize in presenting outstanding Negro artists from time to time to Texas in general and Houstonians particularly.

The officers of the Corporation are J. B. Grigsby, President; Wm. Robinson, Secretary; J. W Rice, Treasurer.

NAME CIGAR AFTER LOUIS ARMSTRONG

New Orleans, La., Oct. 9th—(ANP)—New Orleans cigar manufacturers are making a bid for the trade of the colored smokers with the new "Louis Armstrong" cigar. Many New Orleanians claim relationship with him. One "first cousin" is one of Harry Davis' shoe porters.

Dr. Caliver Writes Valuable Book

Washington, D. C., Oct. 9—(ANP)—Announcement was received here Tuesday that a book written by Dr. Ambrose Caliver, of the Bureau of Education, will come off the press within the next week or two. The announcement was made by the Bureau of Publications, Columbia, University.

The book, entitled "A Personnel Study of Negro College Students covers an investigation by Dr Caliver over a period of more than five years Students of various colleges were interviewed and their high school foundation was studied by the author.

Among the findings were: that more girls are sent to college than boys and that they show a slight superiority in intelligence over non-athletes, it is not reflected in class-room work; and that the economic standards, as far as the families of the students are concerned, has been raised several points in the past few years.

According to the announcement, this book should be of interest not only to persons concerned in general matters of student personnel, research and administration, but also to those having to do with students. It reveals the need of greater attention to personnel factors in teaching and in educational organization, administration and research and in the improvement of the technique of educational and vocational guidance and in personality development.

HAITI TAKES CHARGE OF SOME OF THEIR AFFAIRS

Port au Prince, Haiti, Oct. 9th—(ANP)—Although two United States commissions visited here last year and, in October, the first free election was held since the American marines were landed in 1915, it was only this week that Haitian leaders began to feel that they were making progress in their program for regaining sovereignty for the republic.

The new feeling was occasioned Tuesday when the agreement between the United States and Haiti in which the United States relinquishes control over several departments of the Haitian government went into effect. The Haitians now control everything except the army, so-called, and their finances. The gendarmes of Haiti which constitute the army and the nation's police force, are still under the direction of the United States marine corps, the excuse being that the Haitians are not well enough trained yet to be left without Uncle Sam as an overseer American control of the country's finances is said to be determined by obligations assumed by Haiti in making loans

MILLION DOLLARS TO ATLANTA U

New York, October 6—Atlanta University, pioneer institution of higher learning for Negroes, located in Atlanta, Ga., has been given one million dollars for new buildings and their maintenance. Announcement of the gift from a friend of the University was made here today by Dean Sage, 49 Wall Street, president of the University's board of trustees.

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

HATTIE J. PERKINS

Mrs. Hattie J. Perkins, 65, of 920 W. Eighth avenue, died Tuesday morning in a Topeka hospital. She was a member of the International Bible Student's Association. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Ottie Richmond of Chicago, three sons, Benjaman Perkins, Los Angeles, Calif., Leonard Perkins, Topeka and Maceo Perkins, Spokane, Washington, a sister, Mrs. Susie Richardson, Maxwell, N. M., and a brother, James Hightower of Kansas City, Kansas. Gaines & Son in charge.

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