



Alameda Co. Branch NAACP Bulletin

National Association For The Advancement of Colored People

VOLUME 3.

JANUARY, 1950

NUMBER 1

Local Branch Against Recall Election

Housing and The Recall

The Alameda County Branch of the NAACP and the Inter-denominational Ministerial Alliance are going all out in their concerted fight for Low-Rent Housing and against the recall of the three Councilmen. The first meeting for this purpose was held at the Cooper A. M. E. Zion Church, Sunday, January 8, and a representative group heard the Rev. L. S. White, Rev. G. L. Fauntleroy, and Mr. C. L. Dellums. These speakers had factual information and gave very convincing reasons why the persons in West Oakland should be for this Low Rent Housing and against the recall. The recall and fight against this housing comes from the powerful real estate interests.

WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MEETING ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.

Your NAACP urges that you vote for Fair Play and the good of the City by Voting against the Recall.

Re-elect Councilmen Joseph Smith, Ray Pease and Scott Weakley.

Choice of FAO Site

Following heated debate prompted by an NAACP wire charging the University of Maryland with racial discrimination, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization voted 30 to 28 to

December Board Meeting

On December 19, 1949, at the Linden Branch of the Y. W. C. A., at 8:15 P. M., the NAACP Board met for the first regular meeting after the Election. The new members were welcomed to the Board and there was exhibited much enthusiasm on the part of the new members present.

The president gave a brief history of the association up to the present and expressed the need as well as his hopes for the coming year. The following committee recommendations were submitted and approved:

choose for its permanent headquarters an Italian site rather than one in the U. S.

Roy Wilkins wired the ambassadors and ministers of 13 countries participating in the FAO conference in Washington, calling to their attention the exclusion of Negroes from classes and campus facilities at U. of M. and pointing out that many U. N. delegates from Asia, Africa and other areas would be subject to the same discriminatory treatment. Acceptance of the university's offer, Mr. Wilkins said, "would repudiate the high principles on which the United Nations is founded."

JOIN NAACP NOW

Annual Election Was Held at St. Augustine's In November

At an interesting meeting on fourth Sunday in November, the Alameda Co. Branch NAACP elected its officers for 1950. At 4:00 P. M. President Dellums turned the meeting over to the Regional Director, Mr. N. Griffin, who declared the offices vacated and proceeded with the election. The recommendations of the Nomination Committee were accepted, and it was moved and seconded that the names submitted be elected. The Secretary, Mrs. L. Taylor, cast the unanimous vote and the election was completed.

Apart from the election, many persons expressed themselves as being interested in the future of this association. Those present were unable to understand why more people were not financially interested in the association. A plea was made by Earl Swisher, the Membership Chairman for 1949, for workers who would go after memberships. It was the feeling of many that memberships could be had, but there were not enough workers in the field to bring them in. The meeting was adjourned with the benediction by Rev. L. S. White of BeBee Memorial C. M. E. Temple.

FHA Anti-Bias Ruling

Thurgood Marshall asked FHA Commissioner Franklin D. Richards to clarify the new non-discrimination policy announced by the Federal Housing Administration on Dec. 2. Mr. Marshall said the NAACP was disturbed about newspaper reports discounting the significance of the new policy.

The new policy was announced by Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman, with the authorization and support of President Truman, Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, Home Finance Administrator Raymond M. Foley, and Commissioner Richards, at a statewide conference of the New York State Committee on Discrimination in Housing. Under the new amendment of FHA rules, no property will be eligible for FHA mortgage insurance if a covenant racially restricting its use is recorded.

A 21-page memorandum sent by the NAACP to President Truman last February, documenting the discriminatory practices of FHA, was widely credited with a large measure of responsibility for the changed FHA rules.

The NAACP board of directors adopted a resolution insisting that the intent and purpose of the FHA anti-bias pronouncement cannot be carried into effect unless written guarantee against discrimination is demanded from builders.

Alameda County Branch - 1950

NAACP OFFICERS AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President C. L. Dellums
1st Vice Tarea Pittman
2nd Vice Fred Stripp
3rd Vice Earl Swisher
Secretary Cero Smith
Asst. Sec'y. M. Robinson Baker

Board of Directors

Rev. Lewis A. Baskervill,
Leo Brown, Jane Davis, Ruth
Kingman, Jackye Kwallek, Dr.
Joel Lewis, Rev. Edward Stov-
all, E. S. Thomas, Rev. L. S.
White, Thelma Wilson, Mas
Yonemura, Elaine Lewis, Os-
carine Goins, Robinson Raker,
Ells Bogosian, Cero Smith, C.
Furlow, Alice Timms, Evelyn
Matthews, Dorothy Hargraves,
Tom Thompson, Rev. S. May-
field, Emma Glynn, Ralph Phil-
lips, Rev. G. W. Killens, Ver-
non Jackson.

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BRANCH NAACP**

LEWIS A BASKERVILL
Editor

EARL M. SWISHER
Managing Editor

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POLICE
BRUTALITY
PROTESTEDLocal Branch
Leads Fight
Against Police
Brutality

As a result of complaints a-
gainst police brutality by sev-
eral organizations along with
the local branch of the
NAACP, the State Assembly
Interim Committee on Crime
and Correction held public
hearings in the Alameda Coun-
ty Court House January 4th,
5th and 6th. President C. L.
Dellums was first witness and
opened the hearings by giving
the Committee a broad outline
on the question of police bru-
tality based upon his personal
experience of more than twen-
ty years. President Dellums
told the Committee that Police
Brutality had become so prev-
alent that generally, Negroes
looked upon the police as nat-
ural enemies. He stated that
one of the major problems
facing Negroes is the "Lowless-
ness of the Law." Chairman
Kilpatrick of the Committee
asked President Dellums if he
couldn't use up all three of the
days himself in citing cases
from the files of the NAACP
and President Dellums said
that he certainly could, but in
order not to use up all the
time the President cited just a
few instances; the major one of
which was the case of a small
15 year old boy who was
picked up with two other kids
at the scene of a purported
crime. It was known that
these boys gathered because of
the excitement and knew noth-
ing of the crime and that the
police had no reason for even
taking them to jail. After
getting them to jail the three
policemen took the 15 year old
boy, backing him against the
wall, making him stretch his
arms out against the wall
forming a cross. One police-
man then held the right arm a-
gainst the wall, the second po-

liceman pinning the left arm a-
gainst the wall and the third
policeman stepping on the kid's
feet and then beating him in
the stomach with both fists, a
gruesome crime. President
Dellums took the boy to Police
Chief Tracy's office so that he
could give the Chief a state-
ment on it in person. The
police were well identified and
yet no action of discipline was
taken.

The Rev. Mr. H. Geistweit,
Pastor of the Lakeshore Ave-
nue Baptist Church, Oakand,
testified next as a repre-
sentative of the Mayor's Com-
mittee on Civic Unity. Mr.
Geistweit testified that Mayor
Joseph Smith appointed this
committee but after the pres-
ent Mayor, Mr. Rishell took
office that Mr. Rishell discon-
tinued the Civic Unity Com-
mittee. While the committee
was active a serious case of
Police Brutality was brought
before the City Council and
the City Council directed the
Mayor's Committee on Civic
Unity to investigate it. This
was a case of a Negro being
kicked in the stomach and
bursting his bladder. Rev.
Geistweit testified that the
Mayor's Committee was defi-
nitely convinced that the com-
plaint was true and that police
brutality in Oakland was a
very serious matter that it
seemed to be out of hand and
out of control, and needed state
supervision.

This report was made to the
City Council, the City Council
referred it to the City Manager
and apparently there it was
pigeon-holed.

Ample evidence was submit-
ted during the three day hear-
ing which closed at 11:00 p. m.
Friday night, January 6th. The
present Chief of Police, who
incidentally has only been in
office seven months, and the
City Manager, Mr. Jack Has-
sler, who has been in office
many years, both admitted
that they could not remem-
ber a single time when a police-
man was disciplined for bru-
tality. Apparently the only
thing that is done when such
a complaint is made is that the
Chief sends another policeman
to get a statement from the po-

liceman accused and then takes
the accused policeman's denial
as being the gospel truth and
therefore nothing is done. It
seems strange that the City
Manager and the Chief of Po-
lice would expect a policeman
to admit that he had commit-
ted such a crime as cited by
President Dellums. An array
of Negroes and several Mexi-
can Americans took the stand
and personally told the Com-
mittee about policemen beat-
ing them in jail. One Mr.
McDaniel told the Committee
about his house being held up
by an armed robber during Mr.
McDaniel's absence and when
Mr. McDaniel went to the City
Hall to sign a complaint a-
gainst the robber who had
been caught, the robber ac-
cused Mr. McDaniel of being
a league with him. The po-
lice accepted the word of the
captured robber against a
reputable citizen like Mr. Mc-
Daniel and arrested him. Mr.
McDaniel told the Committee
that Inspector Wood beat him
with his fist and a police night
stick and there were witness-
es who testified that they saw
Mr. McDaniel when he went to
the City Hall and met him
when he was released and he
most certainly had been beat-
en while there. The Chief of
Police and the City Manager
accepted Inspector Wood's de-
nial and refused to believe Mr.
McDaniel and the other wit-
nesses.

At the close another Negro
testified that he was arrested
on a drunk charge and when he
started to step out of the pa-
trol wagon at the City Hall,
that the policeman kicked him
in the stomach, bursting his
bladder which resulted in an
emergency operation being per-
formed in order to save his life.
Ample medical evidence had
been presented to show that
the man's bladder had been
burst by a recent blow. Yet
the City Manager and the Chief
of Police accepted the denial
on the part of the policeman
as being the gospel truth.
These are just the high-lites of
the evidence submitted and
near the close of the hearings
the Chief of Police lined up a
bunch of policemen to take the

stand and deny everything.

The Rev. Mr. John Dillingham, Pastor of the Faith Presbyterian Church, 13th and Market Sts., Oakland, also testified as a member of the Mayor's Committee giving his views and observations on the serious problem.

The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon Mayfield of Bayview Village Church testified and also was a character witness for Mr. McDaniel.

Mr. Joe Warner, Executive Director of the American Brotherhood testified of some specific cases brought to the attention of his Organization, one reported to him by his own son and gave his general views on the situation.

Dr. Mary Jane Sarvis, Physician and Psychiatrist, testified on the mental effect this treatment on the part of police have on Negro children of other minority racial groups and poor white children.

Mr. Walter Gordon, past president of the NAACP, formerly practicing attorney, ex-assistant football coach at the University of Calif., former policeman of the City of Berkeley, and now Chairman of the California Adult Authority Board, testified on the difference in the administrative set up of the Oakland police force and the general set-up of police departments. Mr. Gordon gave valuable general testimony, advice and recommendations for the improvement of the Police Department.

Dr. D. McIntyre of the University of California, testified on the value of special training for policemen in human relations and offered his service to the Oakland police department to conduct such a course for our policemen. It was announced that his services will be accepted and that the practice will soon be instituted.

Miscellaneous

N. Y. State Commissioner of Education Francis T. Spaulding ruled in an NAACP suit that irregularly drawn district lines in Hempsted, L. I., must be "restudied and realigned" to prevent segregation of Negro pupils.

Sixty-five parents in the town of Freeport, L. I., petitioned the school board to put an end to racial segregation in the school system of the community. The petition, presented by the NAACP, charged that district lines were established on the basis of a calculated policy of segregation and asked immediate establishment of new district lines in conformity with requirements of the New York State Department of Education.

Attorney Raymond A. Leonard of Butte County, Calif., informed the NAACP that investigations are being conducted of reports of Klan activity in the area.

Reiteration of the opposition of the NAACP to scholarships carrying racial or religious restrictions was made by Roy Wilkins in a letter to the New York Herald Tribune, after a Tribune editorial expressed the opinion that the NAACP was "unduly sensitive" about such a scholarship being administered by Columbia University. The Supreme Court of Carolina agreed to hear an NAACP-sponsored suit seeking damages for Mrs. Tessie Earle, mother of lynch victim Willie Earle.

Albert C. Johnston, Jr., and his sister Anne, of the famed "Lost Boundaries" family, recently became members of the NAACP.

Thurgood Marshall, Leslie Perry and Earl B. Dickerson principal speakers at Illinois State Conference, Nov. 26-27.

The NAACP protested the proposed award by Interfaith in Action to Defense Secretary Louis A. Johnson, expressing the opinion that "better racial and religious understanding among the armed forces" cannot be attained within the framework of segregation.

NAACP called the settlement of the Italian colonies question by U. N. General Assembly a "partial victory."

Leaders of more than 28,000 members of the Federal Council of Churches voted to

Committees

Membership

Whitted, P.; Lewis, Elaine, Goins, Oscarine, Baker, Robinson.

Finance

Rhodes, C. C.; Dellums, C. L.; Lewis, Joel.

Community Coordination

Bogosian, Elso; Smith, Cero.

Press and Publicity

Davis, Jane, Taylor, Leila, Thomas, E. S.

Legal Redress

Furlow, C.; Yonemura, M.

Labor and Industry

Swisher, Earl; Timms, Alice; Brown, Leo.

Church Committee

White, L. S.

Education

Pittman, Tarea; Matthews, Evelyn; Stripp, Fred.

Entertainment

Blandin, Pearl; Hargraves, Dorothy.

Youth Work

Thompson, Tom; Mayfield,

submit a brief amicus curiae in the NAACP suit on behalf of Heman Marion Sweatt, who seeks admission to the University of Texas law school. The case will be argued before the U. S. Supreme Court some time in January.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was asked to become a vice-president of the NAACP after she submitted her resignation from the board of directors because pressure of U. N. duties kept her from regular attendance at board meetings. She agreed

Rev. S.; Glynn, Emma; Wilson, Thelma.

Housing

Phillips, Ralph; Kwallek, Jackye; Killens, Rev. G. W.; Stovall, Rev. E.

Legislation

Kingman, Ruth

Veterans

Jackson, Vernon.

Bulletin Committee

Baskervill, L. A.

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**JANUARY
BOARD MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by President Dellums at 8:35 p. m. at the Linden Street "Y." Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with corrections.

Communications:

1. From Regional Secretary: Re: Plans for 1950; Action: M. S. C. that the Chairman of the Board will call Chairmen of all standing committees together to plan activities for 1950.

2. From Rev. Geistweit; Re: Invitation to NAACP to attend organization of Council for Civic Unity at Oakland Central YMCA, January 17th. Action: Members urged to attend and give support. Filed.

3. From Regional Office; Re: Regional Conference at Seattle, March 3rd thru 5th. Board urged to send delegate to same. Action: M. S. C. Matter to be tabled until next meeting of the board.

4. From Mr. T. J. Johnson; Re: Request for NAACP to send representatives to hearing before Industrial Accident Commission. Action: Mrs. Pittman and Mr. Whitted promised to attend.

5. From Dr. Joel Lewis; Re: Seasons Greetings and invitation to open house of new office. Action filed.

6. From C. B. Lenox and wife; Re: Seasons Greetings. Action: Filed.

Committee Reports:

1. Membership - No report
2. Finance - Absent
3. Community Co-ordination - Absent
4. Press and Publicity - Absent - illness
5. Legal Redress - Absent
6. Labor and Industry - No report
7. Church - Absent
8. Education - T. Pittman

(1) Committee members added were W. B. Rumford, Samantha Lee, Fred Stripp and Mary Jane Sanford.

(2) Committee met with Dr. Nelson of the Berkeley School Board. Received information that five Negro teachers were employed by Berkeley Schools and more than 20 in the maintenance department. The Superintendent of Berkeley Schools was questioned regarding the placement of Negro teachers other than in Burbank and Lincoln. They received information from Dr. Nelson to the effect that all applications must be renewed each semester and that the applicant must apply for an interview on his application or none will be given (Wednesday, January 10th.)

(3) January 16th the Committee met with Mr. Berg of Oakland Schools. Information was sought through the policy of the Oakland Schools regarding the placement of Negro teachers in all schools and the possibility of a quota being set up whereby the number of teachers might be limited. Mr. Berg pointed out that there were 40 Negro teachers in Oakland. The Committee asked further questions concerning the McClymonds curriculum as it compares with that of other high schools. They also raised the question of counselors and questioned the possibility of the schools with large Negro population being used as a discipline for white teachers.

(4) The committee also proposed that a meeting with the Alameda Superintendent be set up.

9. Entertainment-No Report

10. Youth Work - Members Added; Don Barksdale, Len Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Johnson, Timothy Evans.

11. Housing - Absent
12. Legislation - Absent, illness.

13. Special Committee on Office - The Special Committee on the Office recommended that the county office be maintained on a minimum basis and the committee proposed an event to raise \$1200 for this special purpose to be undertaken immediately. The committee was empowered by the Board to proceed with such an affair.

A general report was given by President Dellums of the hearings which were held at the County Supervisors' office January 4th, 5th and 6th. His report showed that the story as told by the daily papers was far from correct. He urged that all members of the Association or members of organizations send letters to Assemblyman Fitzpatrick, Sacramento, and urge the committee to continue its work.

The Educational Committee was asked to arrange a conference with members of the Fire Department regarding the continuation and enlargement of a policy of placing Negro Firemen.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the NAACP reaffirm its position on low rent public housing and condemn the recall of the councilmen who voted for same. It was also recommended that letters be sent to the councilmen and to the press regarding same.

The Branch is co-operating with the Ministerial Alliance in four meetings which are planned for February in the West Oakland Churches regarding the housing situation and the recall election.

The observance of Negro History Week was referred to the Committee for study and action.

ALAMEDA**COUNTY****BRANCH****STANDS FOR****LOW RENT****HOUSING****and****ARE AGAINST****THE RECALL****of the****PEOPLE'S****FRIENDS****in the****CITY****COUNCIL**

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