



Alameda Co. Branch NAACP Bulletin

National Association For The Advancement of Colored People

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NUMBER 2

Membership Campaign Opens In April

Membership Campaign Opens

The annual drive for memberships of the Alameda County Branch of the Association opens in April. The goal for memberships for this branch, which includes Berkeley, Alameda, and Oakland, is two thousand members. It is estimated that there are nearly sixty thousand Negroes in Alameda County, so the goal of two thousand members is a modest undertaking.

It is felt that this branch does not carry the membership which its population deserves. There are many reasons which have been given for the low membership roll of the Alameda County Branch. Perhaps the most oft-repeated reason is that colored people here do not feel the sting of prejudice as much as in most communities — the expressions of prejudice are most subtle — less obvious. The bulk of the colored population of this particular area have migrated here from places where members of majority groups are not embarrassed to mistreat them openly. Indeed California (particularly the Bay Area) is a veritable Utopia compared to the place of origin of most of our colored citizenry.

There are events and incidents in other sections of the United States where member-

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NAACP AND ALLIANCE WIN AGAINST THE RECALL

The defeat of the RECALL and victory for the people can be attributed to the hard work of the NAACP under Dellums, and the Alliance under the presidency of Fauntleroy. These two organizations realizing the great need for Low Rent Housing, and the inability of some of the minority groups to secure present adequate housing, went all out in this matter. Your NAACP wishes to thank the ministers for their very able and timely leadership, which will mean not only housing, but also jobs which will come to their people through this program.

Your NAACP Is Watchful That You:

1. Can vote.
2. Work where you are qualified.
3. Get justice before the Bar.
4. Become a First Class Citizen.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS THE
ONLY WAY TO ASSURE
THESE PRIVILEGES
TODAY**

PREPARE FOR THE COMING ELECTION

Organize Register Vote

READY TO ROLL

Your drive has two main task: first, to locate the unreg-

istered elector; second, to register him. The way you carry out these tasks will vary somewhat according to the scope of your drive, manpower available to you, local regulations governing deputy registrars and places of registration. How-

(Continued on Page 4)



**ATTORNEY JOHN C. HENDERSON
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Alameda County Branch - 1950

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Observations of a
New Board Member

PALMER D. WHITTED, SR.

We've heard tell that in a certain New England State, there still exists on the statutes a law requiring the men folk to carry their muskets to church of of Sunday morning. Such a law would seem to indicate that the citizenry had allowed themselves to be lulled into carelessness at not having been openly attacked by the enemy over a long period. So the wise law-makers of that apparently peaceful era made it mandatory for ye pilgrim father to go around armed lest there be a surprise attack one Sunday morning.

We suspect that if the oldsters had not made a law—if it had not been made unlawful to go unarmed—that one day ye redskins would have caught ye puritan with ye homespuns lowered. How easy it is for short-sighted human beings to be lulled into a false sense of security!

We confess it — we're no better than the unthinking ones of a few hundred years ago—we too had become just a little bit drowsy. We came came out here from "the big foot country" where the problems of our particular minority folk were and are pretty obvious. In California we discovered that we could eat where we wanted, sit where we chose, and say about what we wanted to whom without fear of bodily harm. A few years ago, just about everybody was working and earning more dough than any two of his kin-folk left behind in Dixie.

So—"fool that I am"—we just sort of sat back and enjoyed this new freedom—this new dignity—this new security.

"Down home" the NAACP had been a moving and a vital force. They had had—still have problems that anybody could see. Restrictions placed upon colored people back yonder, always offered ready opportunity to seek for their advancement. But in California, where everybody was

working, and where everybody was comparatively free, one bought membership in the Association out of habit or out of hope that his contribution would help those left behind in the "old country."

In our pioneer days of the West (six - eight years ago), one occasionally heard voices of wise men and women suggesting that things weren't as hunky as we newcomers dorie. We heard, as if in a dream and from afar off, the voice of the local struggling NAACP branch saying that the war would end and that colored folk must prepare themselves for the tough days ahead. We knew that this was true, but we only bought our annual membership, snuggled a little deeper into our warm blankets of social satisfaction, laid our heads on the pillow of false security and snored on—peacefully — oblivious to the inevitable.

Then one day a committee from the NAACP called on us and invited us to serve on the Board. We accepted and attended. How ignorant we had been behaving — how short-sighted — how unsocial — how selfish — how downright and nexcusably dumb!

We found 20 or 30 people—an inter-racial and inter-denominational group — working, struggling, fighting to get a thankless, brain-bursting, almost hopeless job done. Problems here are not of the obvious variety as "at home." The forces working against the advancement of colored people are much more subtle, more intelligently applied, more damaging in their effects.

(To be continued.)

DENTAL REPORT

We've had Blueprints about picnics, late books, movis and employment agencies. This is one about dentists. They are a very special kind of dentist—the kind who come up while you are asleep and jerk out your teeth—and then send in a bill for their services. Read whether you want to pay the bill.

FEDERAL FEPC
PASSES HOUSE
WITHOUT TEETH

One of the longest and stormiest sessions ever held in Congress resulted in killing the President's proposal for a Federal FEPC. What came forth was a toothless substitute — a voluntary plan similar to those which have already failed in several states and cities. The House of Representatives has now acted; there is little chance for reconsideration. However, here is where we people come in. This is an election year. And our Congressmen from California are now all on record.

NOW WHO ARE THE
DENTISTS?

There is only one important question: Who are the unsolicited dentists who yanked out the teeth of the FEPC bill? Here are those from California. Remember, they voted with the Dixiecrats on this all-important vote.

Allen, (R) Oakland
Anderson, (R), Santa Clara
Co.

Bramblett, (R), Pacific Grove
Engle, (D), Red Bluff
Hinshaw, (R), Pasadena
Jackson, (F), Santa Monica
Nixon, (R), Whittier
Phillips, (R), Banning
Paulson, (R), Los Angeles
Scudder, (R), Sebastopol
Johnson, (R), Stockton
McDonough, (R), Los Angeles
Werdel, (R), Bakersfield
White, (D), Fresno

These above men opposed an
effective FEPC.

Below are the California Congressmen who stayed solidly behind the civil rights program on this crucial issue:

Douglas, (D), Los Angeles
Doyle, (D), Long Beach
Havener, (D), San Francisco
Holifield, (D), Montebello
King, (D), Los Angeles
McKinnon, (D), San Diego
Miller, (D), Alameda
Sheppard, (D), Yuciapa
Shelley, (D), San Francisco

These men favored an effective FEPC.

JOIN NAACP NOW

Roy Wilkins Visits Our Branch

On March 7th, following the close of the Regional Conference held in Seattle, Roy Wilkins, Acting National Secretary, stopped off in Oakland and held a dinner meeting with the Board of Directors of our Branch. Mr. Wilkins was accompanied by Mr. Noah Griffin, Regional Secretary. The dinner meeting was held in the private dining room of Jenkins' Cafe and was attended by nearly all of the members of the Board. Wilkins gave the Board a report on National activities with particular attention to the Civil Rights Mobilization held in Washington, D. C., in January and the fight for F. E. P. C. in the House of Representatives. He explained the maneuvering that was carried on by a coalition of Republican and Southern Democrats which included Congressman John Allen of our District. Mr. Wilkins pointed out that the real test on F. E. P. C. was the vote for the "toothless" substitute bill that was finally passed. Our attention was called to the fact that not a single California Republican voted for us when the crucial vote was taken.

Many questions were asked Mr. Wilkins and our Board members felt that they received ample and wise answers and were very pleased with Mr. Wilkins' visit and only sorry that time wouldn't permit him to address our entire membership. Mr. Wilkins commended our Branch for its work throughout the year, its adherence to the National Policy and the lack of subversive influences.

Executive Board Report

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

From the National Office concerning our opinion of allowing the Youth Councils and College chapters to participate in National Conventions. Action: The Board approved.

From the Japanese-American Citizens League seeking our aid in getting Congress to adopt a bill to remove restrictions placed upon them and others solely because of race or color. Action: Board compiled.

From the National Office urging certain action to be taken in the interest of retaining rent controls.

Action: Board complied with national office instructions.

From National Office calling on us to urge our Congressman to vote against removing the "teeth" from the F. E. P. C. Bill.

Action: Board complied.

Results: Congressmen Shelley, George P. Miller and Havener voted for us.

Congressman John J. Allen voted against us.

From Washington, D. C. Branch through the National Office asking us to help them in their fight for "home rule." There is a bill pending which would give the citizens of Washington, D. C., a City Government elected by them. The bill is tied up in Committee and can only be brought on the floor by getting a majority of the Congressmen to sign a "discharge" petition.

Action: The four Bay District Congressmen were called upon to sign the "discharge" petition. Congressmen Shelley, Havener and George P. Miller wrote us that they signed the "discharge" petition. Congressman John J. Allen didn't answer at all.

From the California Council for Civic Unity complimenting our officers for the part they played for bringing about a state investigation of police brutality in Oakland.

Our committees: Membership, Finance, Community Co-ordination, Press and Publicity, Legislation, Legal Redress, Labor and Industry, Education, Entertainment, Youth Work, Housing, Church and Veterans are all functioning. Most of them make monthly reports to the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Proposition was facing the Berkeley City Council on whether or not Berkeley should

have an official investigation made of housing conditions in Berkeley so that the real facts would be known. The Board voted that there would certainly be no harm in determining the facts and that Berkeley should have a survey made of its housing. Mrs. Tarea Hall Pittman, first vice-president, was designated by the Board as its representative to appear before the Berkeley City Council and urge them to have the housing survey made.

Results: Our appearance was made but the Berkeley City Council voted against finding out what the real housing situation is in Berkeley.

The Board, through its Legislative Committee, worked to help save child care centers.

Legal Redress Committee and the President conferred with the Berkeley Chief of Police in reference to a Negro's rights not being respected when he was arrested and detained overnight.

Results: Chief admitted the error on the part of the Berkeley Police Force and promised us that every effort will be made to see that such doesn't occur again.

Membership Committee voted that its membership drive will get under way Sunday, April 30th. What about your 1950 membership? You do not have to wait for a worker to solicit you, you can always mail your membership to President C. L. Dellums, 1716 Seventh Street, Oakland 20. Why not do it today?

YOUR STATE

Governor Warren has not yet included a single civil rights measure in his program before the Legislature. It is true that we have not urged him to do so. FEPC, for example, would not stand a chance this session. But there is other needed legislation on equal rights: prohibiting insurance discrimination, real estate exclusion, police brutality, discrimination in private schools, etc., etc. The Governor would be interested in hearing your ideas.

LOCAL FIGHTERS: Oakland, where our Council for Civic Unity has been successful in establishing a long needed police training course in human relations — to be organized by CFCU supporter, Dr. Davis McIntire, partly the result of the Killpatrick Committee investigations. Congratulations, Dr. Geistweit, Louis Segal, Bernice Cofer, C. L. Dellums — on planting this acorn.

PALO ALTO: Our Fair Play Committee has begun building homes on its inter-racial subdivision — with FHA loans — and a fine editorial from the local paper. And so, what about

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Membership Campaign

(Continued From Page 1)
ship in the N. A. A. C. P. is practically a necessity to vouchsafe colored people even the minimum of security. In those sections, Negroes sacrifice to gain membership in the only agency which stands ever willing, ready, and able to fight their battles. And the issues of the fight are obvious to everyone.

There are, however, issues in California — in the Bay Area — which demand the attention of some agency which is equipped and capable to "go to bat." These issues are of the less obvious variety, but they are, none-the-less, deadly in their effects.

To examine two of the issues which are of vital concern to all minority people, one needs mention only **EMPLOYMENT** and **HOUSING**. It is estimated that there are more than thirty percent of employable colored men without a job in the East Bay Area. Hundreds of Negro people gather at the unemployment offices daily. Somebody or some agency must fight the battle here for a fair employment practice which will not permit colored men to be denied the opportunity to earn a living for their families.

With public housing virtually assured for Oakland, some agency must see to it that colored people obtain housing when they are entitled to it.

The N. A. A. C. P. is the organ thru which these and other problems can be met. The goal set for this branch is ridiculously low in consideration of the problems of the colored people here.

The Membership Committee for the N. A. A. C. P. will concentrate on the churches throughout the month of April.

ON VOTING

(Continued From Page 1)
ever it shapes up in your hometown, your drive will bear certain characteristics common to every other drive. Check your plans to make sure you've covered these vital points.

INFORMATION

Accompany your voter registration drive with a steady flow of information through every channel open to you. Let your newspapers, neighborhood and metropolitan, know what you are doing, keep radio commentators and newsrooms informed; send out speakers to other organizations, meetings of every kind. Use every device your imagination and your facilities can afford.

Throughout, your emphasis will be on the importance of registration and voting; the deadline for filing affidavits of registration; the times and the places where voters can register.

LOCATING THE UNREGISTERED

The particular way you choose to locate unregistered electors will vary with your

In the month of May, the whole of Alameda County will be combed for memberships. It becomes the responsibility and **PRIVILEGE** of all Negroes in the East Bay Area to become affiliated with the local branch.

The Membership Committee headed by Palmer D. Whitted, Sr., funeral director of Oakland. Mr. Whitted plans to have no less than a hundred committeemen ringing doorbells to over-subscribe the quota set for Alameda County. Those people who are not personally contacted by a member of the committee are urged to contact the local office or a member of the branch.

organization, your community. Here is one basic method:

Organize your campaign workers in teams, assign them to blocks and knock on every door—much as is done in a Community Chest drive. Your workers will be interested in carrying out some or all of the following tasks:

(a) Name, address and phone number of un-registered voters; (b) Making an appointment for a deputy registrar to call; (c) Leaving information with the voter about the time and places where he can register; (d) Registering the voter— if your county regulations permit appointment of one of the team members as a deputy registrar.

REGISTER THE UN-REGISTERED

This, of course, is the major task of the entire campaign. Again, the exact way you are able to get the job done will depend on your organization, your community and —most important—on your county regulations concerning deputy registrars. In any case, your workers will be interested in some or all of these tasks:

Bringing a deputy registrar to the home of the un-registered voter; or

Encouraging the un-registered voter to go to the county clerk or a deputy to register.

If you can't take a deputy registrar to the voter, you may want to plan to keep in touch with him by phone, by mail or by personal call-back to insure his registration.

INCENTIVE

A highly useful device in your campaign is a registration contest, replete with prizes—the more the merrier. Individual as well as team competition lend an additional incentive. Perhaps, you can devise

FLASHES

Seventy Negro soldiers have enlisted in previously white units in California's National Guard, since passage of the Rumford bill. This, according to the Adjutant Major General O'Sullivan, in a letter to the Director. The two Negro units, however, remain intact. Assemblyman Rumford is seeking the disbandment of these units.

State Employment Director Bryant has appointed two minority group co-ordinators, one for the north and one for the south. Advisory committees are to be set up soon.

CFCU is calling exploratory planning meetings on FEPC. Local fight in San Francisco temporarily lost by 7-4 vote of supervisors. Twenty-five organizations are now leading similar fight in San Diego. If this keeps up, we'll find a hole in the dike somewhere.

SF CCU finally clinched its remarkable victory barring segregation in future public housing. The recalcitrant Housing Commissioners at last gave in.

This housing issue is very much alive all over California. Are you alive to it?

others of your own. Aim them all at your basic task: finding the unregistered voter, then registering him.

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