

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
WASHINGTON

*Box 643*

# 1  
88449

16

NEGROES.

CLOSED: FILE CONTINUED IN PART 2

PLEASE RETURN  
PROMPTLY  
To Chief Clerks Office  
Room 6423

## Julius Rosenwald Fund

Edwin R. Embree  
President  
Nathan Levin  
Comptroller  
Margaret W. Sargent  
Secretary

4901 Ellis Avenue  
CHICAGO

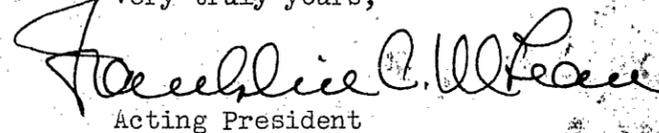
March 22, 1933

My dear Mr. Roper: The Julius Rosenwald Fund is sponsoring a conference on the present economic status of the Negro, in Washington, May 11 to 13. At the suggestion of Dr. Beardsley Ruml, Head of the Department of Social Sciences, University of Chicago, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, we are writing to ask if you will accept this letter as an early invitation to attend the conference and if you will send representatives from the Department of Commerce to sit through the various sessions of the conference as observers. It is expected that the conference will be held in one of the assembly halls in the Department of Agriculture Building in Washington.

The list of speakers has not as yet been completed but the following persons have agreed to address the conference: Dr. Joseph H. Willits, Dr. Broadus Mitchell, Miss Grace Abbott, Miss Mary Anderson, Dr. Paul Douglas, Mr. Chalres S. Johnson, Dr. Homer Morris, Dr. Francis D. Tyson, Dr. G. F. Warren, Mr. E. Franklin Fraser, President Benjamin F. Hubert of the Georgia State Industrial College, Mr. T. Arnold Hill, and Mr. Ira Reid. We believe that we shall be able to secure Dr. Howard W. Odum or Dr. Claudius T. Murchison of the University of North Carolina, and Dr. Leo Wolman of Columbia University.

Mr. Edwin R. Embree, President of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, who is now in the Dutch East Indies, will be the chairman of the conference.

Very truly yours,



Acting President

FCM:A:H

Mr. Daniel C. Roper  
Secretary, Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

LISTED  
April 1, 1933.

88449

INDEXED

Mr. Franklin C. McLean, Acting President,  
Julius Rosenwald Fund,  
4901 Ellis Avenue,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. McLean:

I have your letter of March twenty-second, with reference to the conference in May on the present economic status of the Negro. On account of the extreme pressure of business and the necessity of immediate action on various subjects during this emergency, it is practically impossible for me to commit myself definitely regarding any future occasion. However, I have made a note of this conference and, if the circumstances at the time permit, will be glad to attend.

I have given direction that representatives of the Department sit through the various sessions as observers.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

DANIEL C. ROOPER

Secretary of Commerce.

DL-224

APR 3 1933

Mailed.....By.....  
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*Negroes*

*Remington's files*

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INDEXED  
LISTED

May 6, 1933

Mr. Edwin R. Embree, President,  
Julius Rosenwald Fund,  
4901 Ellis Avenue,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Embree:

We very much appreciate your letter of April 29th,  
and your invitation to attend the Conference on the  
Economic Status of the Negro on the 12th of this month.  
You may rest assured that if it is at all possible Secre-  
tary Roper will try to be present. You realize, of course,  
that the tremendous pressure of the many duties devolving  
upon him at this time makes it impossible for him to plan  
anything definitely even one week ahead.

I am sending your letter to the Director of the  
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and you may expect  
to hear from him as to observers from the Department.

Very truly yours,

CLARENCE M. YOUNG

Acting Secretary of Commerce.

CHIEF CLERK  
PAPERS  
MAY 11 1933  
RETURNED  
DEPT. OF COMMERCE

MAY 11 1933  
Mailed.....By. *V*

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

12018

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LCO = Deferred Cable
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WLT = Week-End Letter

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Received at **POLAND SPRING, ME.**

PD9 1 11 GOVT=DC WASHINGTON DC AUG 22 1039A

HON DANIEL C ROPER=

*Negroes*

*88449*

SECY OF COMMERCE POLANDSPRING ME=

WILL DEFER FURTHER ACTION REGARDING COLORED COMMITTEE CONFERENCE UNTIL YOU RETURN=

C F BALDWIN.

.. 1056A..

*Files*

CHIEF CLERK

1933 AUG -30 - AM 10 : 19

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS SOLVE THE PERPLEXING QUESTION OF WHAT TO GIVE.

JESSE B. HEARIN  
MONTGOMERY, ALA.

August 24, 1953.

Hon. Daniel C. Roper,  
Secretary of Commerce,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Roper:

I do not know whether you remember me or not, but it is my pleasure to have known you for many years and it has been my pleasure to work together with you on several occasions on matters that affected the South.

I have an engagement to meet Miss Perkins at 12 o'clock noon Tuesday, August 29th, and on the committee will be Dr. James Alexander, Chairman of Inter-racial Commission, Dr. R.R. Moton, President, Tuskegee Institute and T. M. Campbell, head of Negro Extension Service for the southern states. I attended a conference with Moton a week ago last Sunday and he told me of his fondness for you and his desire to have you attend this meeting. As he and my friend Congressman W.B. Oliver both request you to be present, I trust you will make an effort to be with us for a few minutes. Though an Alabamian of the fourth generation, I am sincerely interested in the welfare of the negro and a proper relation between the two races and I believe with your assistance we can present certain matters to Miss Perkins in such a manner as to bring benefit to the entire South and tremendously speed up the operation of the National Recovery Act.

I have had the pleasure of knowing your son since he has lived in Montgomery and I know you will be pleased to know he has made such a pleasant impression upon our people.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

*Jesse B. Hearin*  
Jesse B. Hearin.

JBH-faulkner

Negroes

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LISTED

~~RECEIVED~~

August 29, 1933.

Mr. Jesse B. Hearin,  
Montgomery, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Hearin:

I have read with much interest your letter of the twenty-fourth. Glad indeed that you and a committee interested in southern conditions are conferring with the Secretary of Labor. You will find her a woman of very broad human interests and she will give every proper consideration to the presentation of the matter to which you have in mind. I shall also take advantage of an early opportunity to discuss the condition to which you refer with Miss Perkins.

I thank you for the word you give me about my son and hope that it may be my pleasure to see you in the not distant future.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

~~Secretary of Commerce~~

DANIEL C. ROPER,  
Secretary of Commerce.

Mailed AUG 30 1933 by *V*

DCR-r-b

*Refer to Mr. [unclear]  
for acknowledgment  
and for reference to  
Dr. [unclear]'s Committee  
[unclear]*

September Fifteenth  
1 9 3 3~

Honorable Daniel C. Roper,  
Secretary of Commerce,  
Commerce Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

A committee of the citizens of Indiana wishes to submit the following resolution, which was unanimously approved and adopted in a mass meeting of the citizens of the State of Indiana recently held in this city.

WE, THE CITIZENS OF INDIANA DO RESOLVE THAT: THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF NEGRO LEADERS TO AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVISING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ON MATTERS EFFECTING THE NEGRO CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IS A MOST IMPORTANT AND PROGRESSIVE STEP TOWARD THE SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM AND PLAN OF THE NEW DEAL. IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF THIS FORWARD AND INTELLIGENT STEP ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING SECURITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ECONOMIC INTEREST OF THE NEGRO CITIZENS OF THIS GOVERNMENT, WE, AS CITIZENS, DO SINCERELY PLEDGE OUR FAITH AND COOPERATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND TO THE ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION.

*Henry J. Richardson, Jr.*  
Henry J. Richardson, Jr., Chairman.  
Member of Indiana Legislature.

*F. B. Ransom*  
F. B. Ransom, Member of the  
Local N.R.A. Board.

*John A. Patton*  
John A. Patton, Leading Business  
man.

88449

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

RECORDED

September 20, 1933.

Hon. Henry J. Richardson, Jr.,  
229 1/2 Indiana Avenue,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Richardson:

I wish to express my gratitude for the resolution commending my action in appointing a Negro Advisory Committee, which was conveyed to me in your letter of September 15. I wish to express, also, through you, my appreciation to the other signers of this resolution.

I am hopeful that the establishment of this Negro advisory group will lead to a better relating of Governmental activities to Negro problems and constitute, at least, an important step toward the solution of some of those problems. The helpful spirit of cooperation and understanding which the members of this committee evidenced during their meeting in Washington was particularly gratifying as an earnest of their desire to cooperate actively and unselfishly in this movement. Out of the work of this committee and the cooperation effected with the Department of Commerce, I believe, will come accomplishments of definite benefit to the Negro race which means, of course, to the entire country.

Sincerely yours,

DANIEL C. ROPER

Daniel C. Roper,  
Secretary of Commerce.

CFB:ANT

Mailed.....by.....  
SEP 21 1933

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September 27, 1933.

Mr. Albert Baumann,  
5000 South Central,  
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Baumann:

I have noted carefully your telegram of September twenty-fourth, commending the qualifications of Mr. E. K. Jones as the representative of the colored people best qualified to head the Negro business unit of the Department of Commerce which is at present under consideration. I shall be very glad to keep your communication in mind during our consideration of this appointment.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

DANIEL C. ROPER,  
Secretary of Commerce.

CRMcC-B

SEP 28 1933

Mailed.....by...V.....

*copy referred to Mr. Baumann*



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1934

ack  
1/9/34

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Because of the complicated nature of the problems which confront the Negro population in this country, it seems very important to have an inter-departmental group to review the situation as a whole and formulate general principles of action. At the suggestion of Secretary Ickes, I am writing to ask that you designate someone in your department, who is charged with the responsibility of seeing that fair consideration is given Negroes, to represent your department in such an inter-departmental group.

It is my plan to call together the various designated people as soon as possible, and I will very much appreciate any cooperation on your part.

Yours sincerely,

*Clark Foreman*

Clark Foreman  
Adviser on Economic Status of  
Negroes

The Honorable Daniel C. Roper

Secretary of Commerce

Washington, D. C.

88449

LISTED  
INDEXED

January 9, 1934.

Mr. Clark Foreman,  
Adviser on Economic Status of Negroes,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Foreman:

In response to your letter of January second suggesting an interdepartmental group to review the problems which concern the Negro population, I am pleased to name E. Kinckle Jones, Adviser on Negro Affairs, to represent this Department in such an indepartmental study.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

Secretary of Commerce.

MK:LQS

*MK*

JAN 10 1934  
Mailed.....by.....*V*.....

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

January 15, 1934.

88449

MEMORANDUM

FILES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

To: Mr. Chester H. McCall

From: Eugene Kinckle Jones

Subject: Summary of Work of Adviser on Negro Affairs.

The attached summary of my activities from November 1 to date is sent to you for the Secretary's perusal. I thought possibly he would like to know some of the points of contact already made through my division.

  
E. K. Jones.

Encls.

*(Negro File)*

SUMMARY OF WORK OF ADVISER ON NEGRO AFFAIRS

November 1, 1933 -- January 15, 1934

- I. Prepared plan of work for the division, which is now in the hands of the Secretary and the Director and Assistant Director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. (Approved with certain minor reservations and with the understanding that division will suggest and stimulate the formation of Boards or Chambers of Commerce, not actually engage in work of organizing Chambers of Commerce, etc.)
- II. Examined Small Business Unit files to ascertain available material.
- III. Handled correspondence:
- a. Requests for business information from widely distributed points
  - b. Business information sought by the division for our own use and for persons represented under "a"
  - c. Information sought as to services available to Negroes from other governmental departments
  - d. Complaints regarding failure of the emergency governmental agencies to give adequate attention to Negro citizens due to
    1. Discrimination
    2. Lack of acquaintance on the part of Negroes with services obtainable(The following are governmental agencies to which such matters have been referred: Farm Credit Adm., RFC, Subsistence Homestead Div. of the Interior, Home Owners' Loan Corp., Treasury Dept., FERA and CWA, Public Works Adm., Dept. of Labor, NRA, and the CCC.)
- IV. Conferences attended:
- a. Nov. 3 -- Washington, D.C. -- Conference on plans for securing subsistence homesteads for Negroes. Delegates from N.Y., Ala., Va., Md., N.C., and Pa.
  - b. Nov. 27 - Baltimore, Md. -- Conference on extension of Negro business, held under the auspices of the Association for the Promotion of Negro Business.
  - c. Dec. 5 -- Tuskegee, Ala. -- EAC's conference of Gulf States held at Tuskegee Institute.

Summary of Work of Adviser on Negro Affairs --2.

- d. Dec. 6 -- Tuskegee, Ala. -- Farmers' conference held at Tuskegee Institute.
  - e. Dec. 12 - Washington, D.C. -- Conference of staff of Labor Advisory Board of the NRA with Negro leaders, representative of the following states: N.Y., N.J., Md., Va., Okla., Ill., and D.C. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss differentials in wages paid Negroes under the NRA.
  - f. Dec. 16 - Washington, D.C. -- Conference on Present Emergencies in the Care of Dependent and Neglected Children, called by the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor (furnished names of representatives of agencies working in the field of foster-home care of Negro children from which list of persons was selected to be invited to the conference).
  - g. Jan. 4 -- New York, N.Y. -- Noon and afternoon conference on work of Adult Education Council of New York City held at the Town Hall Club and at the office of Dr. John H. Finley of the New York Times. (Represent Negro interests on this Council).
- V. Special efforts to increase Negro purchasing power to secure employment for the group. Prepared memoranda suggesting employment of "white-collar" Negroes on CWA projects covering Housing Survey of the Southeast and Southwest sections of Washington, Real Property Inventory, Census of American Business, Rent Survey, and Delinquent Tax project; results, - about 150 persons actually placed.
- VI. Interview with many individuals looking toward carrying out of the division's program, for example:
- a. Albon L. Holsey, Sec., The Nat'l. Negro Business League, concerning proposed conference on retail merchandising of Negroes.
  - b. C. C. Spaulding, Pres., North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co., relative to proposed insurance survey.
  - c. Ira DeA. Reid, Director, Dept. of Research & Investigation, The Nat'l. Urban League, regarding plans for survey projects.
  - d. Aubrey Williams, Field Representative of the Fed. Emergency Relief Adm., at suggestion of Harry L. Hopkins, in regard to the appointment of a Negro liaison worker in the Civil Works and Fed. Emergency Relief Administrations.
  - e. Dr. Gustav Peck of the NRA Labor Advisory Board staff.
  - f. T. R. Taylor of the NRA Industrial Advisory Board staff.
  - g. Various division chiefs in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce concerning services available to colored business through these divisions.

Summary of Work of Adviser on Negro Affairs --3.

- h. Editors of Negro newspapers, bishops, pastors, and other religious leaders in Negro churches; publicists, government officials, business men and women, and leaders of various organizations interested in the program of the division.
- i. Directed NRA representative, Matthew S. Boyd, to source of information on displacement of Negroes as workers under NRA codes.
- j. Furnished bibliography on Negro business to several inquirers.

VII. Addresses:

- a. Oct. 20 -- Bridgeton, N.J. -- New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.
- b. Nov. 19 -- Orange, N.J. -- Church of the Epiphany.
- c. Nov. 24 -- New York, N.Y. -- Harlem Business League, held at the Harlem Y.M.C.A.
- d. Nov. 27 -- Baltimore, Md. -- Association for the Promotion of Negro Business, held at Bethel A.M.E. Church. Also spoke at banquet following meeting.
- e. Dec. 5 --- Tuskegee, Ala. -- Emergency Advisory Councils of the Gulf States.
- f. Dec. 6 --- Tuskegee, Ala. -- Opening mass meeting of Farmers' Conference.

VIII. Miscellaneous:

Prepared memoranda in response to requests for suggestions from the Secretary, Mr. Roper, concerning various matters, and from other governmental officials and sundry individuals.

Conferred with officers of the Advisory Committee concerning various subjects of interest to Negro business including the abridgement of the Committee's report to the Secretary, subsequently sending the abridged report to Negro newspapers and other interested individuals and organizations for publicity purposes (publicity clippings on file).

88449

January 22, 1934

LISTED



MEMORANDUM

FOR: Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones  
Bureau of F. and D. Commerce

FROM: Chester H. McCall  
Assistant to the Secretary

The Secretary has read with great interest your summary of work on negro affairs. He asked me to tell you he believed you have pursued a very constructive program and that excellent results should come from the constructive line of action you have been following.

The Secretary has asked me to tell you that it would be in order for you to endeavor to secure some kind of a position for Mr. Roque in the C.W.A. or P.W.A., pending the working out of plans where his services might possibly be used in the Negro Advisory unit of the Bureau.

C.H. McC.

McC:T

Mailed.....JAN 22 1934.....by.....

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

January 25, 1934

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

File  
88449

IN REPLY REFER TO 26

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Mr. Chester H. McCall  
Assistant to the Secretary

FROM: Eugene Kinckle Jones  
Adviser on Negro Affairs

In my opinion, the proposal of a 49th state in the union for the sole occupancy of Negroes under their control is a most chimerical, impractical dream.

This is not a new idea and has been exploded any number of times because of its absolute impracticability as a violation of the Federal Constitution, and its economic and political impossibility.

The most obvious facts are the following:

1. Negroes could not be induced to leave their homes in thousands of communities, giving up their real estate holdings and relinquishing the ideals for which they have been striving--equality of opportunity with all other citizens of the America to which they have made their contribution in blood and toil.

2. There is no territory in America suitable for this program available for the location of twelve millions American citizens selected because of race for settlers on such a large scale. It is out of the question to think that the owners of such territory would relinquish their holdings for such an experiment. The whites in states adjacent to the proposed experiment would protest violently against it. This alone would be sufficient to defeat the proposal, aside from its unconstitutionality.

My personal feeling is that the idea is not worthy of the Secretary's consideration for a moment.

E. K. J.

*E. K. J.*

Headquarters of  
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Suite 332  
417 EAST 47TH STREET



THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT  
for  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 49th STATE  
INCORPORATED  
CHICAGO  
ILLINOIS

January 19, 1934.

Hon. Daniel C. Roper,  
Secretary of Commerce,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir :-

There has been formed in Chicago, by responsible Negroes, a national movement with a definite program for relieving much of the insecurity and distress suffered by this group in the United States. The ultimate object of the plan is to establish a new state in the Union to be under the control of Negroes.

We believe that the majority of controlling influence in this country will appreciate the imperativeness of taking definite steps immediately to relieve the present plight of the Negro in America and will be in sympathy with the ambition of the movement.

Because of your influence in the Nation, we want you to know of our program. We are, therefore, enclosing herewith a Bulletin issued by the National Council of the Movement, setting forth, in a general way, the basic plan. We hope that you will read it, and if you feel disposed to communicate to us your reaction on the matter, we shall be delighted to hear from you.

We have communicated with the President expressing our desire to make direct contact with the forces of the Administration and we suggested that we have a committee available that can be sent to Washington at any time to confer with the President or his representative on the details of the matter. We want you to know particularly of this fact.

Very truly yours,

OCB:B

  
OSCAR C. BROWN  
PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

March 1, 1934

88449

*files*



MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Chester H. McCall  
From: Eugene Kinckle Jones  
Subject: Inter-departmental conference

This is a reminder of the conference of inter-departmental representatives interested in the Negro which is to be held in the Secretary's conference room, No. 5842, on tomorrow morning, Friday, March 2nd, at 10:00 o'clock.

You no doubt recall that I expressed the wish that the Secretary, Mr. Roper, welcome the group when they assemble.

  
E. K. Jones

EKJ/n

Report #2

*File*  
88449

SUMMARY OF WORK  
of  
Division of Adviser on Negro Affairs

JANUARY 16 -- MARCH 15, 1934

The office of the Adviser on Negro Affairs to the Department of Commerce has been engaged during the past two months in such activities as would tend to increase the Negro consumers' purchasing power and to provide available helpful services to Negro businessmen -- this to aid in advancing the Negro's economic welfare.

I. BUSINESS INFORMATION:

1. A bibliography on Negro business has been prepared in answer to requests from college professors and students interested in the study of Negro business
2. Types of inquiries on which information has been sent out include: Retail distribution and occupational statistics (Census data furnished); Negro hotels; theaters and motion picture houses catering to colored patronage; Negro newspapers and magazines; Negroes in the field of aeronautics; cooperatives; Negro insurance companies; Code hearings affecting Negro industry and Negro workers; Negro consumers' purchasing power.

II. ADDRESSES DELIVERED:

- January 16 --- Washington, DC --- YMCA Forum  
January 18 --- Washington, DC --- Washington Council of Social Agencies (Luncheon meeting held at YWCA)  
January 29 --- Atlantic City, NJ --- Mass meeting held under the auspices of the Emergency Advisory Council for Negroes  
February 2 --- Raleigh, NC ----- Ninth Annual Public Welfare Institute program held under the auspices of the North Carolina Civil Works Administration. Spoke at mass meeting and at conference session; also before two classes (Economics and Social Ethics) of St. Augustine's College -- four (4) appearances.  
February 3 --- Richmond, VA. ---- Mass meeting, auspices Richmond Emergency Advisory Council  
February 11 -- Flushing, NY. ---- Flushing Educational Committee, mass meeting  
February 15 -- Newark, NJ ----- New Jersey Interracial Committee of Church Women (morning)  
February 15 -- Washington, DC --- Parent Teachers' Association - Smothers' School (evening)  
February 25 -- Boston, Mass. ---- St. Mark's Brotherhood - mass meeting and forum.

- March 4 ----- Philadelphia, Pa. --- Business & Professional Men's Ass'n. (afternoon); Neo-Seminar (evening)
- March 6 ----- Washington, DC ----- Armstrong High School; Assembly of faculty and students
- March 7 ----- New York, NY ----- Teachers' College, Columbia University.

III. CONFERENCES:

- January 27 --- Philadelphia, Pa. --- Friends' Service Committee  
Subject: Segregation and the Negro
- February 7 --- Washington, DC ----- Conference of representatives of Government departments and emergency organizations to discuss interdepartmental cooperation in services on behalf of the Negro population. Held at the Department of the Interior
- February 9 --- Washington, DC ----- Conference with Dr. Alain Locke, Morse A. Cartwright, and two representatives of the Bureau of Education of the Interior Department, to discuss National Adult Education program for Negroes to be fostered cooperatively by the Bureau of Education, the American Adult Education Association, and other groups. Funds to be provided by the Carnegie Corporation and possibly by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. (See also March 1st)
- February 16 -- Washington, DC ----- American Association of Social Workers' Conference held at the Mayflower Hotel, to discuss with Administrator Harry Hopkins the FERA and CWA programs
- March 1 ----- Washington, DC ----- Conference with Cartwright, etc. (see February 9th)
- March 2 ----- Washington, DC ----- Conference of Inter-departmental Group. Meeting held in Commerce Building, 5842, Group welcomed by Secretary Roper.

IV. SPECIAL EFFORTS TOWARDS ADJUSTMENT:

1. Complaints as to treatment of Negroes through the various Recovery administrations have come from states throughout the South and many parts of the North and West. These complaints referring to the CWA, FERA, PWA, AAA, FCA, etc. have been transmitted to the respective governmental agencies responsible for adjustment, and in most cases reports on action taken have been received and filed for reference.
2. Because of the numerous complaints on the treatment of Negroes in many localities by the CWA and FERA, the Adviser's office early in December took up with Administrator Harry Hopkins and Asst. Administrator Aubrey Williams the question of the possible appointment of a competent, resourceful Negro to act as a liaison officer between those administrations and the Negro group. Following several interviews and exchange of correspondence, Forrester B. Washington, Director of the Atlanta School of Social Work, was appointed to serve as Director of Negro Work in the FERA and CWA and assumed his duties on February 1st.

The office also took up with the Department of Labor through Secretary Perkins and her secretary, Miss Jay, the question of the appointment of a similar representative in the Department of Labor. Word has reached us through Dr. Isadore Lubin, Chief of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that favorable action will be taken very shortly on the appointment of a Negro to his staff.

The office has served in the capacity of Adviser to numerous individuals and groups in their efforts to make such contacts with governmental services as would be helpful to them in their problems, for example: A representative of the Eastern and Gulf Marine Cooks' and Stewards' Union, seeking the opportunity to place claim before the Shipping Industry Code Deputy Administrator; representatives of the Negro building trades' skilled workers in St. Louis, seeking legal interpretation in the controversy between white and colored skilled building trade workers in St. Louis; representatives of colored organizations seeking representative of the Negro group on the Consumers' Advisory Board of the NRA.

V. MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Tabulated and analyzed data from Federal Emergency Relief releases on Negro families receiving Federal relief in the various states and cities; Census material on Negro retail sales, on home ownership, and on occupations; and labor and trade union facts as they affect Negroes, to be used in public addresses and for conference purposes.
2. The Adviser has been requested by Governor Herbert H. Lehman of the State of New York to serve on the State Planning Board, newly-created and composed of twenty-one non-salaried members, organized to plot a long-range course of development of "all aspects of the social picture of the entire state," the Board to work in cooperation with the National Planning Board as part of the Federal Recovery program.

"The initial work of the Board, as outlined in the original declaration of the Governor, would be directed towards the conducting of a preliminary survey of all social potentialities within the State."

3. Several conferences have been held with the chairman and the secretary of the Negro Advisory Committee to the Department of Commerce to check on progress in keeping with the report and recommendations made to the Secretary by this committee following its meeting in September.

Through the Press Intelligence Service of the Department publicity has been given to the report of this Committee and also to the report of the Inter-departmental meeting held on March 2nd in the Commerce Building.

VI. SUNDRY PLANS:

1. The following speaking engagements have been accepted:  
March 25 ----- New York, NY ----- Young People's Forum,  
Abyssinian Baptist Church  
March 30 ----- Trenton, NJ ----- Trenton Emergency  
Advisory Council for Negroes  
April 8 ----- Atlanta, GA ----- Negro Chamber of Com-  
merce (tentative)

--4

April 20 ----- Louisville, Ky. ----- Kentucky Negro Educational Association (two addresses).

June 28 and 29 Hampton Institute, Va. -- Ministers' Institute.

2. Plans have been tentatively drawn up, pending the securing of additional personnel, for a national conference of Negro retail merchants.
3. Outlines have been made for the following studies (pending the securing of personnel):
  - a. Small loan agencies operated by Negroes in selected areas in the South
  - b. Negro retail grocers
  - c. Negro life insurance companies
  - d. Negro banking institutions
4. The Adviser has been selected as Chairman of the Sub-committee on Labor by the Inter-departmental group, to summarize current labor problems, the findings to be submitted to the Conference Group at its next meeting. The office is now engaged in assembling data on this subject.
5. A corrected up-to-date list of Negro periodicals has been compiled and information is being assembled on the character and circulation of each periodical (questionnaires circulated).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce  
WASHINGTON

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

June 15, 1934

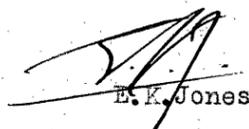
IN REPLY REFER TO 26

MEMORANDUM

To: The Secretary of Commerce  
From: Eugene Kinckle Jones - Negro Affairs Division  
Subject: Report herewith

The attached "Report on the Negro in Agriculture" has been adopted by the Interdepartmental Group concerned with the Special Problems of Negroes - to which you appointed me as official representative of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

This report is submitted to you as the second formal report representing the work of the Group.

  
E. K. Jones

ekj/n

Encls.

REPORT ON THE NEGRO IN AGRICULTURE

Adopted by the

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GROUP

concerned with the

SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF NEGROES

June 1, 1934

The Inter-Departmental Group concerned with the special problems of  
Negroes

REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

The Effects of the Depression on the Negro Farmers of the South

The recent depression has been extremely severe in its effects upon the South. The rural Negro - poor before the period of trade decline - was rendered even more needy after 1929. Many tenants found it impossible to obtain a contract for a crop and were left stranded without any economic resources. It is also evident that many Negro as well as white farm owners lost their property. As the competition in earning a livelihood increased, social unrest grew and racial prejudice became more severe, to the extent that racial friction and lawlessness increased in many sections of the rural South. A study of lynching over a period of forty years reveals that as cotton prices go down, the number of lynchings increases.\* A study of racial relations during the depression verifies that conclusion.\*\* In addition, there are evidences of the breakdown of the plantation system during the years of depression. Many rural schools have been closed during the last few years.\*\*\*

\*The Tragedy of Lynching, by Arthur Raper

\*\*According to Monroe N. Work, editor of The Negro Year Book, the lynching figures from 1928 through 1933 (including white people as well as Negroes) are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Lynchings Prevented</u>	<u>Persons Lynched</u>
1928	11	24
1929	10	27
1930	21	40
1931	63	13
1932	34	8
1933	37	28

\*\*\*Another sub-committee is preparing a report on Negro Education

2 - Report of the Agricultural Committee

The most severe situation confronting the Negro farmer has been that facing the share cropper and farm tenant. The difficulties in the production of cotton involved losses to the landlords. These, in turn, were translated into greater dependence, less security and lower standards of living for the tenants. Since the share croppers were least powerful to resist the hardships of economic depression, they have suffered greatest from the chaos which has permeated southern agriculture.

A most instructive picture of the situation is reflected by the treatment of the Negro farmer under Federal aid offered prior to the initiation of the Recovery Program. There were many abuses in the administration of this aid which are instructive as indications of what can happen to colored farmers under any program of relief. The most complete picture of the situation is that presented at the conference on the Economic Status of the Negro, held in Washington last May.\* The following summary is drawn from a report of the findings of that conference, as written by Dr. Charles S. Johnson:

Under the Hoover administration, Federal aid was available for farmers in the form of feed, seed and fertilizer loans. The report includes the following general statement concerning the administration of this and other Federal farm relief measures: "Although well conceived as an aid to relief, they have not in practice escaped abuses of a notorious character insofar as Negro farmers are concerned. Not all of them have always been exploited, but the existence of abuses on so large a scale

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\*Charles S. Johnson, Economic Status of Negroes.

3 - Report of the Agricultural Committee

seems inexcusable in the administration of Federal service in such desperate emergencies. Responsibility for a measure of this may be placed upon the unfortunate imperatives of the social system which regards the exploitation of Negroes as more or less a 'normal' condition."

The feed, seed and fertilizer loans have been variously administered. Although in a few black belt areas the tenants received and spent their loans according to the intent of the law, the planters often got control of the tenants' checks. "As a matter of fact, the landlord virtually forces the tenant to deliver the check to him; the landlord explains to the tenant that he will not waive his rent to the government - one of the requirements for the loan - unless the tenant agrees to bring the check to him when it comes. The report goes on to show that when the check came, it was delivered to the landlord and the latter often took the money and deposited it to his own account, issuing cash back to the tenant as he felt the tenant needed it. For this service the planter usually charged eight per-cent interest. "Thus, the tenant pays double interest - six per-cent to the government for the money and an additional eight or ten per-cent to the planter for keeping it for him! This practice is common in the upper part of the Georgia Black Belt."

The report continues that in other instances the planter secured the money from the tenants upon its arrival and they repayed it to the tenant in feed, seed and fertilizer at credit prices. Thus, it was the farm owner rather than the tenant who profited from the govern-

4 - Report of the Agricultural Committee

ment loan. This practice was fairly prevalent in the central Alabama Black Belt. There have been instances where Negro land-owners have not been allowed to spend the cash which they secured through loans from the government.

There were violations of the Feed, Seed and Fertilizer Loan Service in 1931 which were so flagrant, according to the same report, as to occasion court proceedings. Some of these cases came to light when tenants received receipts from the government for the repayment of loans of which they had no knowledge.

In concluding the experience of the Negro tenant under those forms of Federal aid, the report of the conference makes the following statement: "The planter class appears to be proceeding upon the assumption that the landless farmer must be kept dependent. The property-less tenants in turn have gotten all they could out of the owners before settlement time. Both are hard pressed, but the planter has a scapegoat."

In addition, the report cites instances of flagrant abuses of the Red Cross service. In some cases, planters evaded their agreements for advances to tenants, saying: "Let the Red Cross feed them." In one community, the administrator of the Red Cross service is reported to have charged his tenants for the flour and cloth which he "secured" for them.

The report concludes the discussion of relief with the following statement: "These abuses of the relief intended for the

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farmers reflect the weight of social tradition on the matter of the Negro and the least protected workers, perhaps, more than they reflect purely agricultural problems. It becomes a matter, in this instance, as in many others of the same order, of insuring the protection of this class of workers from abuses which are a part of the history of race relations in the section, before their normal plight as farmers can be effectively remedied."

.....

EFFECT OF THE RECOVERY AGENCIES UPON NEGRO FARMERS OF THE SOUTH

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration

When the New Deal was extended to agriculture, one of the most important features of the program was the plan for acreage reduction. In the case of cotton, there was to be a forty per-cent reduction. The cultivation of cotton gives rise, perhaps, to more employment among Negroes than the production of any other product. Naturally, therefore, a program which proposes to reduce materially the amount of this production affects Negroes.

According to the Administrative Rulings and Instructions Relating to the 1934 and 1935 Cotton Acreage Reduction Plan\* and the Questions and Answers Covering 1934 and 1935 Cotton Acreage Reduction Plan\*, the program provides for direct payments to owners and cash-tenants. In the case of managing share-tenants, the rental and parity payments are to be divided equally between the owners and the managing share-tenants. The share cropper or share-tenant is to receive a full proportionate part of any parity payment made under the contract but all payments will be made to the producer and he is under contract to pay the share cropper and/or share tenant. In addition, the land owner is required to adjust the acreage reduction as nearly ratable as practicable amongst tenants on the farm and to maintain the normal number of tenants and other employees on the farm. Both of these requirements are

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\*United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Adjustment Administration (Production Division), December 1933.

to be carried out "insofar as possible". Further, all tenants are to be allowed to continue occupancy of their houses on the farm, rent free, for 1934 and 1935 unless any such tenant becomes a nuisance or a menace. Access to fuel for home consumption for tenants is to be allowed without cost to the tenants; an adequate portion of the land rented to the Secretary of Agriculture is to be given tenants to grow food and feed crops for home consumption; the reasonable use of work animals and equipment, in exchange for labor, is to be given to cultivate the land used by the tenant for subsistence, and pasture for domestically used live stock is to be granted.

There is evidence to the effect that Negro farm owners producing cotton have generally received fair treatment under the cotton reduction plan although there are occasional irregularities. But since only 11.2% of colored farmers were owners in the 104 counties of the South with greatest number of Negro farmers, and 56.4% of all Negro farmers in thirteen leading southern states were croppers in 1930 (the proportion of Negro share-tenants is much greater in the chief cotton producing areas), the effect of the cotton reduction program upon colored farmers is largely concerned with the fate of the share-tenant. In spite of the safeguards established by the cotton acreage reduction plan, there is evidence that the tenant farmer is not receiving the full measure of protection intended by the plan. In certain instances, the letter rather than the spirit of these protective measures of the cotton crop reduction agreement has been carried out.

Dr. Calvin B. Hoover of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, in his report on Human Problems in Acreage Reduction in the South, gives the following account:

"Various undesirable effects and instances of hardships to individuals have occurred in connection with the cotton acreage reduction program. In some cases these were due to the nature of the cotton contract itself, sometimes to its misinterpretation and sometimes to its violation. These undesirable effects and hardships may be summarized as follows:

"1. There have been a considerable number of cases in which tenant farmers have not received the full amount specified by the 1933 cotton contract.

"2. The operation of the acreage reduction program creates a motive for reducing the number of tenants on farms. The acreage reduction contracts have within them provisions designed to prevent this motive having effect but the system of enforcement of these provisions has been inadequate.

"3. The percentage of the rental payments paid to share tenants and share croppers for land withdrawn from cultivation in accordance with the 1934 cotton contracts is less than in other contracts.

"4. The way in which the 1934 cotton contracts have been drawn has produced considerable confusion in the classification of types of tenantry. Upon this classification the division of benefit payments by Government between landowner and tenant depends."

The displacement of Negro tenants (as was the case also for whites) began before, and grew throughout the depression. Thus, at the time of the announcement of crop reduction program, there were many families without arrangements for renting crops - some without shelter. Since the new program has been announced, there have been fewer opportunities for contracting for a crop and this condition has become more grave. Where landlords have kept their promise and have maintained the number of their families, they have often changed the families and substituted smaller families for their former tenants. Often managing share-tenants have been reduced to share croppers despite the fact that the Administrative Rulings and Instructions prohibit such action. This has allowed the owner of the farm to receive the full payments from the acreage reduction plan. It has also materially reduced the status of a large number of Negro cotton producers.

In instances where tenants have not been displaced, they have been given only shelter and fuel. They have no contract to make crops, no income and no certain means of supplying themselves with food and clothing. If they do receive these, it is because their landlord chooses to give them to the tenant and their continued supply rests entirely in the hands of the giver.

Although there has been but little increase in complete displacement of tenants in the South, the fact that they are remaining is not deeply significant. In many instances landlords are willing

to allow their former tenants to live in houses and cabins (for which there are no other possible occupants at this time). The already exploited Negro is rendered more impotent to resist unfair treatment by this peculiar situation. Thus, it is the inability to secure a crop - the contract which provides for advances of seeds, subsistence and equipment, rather than physical displacement - that is most crucial. The tenant in the South - and the Negro tenant in particular - is being separated from his means of earning a living. The tenant needs not only relief but social and economic rehabilitation.

It is difficult to estimate the amount of livelihood displacement the depression and the recovery program have created in the South. Mr. Brown of the State Federal Emergency Relief Administration estimated that in the Eastern part of North Carolina (twenty-three counties) alone, there were some 9,302 farm tenant families who, for the year of 1933, had no arrangement with any landlord to make a crop and had no other employment sufficient to earn a livelihood. These families were managing to live in their former abodes, on neighboring farms and in unoccupied buildings of every description. Their subsistence was obtained through meagre relief, CWA jobs and occasional day labor for their landlord or for a neighboring landowner.

Mr. Brown's summary of conditions in one county of a southern state will serve as an illustration. The North Carolina Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Institute for Research in Social Science have made a survey of the situation in Greene County, North Caro-

lina. The picture presented by this county is representative for the Eastern part of the state and furnishes what seems to be a slightly favorable pattern for the South generally. In 1930, the county had a population of 18,656 divided almost equally between whites and Negroes. There were some 3,260 farm operators. Their distribution was as follows:

Nature of Farm Population of Green County, N. C.

<u>Status</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Total</u>
Full owners	439	77	516
Part owners	40	26	66
Managers	2	0	2
Tenants	1,306	1,370	2,676
Cash tenants	22	6	28
Croppers	714	1,004	1,714
Other tenants	570	360	930

There were over 325 displaced tenants in Greene County in January, 1934. The survey concerns some 265 of these - 184 colored and 81 white. The survey has classified these families in the following manner:

Classification of Displaced Tenants in Greene County

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Colored</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Total</u>
Suitable for replacement	114	64	178
Too old, physically unable to farm	28	4	32
Widowed or deserted, no male provider	7	0	7
Have rented a crop for the coming year	35	13	48
Totals	184	81	265

The average farming experience for these tenants was 13.8 years for Negroes and 13.6 years for whites.

A most instructive table which shows length of time without tenant status follows:

<u>Period of Displacement of Families in Greene County</u>			
<u>Length of Time Without Tenant Status</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>		
	<u>Colored</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Total</u>
Less than a year	14	13	27
One year	18	8	26
Two years	21	19	40
More than two years	42	13	55
Never had tenant status, always farmed as a day laborer	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
Totals	100	58	158

These data present the gravest problem facing Negro farmers today. At the present, these livelihood-displaced Negroes - as well as whites - are existing at the mercy of their landlords. They have no security or protection from the worst form of arbitrary treatment. Besides, they have no means of earning sufficient to support themselves and their families.

The Farm Credit Administration

While the crop reduction program of the AAA has reduced the managing share cropper to a share cropper in some places, has occasionally displaced tenants and universally rendered it more difficult for those without a crop to secure a contract for the same, Negroes have not received the maximum relief possible under the provisions of the FCA. This has been due to a combination of circumstances. First, the ignorance of the rural colored dwellers (enforced by the inadequate school facilities) has made it impossible for the black farmers to avail themselves of all possible benefits. Secondly, they are penalized by their traditional fear of white associations. In some instances where colored farmers have attempted to participate, local administrative practices have limited their benefits. In 1930, 69.4% of Negro-owned farms had dwellings valued under \$500 and 90% of them had dwellings valued under \$1,000. The Negro farm owner is, therefore, predominately a small farmer. The FCA is intended to include such producers. In the South, the Negro has experienced great difficulty in securing adequate loans upon his property under the FCA. Where loans were made to colored farm owners, the amount of the advance has frequently been too small to meet the needs of the farmers. Although a part of this difficulty is due to the recent deflation, evidence indicates that much of the situation is the result of racial discrimination.

Investigation of the situation in Mississippi has shown that the difficulty presenting itself to Negro farmers has been one of appraisership. The local appraisers for the FCA are often most unsympathetic in their treatment of Negro-owned farms. Thus, in Jones County, a Negro farmer who asked for \$3,000 on his improved farm of 120 acres was given \$800. His white neighbor across the road from him received \$900 on 37 acres. The nature and state of repair of the buildings was about the same in both instances.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration  
and the  
Civil Works Administration

In the operation of rural relief, the Negro has suffered because of the administrative policies of local authorities. A recent investigation showed that the allocation of CWA jobs and the approval of projects had been generally discriminatory. The actual execution of these matters was often in the hands of county committees. Certain of the more important members of these committees were county office holders elected by the local voters. Since the white population controls the political situation, the administration of the committee was executed in a manner which was designed to please the voters. Seldom was any county committee member free from the influence of local pressure. The same situation existed where the administration was in the hands of a prejudiced or "controlled" official. The result was that projects directly benefitting the colored population and Negro employment and relief have been considered only after the

white population has been taken care of. This condition was most grave in those rural areas where control is concentrated in the hands of a few influential persons.

In local communities of several states, plantation owners have brought their hands to the CWA and the FERA offices and demanded jobs and relief for them. The landowner has been sufficiently powerful to enforce his request and relief has taken the form of a subsidy to the plantation owner.

#### Conclusions

The condition of the rural Negro in the South has been presented above. Colored farmers of the South were victims of economic exploitation, lawlessness and poor educational facilities in the years prior to 1929. Since the depression their condition has become worse and attempted relief has not effectively remedied the situation. Indeed the maximum benefits possible under the various Federal agencies for recovery have not been enjoyed by the great majority of Negroes. This has been largely the result of the failure of local administrators to carry out the

rulings transmitted to them. It may be said that the smaller the administrative unit and the greater the degree of local control, the worse the conditions to which Negroes are subjected.

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(signed)

The Sub-Committee on Agriculture of the  
Inter-Departmental Group concerned with the special problems of Negroes

E. H. Shinn, Chairman  
Extension Studies  
Department of Agriculture

Henry A. Hunt  
Assistant to the Governor  
Farm Credit Administration

Bruce L. Melvin  
Chief of Section  
Subsistence Homesteads Division  
Department of the Interior

Forrester B. Washington  
Director of Negro Work  
Federal Emergency Relief  
Administration

Clark Foreman  
Adviser on the Economic Status  
of Negroes  
Department of the Interior

88449

LISTED

June 20, 1934.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eugene Kinckle Jones,  
Bureau of F. and D. C.

FROM: Secretary Roper.

I am very glad to get the report of the Interdepartmental Group concerned with the special problems of Negroes, being the report of the Agricultural Committee.

This report shows evidence of very careful study and contains data very interesting to me. I shall examine it further with much interest.

D.C.R.

DCR-r-b

Mailed....JUN 21 1934 by *[Signature]*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 16, 1934

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In a letter of complaint about alleged prejudice against negroes in office, Melvin J. Chisum, of the National Negro Press Association, Philadelphia, Pa., makes the following statement, which Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to bring to your attention:

"There in Washington, for months, in the Department of Commerce building where they had some 60 odd colored women operating the elevators, I say for months they have been quietly, gradually letting these black women out and putting in their places white men. I could go on and give you many more instances, but this points clearly the travail through which we are passing."

In order to make an intelligent reply, Mrs. Roosevelt would like to know if this statement is true.

Very sincerely yours,

*Malvina D. Scheider*

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

Hon. Daniel C. Roper  
Secretary of Commerce

88449

LISTED

October 18, 1934.

Mrs. Malvina T. Scheider,  
Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Scheider:

In response to your letter of the sixteenth,  
regarding the complaint received by Mrs. Roosevelt from  
Melvin J. Chisum, of the National Negro Press Association,  
Philadelphia, alleging prejudice against Negroes in  
connection with the operators of the elevators in this  
building, I would suggest that this is a matter which should  
be taken up with the Secretary of the Interior, inasmuch as  
that official, through the National Park Service, is charged  
with the maintenance of this building, and the maintenance  
force including the elevator operators are employed and  
assigned by that service.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

Secretary of Commerce.

*mm.*

OCT 18 1934  
Mailed.....by.....  
MK:cd

Copy of letter to the President  
for your kind consideration.

Most Honorable Sir: Your plan to embrace the widow and the orphan in your program arouses me to beg permission to call your attention again to the work we have for 23 years been carrying on for homeless Negro children, and for the reason that it might greatly perplex you when it comes to handling the problem of the homeless Negro child. I am again enclosing some of our literature, some of which will illustrate the high class of men and women throughout the Nation that has given their support to our cause because they endorse and approve of our theory.

Whatever might be done in the interest of the Negro child, it is sincerely hoped the importance of teaching them to work, love, and obey, will be among the chief objectives. Did you know the woeful and most deplorable conditions among the homeless colored children, you would in all probability, devote much of this submarginal land to the use and benefits of such children, that they might early in life be properly taught to earn their bread or a portion thereof, by the sweat of their brow, under the direction of competent men and women of their own race, that have been trained in schools like Hampton and Tuskegee.

Our work here at Irvington, Kentucky, would probably demonstrate to the most skeptical, the best solution of the problem of handling the homeless Negro Child.

Direct assistance to mothers might be considered, but I am sure it will not work, because the surroundings and the character of such mothers, or such fathers, in the case of half orphans, is not conducive to the proper development of character. To place them in private homes and pay for the upkeep therein, might work well for white children but it will not work well for the colored child, for our people as a race are not sufficiently advanced to furnish anything like a sufficient number of families to handle the large number of children needing assistance; and college graduates are not proper persons to put over such children, unless they are from schools that stress the spiritual and industrial ideas. These children must have love and sympathy and kindness and proper models and ideals, else all money spent in their behalf, would simply be casting gold into the furnace to bring out nothing but a calf and he not even a golden calf.

Your object is not only to alleviate human suffering, but to develop the highest possible type of American citizenship, men and women of principle and character, and you will agree that to accomplish this, men and women of character themselves must have the direction of their training, and I am sincerely hoping that whatever you may decide to do, it will prove the best possible plan of producing and developing such principle and such character in these poor unfortunate children as will render them valuable elements of society and future citizens of whom the country as well as their race will be proud.

Thanking you for the privilege of allowing me to make the foregoing suggestions and begging your most kind consideration of same, and wishing you unbounded success in all your noble endeavors, I remain with highest and profoundest respects,

Your humble servant in the uplift of humanity,

*Rev. O. Singleton* Gen. Supt.  
National Home Finding Society. by ENR

88449

82-49

THE FORT VALLEY NORMAL & INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL  
Fort Valley, Georgia  
H.A. Hunt, Principal

March 5, 1935

On Friday, March first, over a thousand people met at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School in a State-Wide Economic Conference. This group included ministers, farmers, principals and teachers of schools, teachers of Vocational agriculture, Jeanes Supervisors, FERA teachers and workers, representatives of Parent-Teacher Associations, Women's Federated clubs and other organizations among Negroes from all over the State of Georgia.

The conference included talks and open discussions led by representatives of federal and state departments of education, Emergency Relief, Extension Service and Farm Credit Administration. Definite information was given in regard to the various state and federal services available to Negro people for the enrichment of rural life.

We enclose a report of the Committee on Findings of the Conference with the hope that you will send a copy to your local newspaper and distribute other copies to individuals, groups or organizations.

Those who were present agree that this was one of the most significant meetings ever held in this state.

The conference committee was composed of Dr. Frank S. Horne, Acting Principal of the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School, Chairman; O.S. Oneal and M.T. Toomer, Farm and Home Demonstration Agents, Peach and Houston Counties; Alva Tabor, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education; P.H. Stone, State Extension Agent; Camilla Weems, State Home Demonstration Agent; L.S. Molette, State Supervisor, FERA Program; Alexander Hulse, State Club Agent; J. C. Dixon, State Supervisor, Negro Education.

Yours very truly,

  
Frank S. Horne  
Acting Principal

FSH/K  
inclosure

K

The Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School

FUNDAMENTALS IN THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF GEORGIA NEGROES

We, representatives of 1,071,125 Negroes in the State of Georgia, in Economic Conference assembled at the Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School, realizing that we are the worst victims of the depression and that on the whole the operations of the National Recovery Program have not yet brought substantial benefits to the farming element of Negroes, do adopt this Declaration of Fundamental Economic Needs:

1. "At the present and in the years immediately ahead, when there is certain to be a large problem in the economic rehabilitation of so many individuals, there is a peculiar need for increased consideration to be given the group representing approximately 43% of the total population within the State and all programs desiring to bring about intelligent living and economic security."
2. We wish to commend the State Administrators of relief programs for their fairness and justice shown in the past to the underprivileged group and earnestly request their continued efforts along these lines. Especially do we appreciate considerations received from the State Department of Education, the Georgia Emergency Relief Administration, the Agricultural Extension Division, and other agencies operating within the State.
3. As a means toward realizing such considerations, Georgia Negroes need fuller access to the varied State and Federal Rehabilitation agencies.
4. Georgia Negroes need more fully such services as County Farm and Home Demonstration Agents, Teachers of Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics, FERA Workers and services extended by the Farm Credit Administration, Rural Rehabilitation, Rural Housing and Emergency Relief Projects.
5. Because of the location of masses of Georgia Negroes in rural sections, wide-spread illiteracy, poor public school facilities, and traditional racial discrimination, Georgia Negroes can be brought into full touch with these services through the above mentioned agencies operating in all rural counties.
6. An efficient, equitably financed system of schools for Negroes, from the rural common schools adequately manned, through secondary schools and the necessary higher schools for training in agriculture, building trades, home economics, teacher training and Extension work, is the paramount need for helping Negroes to regain self-respect and self-support.
7. We urge upon Negro people of Georgia the economic ideal of self-support; to stay off relief rolls, if possible; to make no loans unless necessary; but, in all cases where there is actual need, or the opportunity for attaining the first step to self-support, we urge them to exercise their inalienable rights as American citizens to make available to themselves the services of the federal and state governments designed for their economic uplift.
8. We urge all preachers, teachers, parent-teacher associations, state agents and workers, the state teachers association and other organizations or workers among Negroes to disseminate the information gained at this conference and include these Fundamental Economic Needs with their programs.

Program  
STATE-WIDE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE  
at  
The Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School  
March 1, 1935

9:30 A.M. to 10:50 A.M. Auditorium  
4H Club Achievement Program  
Direction of Agents O.S. Oneal and M.T. Toomer

11 A.M. to 1:15 P.M. State-Wide Economic Conference. Auditorium  
H.A. Hunt, Farm Credit Administration, Presiding  
Greetings by Attorney A.C. Riley, Mayor of Fort Valley  
Appointment of Findings Committee

Section 1: State Department of Education

M.D. Collins, State Superintendent of Schools  
L.M. Sheffer, Supervisor Agricultural Education  
P.S. Barrett, Director Emergency Education Program

Open Discussion

Selection, Quartette

Section 2: Federal Emergency Relief Administration

Gay B. Shefferson, Relief Administrator for Georgia  
Louisa deB. FitzSimons, Assistant Relief Administrator  
R.L. Vansant, Director, Rural Rehabilitation Division  
R.L. MacDugall, State Engineer, Works Projects Division

Open Discussion

Selection, Glee Club

Report, Findings Committee

Announcements

Barbecue and Brunswick Stew Dinner, 1:20 P.M. to 2:20 P.M.

3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. Afternoon Session, Economic Conference

Selection, Glee Club

Address by H.A. Hunt, Farm Credit Administration

Section 3: Extension Service

Harry L. Brown, Director Extension Service  
J.A. Evans, Administrative Assistant  
Lurline Collier, State Home Demonstration Agent  
T.M. Campbell, Field Agent  
Thomas N. Roberts, Manager, Sub-Marginal Land Project

Open Discussion

Spiritual, Audience

Address by W.F. Anderson, Editor, The Macon Telegraph

Report, Findings Committee

Announcements

Conference Committee:

Dr. Frank S. Horne, Chairman

O.S. Oneal

M.T. Toomer

Alva Taber, L.S. Mollette, P.H. Stone

Camilla Weems, Alexander Hulse, J.C. Dixon

\*\*\*\*\*

Student Council Guides will gladly conduct visitors through all  
School buildings. See the Science and Handicraft Exhibits, First floor  
Academic Building,

SUMMER SESSION, JUNE 12TH to JULY 19TH



FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK 88449

April 29, 1935.

Dr. Robert R. Moton,  
President, Tuskegee Normal and  
Industrial Institute,  
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Moton:

I have read with a great deal of profit the pamphlet which you enclosed with your letter of April 20, as I am very much interested in national recovery among Negroes of this country.

It is gratifying that you are devoting so much constructive leadership in this line. If your counsel and advice are followed, I am satisfied that an improved procedure will be worked out that will be of great value, not only during the present emergency period, but for the future of the Race.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROBERTS

Secretary of Commerce.

APR 30 1935  
Mailed.....by.....

MK:ed

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Secretary Daniel C. Roper  
Attention Miss Margie Renn

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON

C  
O  
P  
Y

88449

April 29, 1935

Reverend J. C. Lewis  
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church  
Rock Hill, South Carolina

*Files*  
*ack*

26

**MAILER**

Dear Reverend Lewis:

Secretary Daniel C. Roper asked me to acknowledge for him the receipt of your recent communication.

Secretary Roper has a keen interest in the welfare of the Negroes throughout the country and of course, the Negro citizens of South Carolina. He has instructed me to make a special effort to see that the federal agencies that will be operating in South Carolina under the work relief program, are cognizant of the needs of the colored citizens of your state.

I wish personally to assure you that Secretary Roper has personally been responsible for Negroes receiving many benefits from the recovery activities of the Government during the past two years including employment of more than 1000 Negroes in white collar jobs in connection with various activities of the Department of Commerce.

I would be pleased to talk with the son of Bishop Jones to determine whether there is any advice I can render him that would be helpful in his finding a position in keeping with his interest and qualifications.

Please do not hesitate to call to my attention any matter in which you feel we can be of service to you in your state. I shall be glad to bring your communications to the attention of the proper officials here who would be in a position to take appropriate action.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

EUGENE KINCKLE JONES  
Adviser on Negro Affairs

ekj:pa



Recorder of Deeds  
Washington

April 29, 1935

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Hon. Daniel C. Roper  
Secretary of Commerce  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are a newspaper story and the text of a speech made by Mrs. Roosevelt on April 14th at a meeting of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People.

I felt that this very splendid address by our First Lady would be of interest to you.

With consideration of my great respect, believe me

Faithfully yours,  
*William J. Thompkins*  
WILLIAM J. THOMPKINS,  
Recorder of Deeds, D.C.

WJT:FC

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK 88449

April 30, 1935.

~~REGISTERED~~

Dr. William J. Thompkins,  
Recorder of Deeds,  
District of Columbia,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Thompkins:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of the  
twenty-ninth, with which you sent me the news-  
paper carrying the text of the speech made by  
Mrs. Roosevelt on April 14th at a meeting of  
the National Association for the Advancement  
of Colored People. I agree with you that this  
is a very splendid address and I have enjoyed  
reviewing the same.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

DANIEL C. ROPER  
Secretary of Commerce.

MGR-B

APR 30 1935  
Mailed.....by. V.....

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

June 10, 1935

MEMORANDUM

LISTED

FOR: Eugene Kinckle Jones  
FROM: Chester H. McCall

The Secretary asked me to tell you that he is very interested in your article in the New York Amsterdam News Magazine and that he feels you did a very splendid job on it. I would also like to talk with you some time within the next few days relative to the attached invitation of the Chicago Urban League.

C.H.McC.

Attachment

McC:T

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

*Copy to Chief Clerk*

June 24, 1935

*88449*

Mr. Morris A. Copeland  
Executive Secretary  
Central Statistical Board  
Washington, D.C.

**LISTED**

Dear Mr. Copeland:

We should be glad to have the inclosed proposed study of business resources of negroes submitted to your Board of Review. Should the usual tests of your Board result in approval of the project, you will, I assume, cause such approval to be formally transmitted to Mr. Frank C. Walker, furnishing us a copy of such letter so that the latter submission may be appropriately identified.

Very truly yours,

M. KERLLIN

Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

JUN 25 1935  
Mailed.....by.....

hrs/eb

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

July 10, 1935

LISTED

Mr. R. R. Wright, Sr.  
President, Citizens & Southern Bank & Trust  
Company  
Nineteenth and South Streets  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Wright:

I have received your letter of July 8 in which you have honored me with an invitation to speak at the 72nd Anniversary Celebration of the Emancipation and Negro Progress.

I am fully aware of the importance of this occasion and it would give me much pleasure to participate in this constructive work. Unfortunately, I am already committed to such a number of engagements for September that I fear it will not be possible for me to be with you on the date suggested in your letter.

However, I wish to extend my sincere wish through you to the people attending this Celebration that every phase of their meeting will be marked with success.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

DANIEL C. ROPER,  
Secretary of Commerce.

LJP:T

JUL 10 1935

Mailed.....BY.....

*Papers to Miss Harney*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Daniel C. Roper, Secretary

Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce  
Claudius T. Murchison, Director

SUMMARY OF WORK

April 1, to June 30, 1935

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Eugene Kinckle Jones

Adviser on Negro Affairs

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I. STIMULATION OF INTEREST IN BUSINESS AND IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The various conferences attended by the Adviser and the public addresses delivered by him during the period between April 1, and June 30, 1935 were as follows:

1. CONFERENCES

- May 18 -- Washington, D. C. - A Tri-State Conference on social welfare problems of Negroes under the auspices of the Washington Council of Social Workers.
- May 18-20 Washington, D. C. - Conference on the Economic Status of the Negro under the auspices of the Social Science Division of Howard University and the Joint Committee on National Recovery.
- May 21 -- Washington, D. C. - Conference of the Executive Board of the National Negro Business League and representatives of associated organizations and trade associations.
- May 27 -- Massillon, Ohio - Interracial Conference on local social and economic conditions among Negroes.
- June 6 -- New York, N. Y. - Conference on Planning Projects of the Regional Plan Association, Inc.
- June 7-8 - New York, N. Y. - New York State Conference on Social Work among Negroes.
- June 9-14 Montreal, Quebec - National Conference of Social Work

2. ADDRESSES DELIVERED

- May 18 -- Washington, D. C. - Tri-State Conference at Miner Normal Teachers' College
- May 27 -- Massillon, Ohio - Interracial Conference at the Massillon Y.M.C.A.  
Canton, Ohio - Forum of the Canton Urban League at Jewish Community Center.
- June 4 -- Dover, Delaware - Commencement address, Dover State College for Colored Students

2. ADDRESSES DELIVERED

- June 7 -- New York, N. Y. - Presided at public meeting, New York State Conference on Social Work among Negroes.
- June 9 -- Montreal, Quebec - Mass Meeting, Union United Church
- June 10 -- Montreal, Quebec - Jane Addams Memorial Services, St. James United Church. Other speakers were: Honorable Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor; Miss Katherine Lenroot, Chief, Childrens' Bureau, Department of Labor; Paul Kellogg, Editor of the Survey; Miss Edith Abbott, Dean Graduate School of Social Administration, University of Chicago, and Mrs. V. G. Simkhovitch, Chairman, New York City Housing Authority.
- June 13 -- Montreal, Quebec - Luncheon meeting of Lions Club of Montreal at Mount Royal Hotel
- June 30 -- Flushing, Long Island - Presided at mass meeting, Flushing Educational Committee

This increases the number of public addresses to 91 delivered by the Adviser since taking office in November 1933. At every available opportunity, in conferences and when addressing public gatherings, the services offered by the Department of Commerce through the Washington and District offices were presented. The facilities and counsel of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce were offered to the National Negro Business League in the program adopted for developing a central data-collecting agency for the benefit of Negro business in general.

II. BUSINESS RESOURCES

The Adviser has outlined a plan for the study of Negro Business Resources in thirty selected cities to be conducted at a cost of \$225,000 and employing 294 white collar workers under the President's work relief program. This study already approved by the Department, is yet to receive final approval from the President's Advisory Committee on Allotments. The study proposed would outline the difficulties under which Negro business operates, present typical cases of unusual success, and expose practices which have militated against the growth of Negro business. It would lay bare the causes of failure inherent in the system and make suggestions as to how places of business, prices and methods might be made more attractive. The main object of the study would be to procure data which can be utilized to improve general business practices among Negroes, and to expand their business institutions; thereby increasing the number of Negro employees of Negro proprietors. Cooperation of Negro business men and public-spirited citizens in each city would be solicited to assure the securing of complete information and proper dissemination of information gathered to aid Negro business to improve.

### III. COUNSEL AND ADVICE

The Adviser has been in conference with the Commissioner of Accounts of New York City, who came to the Adviser's office to consult him concerning provisions which might be inserted in the franchises of public utility corporations guaranteeing the rights of Negro citizens to jobs in these concerns.

An importer of Haitian coffee conferred with the Adviser and a representative of the Commercial Intelligence Division concerning means by which this business might be extended.

Several conferences were held with persons interested in work relief projects designed to give employment to Negro white collar unemployed persons--the advice of the Adviser being sought both on program and on general objectives.

The usual miscellaneous correspondence has been carried on and interviews held in which various persons have sought aid in planning some business venture or in assembling economic data on the Negro. Advice has been rendered as to what procedure should be followed in seeking Civil Service positions and applying for other positions with the Government.

### IV. BUSINESS INFORMATION

Revision has been made of the following materials available for distribution from the Division:

1. Bibliography of Negro Business
2. Negro periodicals.

The office continues to serve as liason between Negro business institutions and the bureau divisions serving respectively the types of business concerns seeking information.

### V. MISCELLANEOUS

The following articles prepared by the Adviser have appeared in weekly newspapers:

1. "Seventy Years of Negro Economic Progress" - Chicago Defender, May 4, 1935
2. "The New Deal As It Affects Negroes" - New York Amsterdam News, June 1, 1935

News releases have been prepared on the publications available from the Division of Negro Affairs and on the formation in the Division's office of Associates in Negro Folk Education (an adult education project) of which the

V. MISCELLANEOUS (cont)

Adviser is serving as chairman.

Statements have been sent to newspapers in various cities indicating the Negro population and the approximate purchasing power of the group in the trade area surrounding these cities, for the benefit of local Negro business men. The data were prepared at the Division's request by Charles E. Hall who has been promoted to the position of Specialist in Negro Statistics, Census Bureau. Mr. Hall's promotion was made possible through Secretary Roper and Director Austin of the Census Bureau at the request of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Negro Affairs. In this connection, reference should be made to the fact that the number of Negroes engaged in work on the Agricultural Census has been increased to a force of nearly 200 persons.

Final reference should be made to the service of the Adviser as a member of the New York State Planning Board, inasmuch as through appropriate legislation a permanent Planning Council has been created for New York state.

The list of Negro Aviators is kept up-to-date through the cooperation of the Bureau of Air Commerce.

88449

July 12, 1935

LISTED

MEMORANDUM

INDEXED

FOR: Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones

FROM: Chester H. McCall

The Secretary is very interested in your report of July 8 showing the summary of work of the Adviser on Negro Affairs from April 1 to June 20.

The most appropriate comment we can make is "keep up the good work."

C.H. McC.

McC:T

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
July 23, 1935

*File*  
88449

IN REPLY REFER TO 26

MEMORANDUM

For: Mr. Chester H. McCall  
From: Eugene Kinckle Jones

INDEXED

There is no reason why the Secretary should reply to the circular mimeographed letter attached. I have just talked with the Principal of the Fort Valley and Normal Industrial School, Mr. H. A. Hunt, who tells me that the letter was sent to the Secretary as information only and that a reply is not expected.

ekj:pa

*E. K. Jones*  
E. K. Jones

GEORGIA TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
"A New Deal for the Negro School Child"

What is the Need for An Organization of Teachers in Georgia  
Schools for Negroes?

The State Superintendent's report for the school year, 1933-34, includes the following facts about public school children:

1. White children had 784 consolidated schools while Negro children had only 18.
2. The state spent \$1,270,859.83 for the transportation of white children to public schools and spent only \$7,189.20 for Negro children.
3. Of the 14,378 white teachers, only 830 or 5.7% are without state certificates. Of the 5705 Negro teachers, 2785 or 48% are without state certificates.
4. The average white elementary teacher receives an annual salary of \$594.50 while the salary for Negro teachers is \$249.21.
5. White children went to only 634 one-teacher schools while Negro children attended 2536 one-teacher schools.
6. White children made up 60% of the elementary school population and 88% of the high school population while Negro children made up 40% of the elementary school group, but dropped to only 12% of the high school group.

The weight of this disparity and inefficiency becomes an tremendous obstacle in the path of every Negro child. It multiplies his handicaps and renders it impossible for him to get started abreast with other children. The task of the Georgia Teachers and Educational Association is to narrow the gap between these two extremes in equipment facilities, in professional qualifications and in salary schedules.

H. A. HUNT, PRINCIPAL  
FRANK S. HORNE, ACTING PRINCIPAL

L. R. BYWATERS, TREASURER  
H. A. HUNT, JR., BUSINESS MANAGER

## The Fort Valley Normal and Industrial School

INCORPORATED

REFERENCES

RT. REV. H. J. MIKELL, D. D.,  
627 W. PEACHTREE ST., ATLANTA, GA.

MR. GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY,  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y.

ACCREDITED CLASS "A"

JUNIOR COLLEGE

*Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools*

Fort Valley, Georgia

July 19, 1955

REFERENCES

MR. A. J. EVANS,  
FORT VALLEY, GA.

MR. THEODORE J. LEWIS,  
1500 WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

*Mr. Mikell*

Dear Mr. Roper:

I am sending you a copy of a letter recently addressed to Miss Gay B. Shepperson, Relief Administrator for Georgia, which contains a number of matters important to the welfare of Negroes of Georgia.

You will find contained in it a statement or two which may be of interest to you in carrying out your plans for our group in this state.

We express to you our sincere thanks for your cooperation in the past and offer our organization to you for the furtherance of your plans in the future.

We should appreciate any statement from you at this time which might be released to the county and district units of our organization.

Yours very truly,

*F. S. Horne*

F. S. Horne, Chairman,  
Planning Committee

FSH:K  
inclosure-1

C O P Y

FORT VALLEY NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL  
Fort Valley, Georgia

July 6, 1935

Miss Gay B. Shepperson  
Administrator, Georgia Emergency Relief Administration  
Ten Forsyth St. Building  
Atlanta, Georgia

My dear Miss Shepperson:

As Chairman of the Planning Committee of the Georgia Teachers and Educational Association, representing the 5705 Negro teachers in the State of Georgia, I am writing to offer the cooperation of our organization in the furthering of your plans for bringing all phases of relief to the most needy groups of people in our commonwealth.

You will note stated in the enclosed circular along with the program of our organization, the personnel of the state officers and standing committees. Included among these names you will find the most active educational spirits of our group who have made and are making a distinct contribution to the welfare of our children and consequently to the state of Georgia. Our organization works through a Planning Committee working out of an Executive Committee. The program and principles of the organization are carried out into the field through the organization of the counties of the state into 26 districts, each district having at its head a carefully chosen district president who acts as the spear-head in administering the program in those counties under his jurisdiction. It is the task of each district president to organize the county teachers under a county regent. Through this type of organization the officers and the Executive Committee may reach rapidly and efficiently into the counties having Negro schools.

Under the present administration, the organization has been revitalized until we feel it is at a stage now to offer definite cooperation to the plans of the state and federal agencies which are interested in the welfare of our people. Through this organization the officers and committees are able to keep in intimate touch with the needs and problems of our people throughout the entire state. Furthermore, this association is organized for the rapid spreading of information from the Planning Committee on down into the farthest corners of the state in a rapid and efficient manner. You will recall that it was through this organization that the set-up was first made last year for the carrying out of the emergency educational program among Negroes.

Furthermore, it so happens that this year two members of the Planning Committee, including the chairman, are members of the Planning Committee of the Georgia Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. Together with the State President of this organization a definite plan for the close cooperation of these two organizations has been effected in the districts and counties in promoting the advancement of the joint programs of educational benefit for our people.

C O P Y

Miss Gay B. Shepperson  
July 6, 1935  
Page Two

We should bring this organization to your attention at this time so that you might realize that this organization can be of great aid to you when it comes to the disseminating of information, the checking on the needs for projects among Negroes and the extent to which they have been carried out, for the recommendation of names of individuals whom you might need for the carrying out of your program among our people and other services of like nature.

There are at least two matters of immediate importance. The first is that we understand that the present supervisor of the emergency educational program among Negroes will not be reemployed next year. We wish to emphasize the need for employing another Negro who is cognizant of the problems of Negroes throughout the state of Georgia and who could so cooperate with the Georgia Teachers and Educational Association as to most efficiently use this organization for helping in carrying on his plans, and to give him a contact with an organization for his own people to whom he could be responsible at least to some degree for the efficiency of his work. We believe too that he should be a person who is compatible with the best interests and the best thinking among the Negroes of this state. We should be happy to assist you in recommending to you several such persons for your consideration. Above all, we wish to establish the need of such a supervisor or supervisors. We feel that all work of this type by state and federal agencies suffered this year because the present supervisors did not use fully the facilities of this organization, nor were their activities in any way coordinated with or responsible to the only state-wide organization among Negroes now active.

The second matter is in reference to the new Youth Administration about which we have seen some releases. We shall appreciate it if you would supply me, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, with any definite information in regard to this new project so that I might immediately put it into form to release to our district presidents and to city and county units.

We certainly wish to express to you and through you to the President of the Federal Government, and to Dr. Collins and Mr. Barrett and Miss FitzSimons, Mr. Woodward and to your entire staff, to Messrs Dixon, Cousins, Sheffer and Mobley, our sincere appreciation for your fairness in administering the educational relief program among Negroes of our state and for your genuine interest in the complex and tremendous problems involved in the adjustment of Negro men, women and children to the sometimes discouraging economic and educational situation in which they are now placed. We shall continue to look to you with great hope and we hope that you will continue to look to us for the fullest cooperation with the furthering of your worthwhile program.

We shall be happy to hear from you as soon as possible in regard to the specific items referred to in this letter as well as any statement you would care to have us release at this time to our county and district organizations.

Yours very truly,

F. S. Horne  
Chairman, Planning Committee

FSH:K  
incl/1

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

August 23, 1935

*Mr. Kerin*  
*For your info*  
*MGR*

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Mr. Austin, Director, Census Bureau  
FROM: Secretary Roper

INDEXED

88449

I greatly appreciate your sending me copy of the volume entitled "NEGROES IN THE UNITED STATES: 1920-1932", which I am examining with great interest. The persons immediately responsible are to be congratulated on this production, as well as the Census Bureau itself.

I suggest that this volume be not overlooked as an exhibit for the Texas Centennial Exposition, especially if they carry out the suggestions which we have discussed with them of having an adequate exhibit showing the great progress of the Negro in this country during the century covered by the Texas Exposition.

D. C. R.

DCR-r-b

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

September 5, 1935.

LISTED

Mr. Jno. L. Blount,  
3005 Elgin Avenue,  
Houston, Texas.

Dear Mr. Blount:

I have read with great interest your letter of the thirtyfirst ultimo with regard to the conditions attendant upon the feature of the Texas Centennial to be emphasized by and for the Negro.

I am very much interested in the welfare of the Negro and simply desire that in working out a Centennial record that the development of the Negro shall be adequately set forth. It has not been my intention to undertake in any wise to shape the policy or program looking to this end, preferring that that should be worked out by representative Negroes in coordination with the Centennial Management. However, I have a very valuable Negro, Eugene Kinckle Jones, in my organization here who is nationally minded and devoted to the race. I have brought this matter to his attention and have arranged for him to have a conference with Mr. W. B. Yeager, Executive Secretary of the Texas Centennial Commission, who has recently visited Dallas and conferred with the Texas Centennial Management. If Mr. Yeager, when he returns and after conferring with Mr. Jones, shall deem it advisable and necessary for Mr. Jones to go to Texas and confer with you and others, I shall be very glad to so arrange it.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

DANIEL C. ROPER  
Secretary of Commerce

NO PAPERS

DCR-r-b

Mailed SEP 6 1935

*Incoming retained*



TEXAS CENTENNIAL CENTRAL EXPOSITION

A CORPORATION  
3205 1/2 THOMAS AVE.  
DALLAS

September 7, 1935

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Hon. Daniel C. Roper,  
Secretary of Commerce,  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is copy of a communication to Mr. W. B. Yeager which is self-explanatory.

As a member of the Federal Centennial Commission, we would like for you to give the contents of this matter your sincere consideration.

Negro participation in the Texas Centennial will be limited to the Central Exposition at Dallas. This being the first of its kind in the history of our great nation, we feel that ample funds should be provided to make this project worth while in every respect and truly representative of the one million Negroes in Texas and the other millions of Negroes throughout the United States.

Very truly yours,

Negro Centennial Commission,

By Maceo Smith  
General Secretary

AMS:e  
Enc.

NEGRO CENTENNIAL COMMISSION  
3205 $\frac{1}{2}$  Thomas Avenue  
Dallas, Texas

September 7, 1935

Mr. W. B. Yeager, Executive Secretary  
Federal Centennial Commission  
Washington, D. C.

Re: Negro Participation  
Texas Centennial

Dear Sir:

Answering your request for a brief summary of our project, I respectfully submit the following:

**Introduction:** On behalf of one million Negroes in Texas and fourteen other million Negroes in the nation, it seems singularly fitting to emphasize the Negro's share in the history of our great state and nation. Since March 2, 1835, when Estevan, the Negro, fourth member of Cabeza De Vaca's expedition through Texas, through the period of slavery and the confederacy, through the era of our agricultural expansion, and up to our present prosperity, so much of the economic structure of our state and nation has rested upon the Negro's loyalty and devotion, upon his willing spirit and his toiling back.

Texas and American history books give scant mention of Negro growth, racial achievement and development. No where is there a collection of race data to inspire our dejected youths. There has never been assembled at any one place a comprehensive exhibit and study of the accomplishments of the Negro. The Texas Centennial affords a unique opportunity for collecting and assembling such data; an opportunity for self expression; a display of organized talents and accomplishments; and it promises new life, new activity, inspiration, and a season of recreation which breeds loyalty and patriotism that generates inter-racial amity and good will, by encouraging the spiritual, intellectual and economic ambitions of a much neglected race. We want the following:

A Building on the Exposition grounds, dedicated to the accomplishments of the race, planned by Negro architects and erected by Negro builders, ample to house departments and exhibits hereafter set out; with dining accommodations rest room facilities; office spaces; auditorium, concessions, and to serve as headquarters of Negro visitors to the Centennial.

Exhibits: The building should house these exhibits by departments: (1) Negro History; (2) Education; (3) Home life and economics; (4) Agriculture and rural life; (5) Art and museum (we have subject for small African museum already available); (6) Music and drama; (7) Trades and industry; (8) Church and social organizations; (9) Engineering; (10) Business and commercial; (11) Medical arts - with clinic; (12) Science (have contacted Prof. Carver at Tuskegee).

(continued)

Music and Drama: We want ample auditorium privileges and finance to accommodate choirs of from one to five thousand voices in Jubilee music as well as national talent for stage plays, recitals and orchestras.

Athletics and Pageants: We want funds to produce historical pageants and to underwrite state and national athletic contests.

Staff: We want a staff consisting of a director, one or more assistants and a body of field workers and experts to collect, prepare, transport and assemble historical data for exhibits and write the history of the Negro up from slavery. We suggest that the Director be appointed immediately and an office established in order that he may begin to co-ordinate and co-operate with the Negro State Organization and the Federal Commissioner General, towards making this project a success.

Conclusion: The above stated plans and schedules, if adequately carried out, in a true sense of justice and fair play, will call for the conservative expenditure of at least \$300,000; of which \$250,000 would be for the building, its furnishings and fixtures; and \$50,000 for administrative expenses, and the cost of collecting, transporting, preparing and assembling historical data, displays and exhibits; and incidental expenses of publicity, employing experts and training workers. This is the first time in the history of Negroes that such a project has been attempted and the eyes of the nation will be watching to see if it is done well. Secretary of Commerce Reper stated that he desired "distinctive recognition" for Negroes in the Centennial. We are certain that Mr. Cullen F. Thomas and the other members of the Commission are of the same frame of mind.

Respectfully submitted,

Negro Centennial Commission

*A. Maceo Smith*  
A. Maceo Smith, General Secretary

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

September 16, 1935.

Mr. A. Maceo Smith,  
General Secretary, Texas Centennial  
Central Exposition,  
5205 $\frac{1}{2}$  Thomas Avenue,  
Dallas, Texas.

LISTED

9102-2-102

My dear Mr. Smith:

I have your letter of the 7th enclosing a copy of  
a communication to Mr. Yeager, in connection with the proposed  
Negro participation in the Texas Centennial Exposition.

I shall be glad to bear in mind the suggestions  
which you have submitted and discuss the matter with other  
members of the Commission at the first opportunity.

I am personally interested in having an appropriate  
exhibit to display the progress and development of the Negro  
and hope that it will be possible to work out a satisfactory  
program.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL O. ROPER

Secretary of Commerce.

ME:LQS

*mm*

Mailed SEP. 16 1935 ..... by .....  
*J*

20-1  
88449  
31  
October 26, 1935

Mr. William W. Sanders, Exec. Sec'y.  
The National Association of Teachers  
in Colored Schools  
1034 Bridge Avenue  
Charleston, West Virginia

WJIAN

BOOKER

My dear Mr. Sanders:

In replying to your letter of October 22, may I first remind you that the Department of Commerce operates for the benefit of all citizens of the United States. The various bureaus of the Department, therefore, discriminate in no way in the services they render. In order that you may have in mind the functions of the Department I am sending to you a booklet describing in brief its services. Incidentally I might mention that although no special classification according to race is made, our Patent Office has record of numerous inventions for which Negroes have secured patents and our Bureau of Air Commerce has a record of thirty-eight licensed Negro air pilots.

Personally and officially I am much interested in the development of our Negro citizens and have taken steps to facilitate their advancement. Two years ago I appointed Eugene Kinckle Jones, whom you probably know, as Adviser on Negro Affairs in this Department. He has worked chiefly through the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce as liaison between the Bureau and Negro business men and students of economic questions to help Negro business and to increase the purchasing power of the members of the race. Mr. Jones under a plan adopted by a Negro Advisory Committee to the Department, which I appointed, has participated in more than one hundred conferences and public meetings, prepared newspaper and magazine articles and held hundreds of interviews to explain to Negroes the various governmental sources to which they could turn for aid during the depression and under normal conditions. With added personnel he is planning some special business studies which will be helpful to Negro business men in their efforts to expand and in their desire to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Special Agent in Charge  
JAMES EARL RAY  
IN COLLECTED DOCUMENTS  
AND INFORMATION RELATING TO THE  
MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

In the Bureau of the Census we have promoted Charles E. Hall, long in the service of the Bureau, to the position of Specialist in Negro Statistics. Under this title he has prepared a report on the Negro Population, entitled "Negroes in the United States, 1920-32" - a valuable source of information regarding the progress and the status of the race. Used in connection with the census volume "Negro Population in the United States, 1790-1915" we have a continuous record from 1790 to date.

During the past two years we have employed colored persons in various projects undertaken by the Census Bureau requiring the service of white collar workers. In one operation - the tabulation for the Census of American Business - we had as many as 537 engaged and in another - the Agricultural Census - over 200. These figures do not include those employed as enumerators on the field.

Withal, I can assure you that our policy is to place at the disposal of the Negro population all of the resources of this Department with the hope that they will avail themselves of any or all of the facilities here afforded for their economic security.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

Secretary of Commerce

ekj:pa

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9/20/35  
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Mailed OCT 31 1935 by U

F. O. C.  
PAPERS RETURNED  
TO BUREAU



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

ROBERT W. JUSTICE

447 - Leont Ave  
N.Y. City.

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

April 7, 1936

Hon. Daniel C. Roper  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Roper:

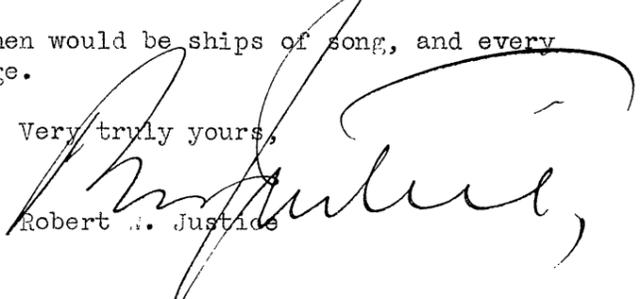
Newspaper reports in this morning's papers of reported sabotage on several American freighters and passenger ships manned largely by foreign crews is another indication why our American ships should be manned with American citizens and preferably that large group of American Negroes who, through every time of stress and emergency, has demonstrated their innate loyalty to American institutions and principles.

The causes underlying these reported cases of sabotage would be foreign to the American Negro, and in this time of emergency I make a sincere and earnest request that the Commerce Department seek to make use of as many Negro seamen as are available for manning the American ships.

I am writing this letter to place before you what might have escaped your mind; that there is available enough Negroes to man all of the American ships, and I am confident that sabotage and mutiny would no longer prevail.

American vessels then would be ships of song, and every voyage a pleasant passage.

Very truly yours,

  
Robert W. Justice

RWJ:rp

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

April 8, 1936

Mr. Robert W. Justice,  
447 Lenox Avenue,  
New York City.

LISTED  
INDEXED

Dear Mr. Justice:

I wish you to know that I have received and read with much interest your letter of the seventh instant.

I heartily concur in the statement you make about the splendid loyalty of the Negro. As to the crew of American ships, you probably know that the Government does not operate these merchant marine ships and consequently does not select the crew for the ships. However, I am stressing at every opportunity the necessity of building an adequate merchant marine, adequately manned by American citizens, adequately trained for their service and subject to the action of the Congress in working out our future merchant marine program. These matters will be given continuous and I hope constructive consideration.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER

DANIEL C. ROPER  
Secretary of Commerce

DCR:R

APR 8 1936  
Filed.....by.....

*Mr. Roper*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1936

IN REPLY REFER TO 26

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary Roper  
From: Eugene Kinckle Jones

Referring to your request at the organization meeting of the Negro Advisory Committee, Texas Centennial Exposition, that we submit six names of Negro educational institutions to which you would like to send the volumes on President Washington, the committee has agreed on the following institutions:

Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama  
Prairie View State College, Prairie View, Texas  
Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio  
Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia  
Howard University, Washington, D. C.  
Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana

The members of the committee ask me to express to you their appreciation of your encouraging words delivered at the meeting and your interest in Negro education as evidenced by your kind offer to supply the institutions with these valuable volumes.

e: j;pa

*E. K. J.*

E. K. J.

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK 88449

April 14, 1936

Honorable Sol Bloom,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

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INDEXED

My dear Congressman:

Several days ago at the meeting of the Negro Advisory Committee of the Texas Centennial Exposition, I made the statement that you had several sets of the History of the George Washington Bicentennial Celebration which you would be glad to distribute to schools that might be able to utilize the same to advantage.

The committee was very much interested in this and submitted the names of six Negro educational institutions, which I list below:

Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute,  
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Prairie View State College, Prairie View, Texas

Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio

Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia

Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana

I feel sure if you could furnish any or all of these schools with the books it would be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. KOPER  
Secretary of Commerce

MGR-B

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

April 15, 1936

LISTED

Mr. P. C. Phillips, President  
Charlotte Investment Corporation  
420 1/2 East Second Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Your letter of April 7, addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, the Honorable Harold L. Ickes, has been referred to this Department for reply.

Negro business appears to be on the road to recovery. The statements of a number of Negro insurance concerns show that an appreciable amount of new business has been written and there is a general revival of interest in local Negro business organizations. If one may judge the present by the past, the Negro retailer is enjoying increased sales. This has usually been the case when freight car loadings, lumber production, cotton consumption, and the production of steel have shown evidence of a rise.

If time permits, I suggest that you communicate with Mr. C. C. Spanning of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, both of Durham, North Carolina. Information relative to the rate of lapentation, policy loans and bank deposits will be indicative of the progress of Negro business.

Certain printed matter is enclosed. I trust that it will be of some value to you. However, if we can serve you further, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL G. DOLAN

Secretary of Commerce

7+D.C.  
MAILED RETURNED  
TO BUREAU

MAILED  
APR 15 1936 .....by.....

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

July 2, 1936

IN REPLY REFER TO 26

MEMORANDUM

TO: Secretary Roper  
FROM: Eugene Kinckle Jones  
SUBJECT: Quarterly Report

Attached is a summary of my activities in the Department covering the quarterly period from April 1, to June 30, 1936 -- the twelfth report submitted to you of my activities.

  
E. K. J.  
a.

ekj:pa  
Enc. 1

*Handwritten notes:*  
July 2, 1936 ✓  
April 1, 1936 - 2  
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Daniel C. Roper, Secretary

Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce  
Alexander V. Dye, Director

SUMMARY OF WORK  
of  
Division of Negro Affairs  
April 1, 1936 to June 30, 1936

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Eugene Kinckle Jones

Adviser on Negro Affairs

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I. THE NEGRO EXHIBIT OF THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION:

Probably the most important and absorbing work of the Division of Negro Affairs during the quarter beginning April 1, 1936, has been that concerned with the securing and the assembling of the Negro exhibit at the Texas Centennial Exposition. The Adviser was made Chairman of the committee of seven selected by the United States Texas Centennial Commission to undertake this responsibility. Two meetings of the committee were held in Washington and one in Dallas. The Dallas meeting was held on the morning of the opening day (June 19) of the Negro building.

The sum of \$100,000 was set aside--\$50,000 for the building and \$50,000 for the exhibit. The exhibits were organized under six sections: (1) Aesthetics, including art, sculpture, music, needlework and handicraft; (2) Health, including hospitals, physicians, surgeons and pharmacists, nurses and medical literature; (3) Education, under which many colleges, normal schools and vocational schools prepared exhibits. The exhibit included records of outstanding lawyers, jurists, and legislators; (4) Agriculture, including extension work, laboratory research; (5) Mechanical Arts, including inventions, architectural designs, contracting for the erection of buildings, bridges, roads, etc.; (6) Statistics of Progress, which includes records of business activities, material acquisition such as home and farm ownership and other records indicating progress in reducing illiteracy and improving the general welfare through church and social service activities. A special exhibit has been prepared of publications and four murals were designed for the entrance lobby--three of which portray Negro progress and the fourth being a symbolic representation of Estevanico, the Negro explorer who crossed Texas to lead the first expedition of civilized men into the territory now known as New Mexico and Arizona.

Although the committee had just a little more than two months in which to assemble and prepare the exhibit and only two days in which to set up the exhibit in the building (the contractor for the building had failed to carry out his contract in several particulars, thus delaying the official acceptance of the building by the government) a most creditable exhibit was finally presented--many say the most representative exhibit of Negro life ever assembled under one roof. On the opening day, between noon and midnight, 11,977 persons viewed the exhibit and since that day there has been a steady stream of visitors--the attendance being equally divided between white and colored individuals. The office of the

-2-

Adviser is responsible for the general oversight of the Negro exhibit until the close of the Exposition, November 29, 1936.

## II. STUDIES:

The office has continued work on the four studies which have been in progress during the past year--namely, Negro Air Pilots (about completed), Negro Chambers of Commerce (ready for final multilithing and distribution), Negro Trade Associations (about 75% complete), Negro Insurance Company Failures (about 75% complete).

The bibliography of Negro business which the office distributes has been revised and is ready for mimeographing and the list of Negro Chambers of Commerce has been completed and distributed at strategic points.

## III. COOPERATION:

The Adviser participated in a conference of Negro Administrative Assistants of the National Youth Administration and advised with representatives of the coordinating committee of the Works Progress Administration on an important project involving Negro white collar workers. In making preparation for the Negro exhibit for the Texas Centennial Exposition, the office has cooperated with the Department of Interior through the office of Education, the Public Works Administration, the Civil Conservation Corps and the Farm Credit Administration and several other institutions supported by government funds including Howard University and Freedman's Hospital.

## IV. ROUTINE:

In addition to considerable correspondence growing out of requests for information on various subjects of value to Negro business and the general economic status of the race, the office has sent out the following types of material: Lists of Negro aviators (kept up-to-date from time to time), Negro banks, Negro Chambers of Commerce, Negro Insurance Companies, Negro manufacturers, Negro newspapers and periodicals (revised from time to time), Negro retailers and trade associations. This material is sent not only to students, writers and interested citizens but especially to advertising agencies, distributors, manufacturers and promoters and also to educational institutions and to public libraries.

Census material relative to Negro occupational groups and trade areas and the extent of the Negro's investment in agriculture, church property and retail distribution, has been made available through cooperation with the office of the Specialist in Negro Statistics of the Census Bureau.

Two business groups have received specific information on methods by which Chambers of Commerce could be formed.

Numerous persons seeking employment or advice as to government departments through which they might receive help either came in person or wrote to the office for counsel.

The office is gradually building up a list of Negro business men in fifteen cities.

III. COOPERATION:

has been completed and distributed at the appropriate time  
leaving him in touch with the organization and the staff  
The participation of Negro business men in the

association (from the evidence) is a very important  
element of the Negro business movement and the staff  
has been organized to assist in the development of the  
The office has organized the Negro business men

IV. SUMMARY:

of the Negro business movement and the staff  
Vagarter is in touch with the organization and the staff

V. ADDRESSES AND HELPFUL PUBLICITY:

The following is a record of public addresses delivered by the Adviser:

- April 27 -- Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania - Carola Weershafter Graduate Department of Social Economy and Social Research
- May 6 -- New York, New York - North Harlem Medical Association
- May 10 -- New York, New York - Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Better Business Mass Meeting
- May 18 -- New York, New York - American Association for Adult Education, Tenth Anniversary Conference
- May 28 -- Atlantic City, N. J. - (A.M.) New Jersey Avenue Public School Assembly
- May 28 -- Atlantic City, N. J. - (P.M.) Indiana Avenue Public School Assembly
- June 13 -- New York, New York - Reveille Club, Annual Banquet
- June 17 -- New Orleans, Louisiana - Xavier University Summer School Assembly
- June 18 -- Dallas, Texas - Testimonial and Banquet in honor of Advisory Committee on Negro Participation, Texas Centennial Exposition
- June 19 -- Dallas, Texas - Dedicatory address for Negro Exhibits Building delivered at the Cotton Bowl (on radio)
- June 24 -- Cleveland, Ohio - Negro Board of Trade

Addresses by Joseph R. Houchins, Assistant Business Specialist, Negro Affairs Division:

- May 10 -- Washington, D. C. - Negro Business and Professional Women's League
- June 2 -- Washington, D. C. - Adult Class in Citizenship and Public Affairs
- June 5 -- Washington, D. C. - Symposium, Garnet Patterson School

Total addresses delivered by Adviser since joining service November 1, 1933--135; by his assistant 4 since November 15, 1935.

The Conferences attended by the Adviser were: National Conference of Social Work, Atlantic City, New Jersey and the Executive Committee meeting of the Negro Encyclopaedia of which the Adviser is a member, as well as the National Youth Administration conference aforementioned.

Releases have been sent to the press on the Negro aviators, on the Negro Chambers of Commerce, and on the Negro exhibit at the Texas Centennial Exposition (numerous releases from time to time).

The Office also prepared a placard for the National Insurance Week, showing the work of the Negro Insurance Companies (presented through the Division of Commercial Laws of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce).



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hook-up. Material are presented to members in the progress of the program. The material are presented to members in the progress of the program. The material are presented to members in the progress of the program.

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

88449

July 15, 1936

LISTED

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR:** Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones,  
Bureau of F. and D. C.

**FROM:** Secretary Roper

I have received and read with interest your report for the quarterly period ending June 30, 1936. It interests me very much. I am gratified with these evidences of progress in the economic endeavors of the Negro race.

I shall be interested to read the report of studies which I notice are under way and which will soon be completed.

D. G. R.

DCR-r-b

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

October 9, 1936

MEMORANDUM

IN REPLY REFER TO 26

TO: Secretary Daniel C. Roper  
FROM: Eugene Kinckle Jones  
SUBJECT: Quarterly Report

This is to transmit to you the report of the Adviser on Negro Affairs, of work during the quarter July 1, to September 30, 1936.

  
E. K. J.

ekj:pa  
Enc. 1

Report No. 13

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Daniel C. Roper, Secretary

Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce  
Alexander V. Dye, Director

SUMMARY OF WORK  
of  
Division of Negro Affairs  
July 1, 1936 to September 30, 1936

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Eugene Kinckle Jones

Adviser on Negro Affairs

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I. THE NEGRO EXHIBIT OF THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION:

The Negro Affairs Division has continued during this period its responsibility in connection with Negro Participation in the Texas Centennial Exposition. Its responsibilities have been as follows: (1) certifying to expenditures proposed and made, and the checking of vouchers submitted by various creditors; (2) the completion of the pamphlet "A Selected List of Books By and About The Negro." Twenty-five thousand were printed for distribution in the Hall of Negro Life. (3) preparing a descriptive statement of the exhibits and mimeographing same for the information of visitors; (4) the training of sixty-five National Youth Administration workers as to the contents and meaning of the exhibit material. These N. Y. A. workers were divided up into shifts which enabled us to have at least six persons in addition to the regular staff to be at all times available to escort visitors through the building and to explain to them the various exhibits (5) publicizing the exhibit through the daily and the Negro press in order to popularize the undertaking.

The total attendance on September 30 had exceeded 275,000 - about evenly distributed between whites and Negroes.

Reports from reliable sources indicate that the general impression at the Exposition is that visitors to this building are well pleased with the exhibit and feel that the attendants are helpful in the service they render the public, in the information they give and the courtesies they extend to the visitors. Plans are being made for the making of a full report of the whole procedure followed in planning, collecting and arranging the exhibits accompanied by a photographic record. This report will be printed for careful distribution in circles where the information will be helpful in future exhibits of this type. Incidentally it should be mentioned that a special committee from the 1939 New York World's Fair authorities visited the building in Dallas and seemed to be much impressed. Such a booklet will be of value in any plans that might be developed in connection with the New York City World's Fair.

II. STUDIES:

The following studies have been completed: (1) Negro Chambers of Commerce--already distributed through our regular sources of publicity. Daily there are numerous requests for copies; (2) Negro Aircraft Pilots--not available for general distribution but available to persons specifically interested in this phase of Negro development; (3) Negro Trade Associations--completed but not yet multi-graphed but soon to be available; (4) Bibliography of Negro business revised, distributed and now in demand as evidenced by daily requests for copies.

Work on the study of Negro Insurance Company Failures has progressed to the point that within the next month or six weeks the final text will be ready for review.

III. COOPERATION:

Requests for information and services have given us the privilege of cooperating with the following governmental agencies: the Civil Conservation Corps in providing CCC camps with literature, especially pamphlets published for the United States Texas Centennial Exposition and the bibliography of business; the Cotton Division and Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture; the Office of Education and the Department of Interior; the United States Public Health Service; the Department of the Treasury, the Works Progress Administration and the Bureau of Air Commerce in releasing periodically a list of licensed Negro air pilots.

The Adviser prepared a special statement, at the request of the Chief of the Chemical Division, on the Negro Chemical Market to be used in the weekly journal, World Trade Notes on Chemicals and Allied Products, of the Chemical Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

IV. ROUTINE:

Routine activities included responses to numerous requests for information from students, publicists, educational institutions and libraries, Negro banks and insurance companies, distributors and manufacturers, newspapers and advertising agencies and chambers of commerce and trade associations. The records show that there have been 794 parcels mailed from the office and 188 interviews held in the office bearing on numerous subjects of interest to the Negro population.

The types of information sent include the following: Negro Aviators (lists brought up-to-date from time to time); Negroes appointed to important positions in the government; Negro banks; Negro Chambers of Commerce; Negro insurance companies, manufacturers, newspapers and periodicals (revised from time to time), Negro beauty shops and drugstores. The office has supplied interested groups with information concerning the formation of Negro chambers of commerce and bibliographies bearing on the subjects of consumer cooperatives, drugstores and groceries. Statistical data have been compiled on various subjects and a list of articles known to be produced by Negro manufacturers was made available. Several positions have been brought to the attention of competent persons seeking placement and recommendations in numerous instances have been sent to employers who sought the advice

of the office on prospective candidates for positions. One concern seeking improved motion pictures dealing with Negro life for motion picture houses catering to Negro audiences, used data provided by this office in a published statement appearing in numerous newspapers outlining the opportunity for expanded business in this field for Negroes.

V. ADDRESSES AND HELPFUL PUBLICITY:

Addresses by the Adviser:

- July 12 -- Waterbury, Connecticut - Negro Observance Day at Suttlers Village in connection with Connecticut's Tercentennial
- Aug. 15 -- Los Angeles, California - Fellowship Breakfast Club;
- Aug. 16 -- Los Angeles, California - Pan Pacific Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, public meeting in auditorium of University of Southern California
- Sept. 8 -- West Chester, Pennsylvania - Community Center Anniversary celebration
- Sept. 18 - Washington, D. C. - Adult Classes in Citizenship, Garnet Paterson High School

The Adviser's Assistant spoke before the Adult Class in Citizenship and Public Affairs at the Garnet Paterson High School on September 14. Total number of addresses delivered by the Adviser since joining service November 1, 1933 including one talk before N. Y. A. workers among Negroes in the several states on June 2 (omitted in last report) is 141. His Assistant has delivered five addresses since November 15, 1935 when he joined the staff.

Three releases on the activities of the Division have been sent to the Negro press.

The statement made by the Adviser on the Negro Chemical Market has received wide publicity through the circulation of the Chemical Division's periodical and its reproduction in the Negro press.

88449

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

~~SECRET~~

October 9, 1936

MEMORANDUM

~~SECRET~~

FOR: Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones,  
Adviser on Negro Affairs,  
Bureau of F. and D. C.

FROM: Secretary Roper

I am very glad to receive and read your report for the quarter July 1, to September 30, 1936.

I am particularly interested in the success of the Negro Exhibit of the Texas Centennial Exposition. I believe this will have lasting educational uses for all who examined it.

D. C. R.

DCR-B

Handwritten notes and a signature are present at the bottom of the page.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE  
DEC 14 1936  
DIVISION OF  
PERSONNEL

December 12, 1936

IN REPLY REFER TO 26

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. E. W. Libbey  
Chief Clerk

FROM: Negro Affairs Division

The attached letter received from Miss Medora Hayes of 1441 - 12th Avenue, South, Nashville, Tennessee, makes inquiry about the number of Negroes employed in white collar positions in the Department of Commerce. If your office has any data which will help us in replying to this request, please make it available to the Division of Negro Affairs.

*Joseph R. Houchins*  
Joseph R. Houchins  
Assistant Business Specialist  
Negro Affairs Division

jrh:pa  
Enc. 1

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DIVISION OF PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON

DEC 17 12 PM 3 58  
December 17, 1936.

JOSEPH S. ...

Memorandum for Mr. Libbey

The memorandum dated December 12 from the Negro Affairs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, to which is attached communication dated December 1 from Miss Medora Hayes, of Nashville, Tennessee, requesting to be furnished with a statement showing the number of negroes employed by the Department of Commerce, is herewith returned.

The records of this office show that as of December 16, 1936, there was a total of 240 negroes in the service of the Department, 220 of whom were in Washington and 20 in the field. The total of 240 does not include negroes occupying so-called "nonappointive" positions, such as those serving on board vessels or those attached to construction gangs in the Lighthouse Service, et cetera. Records of nonappointed employees are not maintained by this office.



Chief, Division of Personnel.

Enclosure  
G:B

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

December 18, 1936.

Memorandum for Mr. Joseph R. Houchins,  
Assistant Business Specialist,  
Negro Affairs Division,  
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce:

LISTED  
INDEXED

In reference to your memorandum of December 12, transmitting letter from Miss Medora Hayes, Nashville, Tennessee, returned herewith, requesting information as to the number of negroes employed in white collar positions in the Department of Commerce:

The records of this office show that as of December 16, 1936, there was a total of 240 negroes in the service of the Department, 220 of whom were in Washington and 20 in the field. The total of 240 does not include negroes occupying so-called "nonappointive" positions, such as those serving on board vessels or those attached to construction gangs in the Lighthouse Service, et cetera. Records of nonappointed employees are not maintained by this office.

E. W. LIBBEY

Chief Clerk.

Enclosure  
L-W

SECRETARY'S FILES

Exact Copy as signed by

Mailed DEC 18 1936

by

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

88449

*Noted Thanks  
ack*

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

May 24, 1937

IN REPLY REFER TO 26

MEMORANDUM

TO: Secretary Roper  
FROM: Negro Affairs Division

In the absence of Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones, Adviser on Negro Affairs, I send you the attached copy of "Causes of Negro Insurance Company Failures" which you asked Mr. Guerra Everett to have sent to you.

*Joseph R. Houchins*  
Joseph R. Houchins  
Assistant Business Specialist  
Negro Affairs Division

jrh:pa  
Enc. 1

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO 26

The Division of Negro Affairs in the Department of Commerce has summarized in the enclosed statement the "Causes of Negro Insurance Company Failures".

We are distributing this summary among executives of Negro insurance companies and a limited number of instructors in the social sciences in our colleges with the idea of giving them the benefit of facts leading up to the insolvency of some of the Negro insurance companies which made it necessary for them to close up their businesses.

The Negro insurance companies now doing business deserve great praise for the skill with which they weathered the financial storm of the past seven years.

I trust that the report may be of some service to you.

Sincerely yours,

EUGENE KINCKLE JONES  
Adviser on Negro Affairs

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

June 29, 1937.

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
OCT 25 1937

MEMORANDUM for Dr. Dye:

I have approved of the merging, effective July 1, 1937, of the supervision and direction of the Division of Negro Affairs of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and the Unit handling all Negro statistics in the Bureau of the Census and placing Charles E. Hall of the Census Bureau in charge thereof. For the time being and until Mr. Hall familiarizes himself with the work of the Division of Negro Affairs and determines the action which in his opinion is for the best interest of the Service these two units will be operated separately--all personnel and work of the Division of Negro Affairs remaining under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce; Mr. Hall devoting a portion of his time each day to the work of that Unit.

It has been decided to increase the salary of Mr. Hall from \$2,700 per annum to \$3,200 per annum. This increase of \$500 to be paid by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The salary situation will be handled in the following: The Bureau of the Census will carry Mr. Hall at the rate of \$3,200 per annum from July 1, 1937 to April 30, 1938, and the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce will carry him at the rate of \$3,200 for the months of May and June, 1938. A similar arrangement will be carried out during the succeeding years until otherwise changed.

Will you please notify the personnel of the Division of Negro Affairs accordingly?

Secretary of Commerce.

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
OCT 25 1937

PETE MOORE, PRESIDENT  
221 S. POINDEXER STREET  
HENRY YOUNG,  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
I. S. SANDERS,  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
WM. WALTERS,  
3RD VICE PRESIDENT  
1027 PASCAGOULA STREET  
GEO. HALBROOKS,  
1050 W. PASCAGOULA ST.



S. M. BRINKLEY,  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
521 POINDEXER STREET  
M. M. MARSHALL,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
810 DALTON STREET  
L. L. WARD, ORGANIZER  
JACKSON, MISS.  
DAISY JEFFERSON, ORGANIZER  
1001 OAKLEY STREET  
MARY DOZIER, ORGANIZER  
753 ROSE STREET

## The Negro Democratic Club of the South

HEADQUARTERS

Jackson, Mississippi

July 3, 1937

Hon. Daniel C. Roper, Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have been informed that Mr. Eugene K. Jones has resigned from the position of Adviser on Negro Affairs. His duties, I understand, were to collect, analyse, and disseminate information relative to Negro achievements and Negro needs in the field of commerce and industry.

I am writing to find out whether you are considering applicants for this position. If so, I should be glad to file a formal application, with credentials and references.

Respectfully,

I. S. Sanders  
715 Rose Street  
Jackson, Mississippi

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

July 13, 1957.

LISTED  
RECORDED

Mr. I. S. Sanders,  
715 Rose Street,  
Jackson, Mississippi.

Dear Sir:

Secretary Roper has requested me to respond to your letter of July 5 and to send you the attached copy of a press release which was issued by him under date of July 1, from which you will observe that it has been arranged to have Mr. Charles E. Hall of the Bureau of the Census carry on the work of the Division of Negro Affairs. Mr. Hall has been with the Department for many years and is thoroughly familiar with the duties involved.

Very truly yours,

M. KERLIN

Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

✓ Enclosure  
HK: CS

JUL 18 1957  
Mailed.....by.....*J*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
WASHINGTON

July 14, 1937

Personal

Honorable Daniel C. Roper, Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Dear Secretary Roper:

I am thanking you for my promotion in the service of this Department and I wish you to feel assured that I shall do my very best to merit a continuance of your confidence, a confidence I have sincerely appreciated for more than a quarter of a century.

After a service of more than 37 years in the Bureau of the Census, I feel qualified to say that my racial group and the entire world is receiving more information relating to the Negro population of the United States under your administration of the Department of Commerce, than ever before. Requests for data come from many foreign countries and several have even sent representatives to study the so-called "Negro problem" of the United States, a problem greatly over-emphasized in that it does not take into account their loyalty to American traditions. The Negro dreams of an opportunity to take a place in the Sun of American opportunities rather than of the wreckage of our institutions.

The factual information, relating to the Negro population, now being gathered and disseminated by the various Bureaus and Divisions of the Department of Commerce, is invaluable to my racial group. The data reveals our assets and liabilities; helps us to measure and to intelligently plan for our social progress and for a greater economic security; and it also weakens or destroys unfriendly criticism based on ignorance and intolerance.

If I can have the same helpful cooperation throughout the Department of Commerce that I have been receiving from Director Austin of the Bureau of the Census, and the officials under his supervision, you will not have an occasion to regret the extension of my duties.

Again thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,



CHARLES E. HALL  
Specialist, Negro Statistics.

CEN:beh

FILING  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

July 14, 1937

LISTED

Mr. Charles E. Hall,  
Specialist, Negro Statistics,  
Bureau of the Census,  
Department of Commerce,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hall:

I wish you to know that I have received and read with interest your letter of this date. I am glad to be able to extend your usefulness in this Department to the increasing opportunities of service and the Negro race. Your long and commendable service should fit you for this enlarged opportunity.

I hope that the leaders of the race in the industrial and economic fields will be willing to fully cooperate with you and through you with the Department in the services we are thus emphasizing.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER  
DANIEL C. ROPER,  
Secretary of Commerce.

DGR-r-b

RECORDED & INDEXED



88449

August 12, 1937

Dear Jim:

Referring to our telephone conversation today, I would advise that E. Kinckle Jones, of the National Urban League, New York City, rendered very valuable assistance to me during the last three years as Head of the Unit in the Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce relating to Negro industrial relations. He, of his own accord, tendered his resignation and returned to his former position in New York City.

Because of the well organized condition in which Jones left his work, we have promoted Charles E. Hall, a Negro, who has been employed in the Census Bureau for a quarter of a century in charge of Negro industrial statistics, with a moderate increase in salary, thus saving the most of the salary that was paid E. Kinckle Jones and at the same time, in my opinion, bringing together in a more effective way than we could otherwise the Negro statistical studies of the Census Bureau under Hall with the studies of the statistical relations of the Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce.

I think, therefore, that the arrangement that we now have will enable us to render better and more effective service to the Negroes than heretofore. Charles E. Hall has a very high standing among all the Negroes.

Very sincerely,

DANIEL C. ROPER  
Secretary of Commerce

Honorable James A. Farley  
Chairman,  
Democratic National Committee,  
Washington, D.C.

DCR:R

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

September 4, 1937

LISTED

Mr. George Randol, President  
Randol-Cooper Productions, Inc.  
4376 Sunset Drive  
Hollywood, California

RECORDED

Dear Mr. Randol:

Your letter of August 26, addressed to the Honorable Daniel C. Roper, Secretary of Commerce, concerning the Tentative List of Theaters Catering to the Negro which has lately been assembled in the Negro Affairs Division, has been referred to me for reply.

In spite of the increasing importance of theaters catering to the Negro very little data relative to their location, capacity, estimated value, management and practices are available. As a result of the circularization of the tentative list of theaters catering to the Negro we hope to obtain a list of all theaters of this classification. A study will also be undertaken by the Negro Affairs Division and the Motion Picture Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, which will show the number of theaters catering principally to the Negro, their location, policy and attendance. The success of this undertaking, as in the case of other projects of this description, hinges upon the cooperation of the individual operators and others who have specific data which would prove helpful to this study.

I therefore greatly appreciate your proffered cooperation and would be pleased to receive the list of theaters you have which are not contained in our list and any other available data you may have along this line.

Yours sincerely,

7 + DC  
RECORDED  
GO. BUREAU

Ernest G. Draper  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce

pa/  
Mailed... 88449... by...  
9/3/37  
EM

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

February 12, 1938

Mr. Hall,  
Bureau of the Census.

Can you make any suggestions to  
assist the Secretary in replying to  
the attached?

MKerlin

Allen University

COLUMBIA, S. C.

DIVISION OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Box 302  
Feb. 9, 1938

Daniel C. Roper, Secretary Dept. of Commerce,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

The History of Chemistry class at this school is interested in studying the achievements of negroes in chemistry and other natural sciences.

Literature on scientific works and lives of negroes is difficult to locate; especially since our library facilities are very limited.

We feel that your experience would be beneficial; therefore, we are asking you to kindly recommend some literature. Any material dealing with the achievements of negroes in science would be most appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Winstow W. Cavell

Head of Dept. of Natural Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
WASHINGTON

February 15, 1938

*Harrow  
pls. prepare  
reply for my copy  
me*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Malcolm Kerlin  
Administrative Assistant to the Secretary

FROM: Charles E. Hall  
Specialist, Negro Statistics

SUBJECT: Negro National Scientists

Information relative to Negro natural scientists may possibly be obtained from J. C. Evans, Secretary, National Technical Association, Institute, West Virginia, and from Frederick S. Weaver, Director of the Achievement Project, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 920 U Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. The following Negroes are listed in American Men of Science and may be reached at the places indicated:

Harvey, Burwell Towns, (Chemistry) Morehouse College,  
Atlanta, Georgia

Imes, Elmer Samuel, (Physics) Head, Department, Physics,  
Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee

Julian, Percy Lanon, (Chemistry) Chemist, Glidden Co.,  
Chicago, Illinois

Just, Ernest Everett, (Zoology) Professor, Zoology,  
Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Lewis, Julian Herman, (Pathology) Associate Professor,  
Pathology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

McKinney, Roscoe Lewis, (Anatomy) Professor, Anatomy,  
Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Nabritt, Samuel Milton, (Morphology) Physiology, Pro-  
fessor, Biology, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.

Sumner, Francis Cecil, (Psychology) Head, Dept., Psy-  
chology, Howard University, Washington, D. C.

Thornton, Robert Ambrose, (Physics) Professor, Physics,  
Talladega College, Alabama

Turner, Thomas Wyatt, (Botany) Head, Dept. Biology,  
Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia

Your Census Reports are  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

Acts of Congress make it unlawful to disclose any facts, including names or identity, from your census reports. These laws are strictly enforced. Only sworn census employees can see your statements. Data collected are used solely for preparing statistical information concerning the Nation's population, resources, and business activities. Your Census Reports Cannot be Used for Purposes of Taxation, Regulation, or Investigation.

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Other eminent Negro scientists are George Washington Carver, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama; St. Elmo Brady, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee; Russell W. Brown, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama; Charles Wesley Buggs, Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana and Lloyd A. Hall, 1415 West 37th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

R. H. Merritt tells the story of Dr. Carver's achievement in his book From Captivity of Fame or, The Life of George Washington Carver, published in Boston by the Meador Publishing Company in 1929.

Since so little has been written about the Negro scientists and papers published by these men are found in so many scientific journals which are rather costly, may I suggest that Professor Cavell ask these men to send him reprints of their articles. I feel fairly certain that many of these scholars will be glad to cooperate.

C. E. H.

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

February 19, 1938. LISTED

Mr. Winston W. Cavell,  
Head, Department of Natural Sciences,  
Allen University,  
Columbia, South Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Secretary Roper has asked me to reply to your letter of February 9, requesting information concerning the achievements of Negroes in the natural sciences.

For information relative to Negro natural scientists, I would suggest that you communicate with Mr. J. C. Evans, Secretary, National Technical Association, Institute, West Virginia, or Mr. Frederick S. Weaver, Director of the Achievement Project, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 920 U Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. The following Negroes are listed in American Men of Science and may be reached at the addresses indicated:

Harvey, Burwell Towns, (Chemistry) Morehouse College,  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Ines, Elmer Samuel, (Physics) Head, Department, Physics,  
Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee  
Julian, Percy Lanon, (Chemistry) Chemist, Glidden Co.,  
Chicago, Illinois  
Just, Ernest Everett, (Zoology) Professor, Zoology,  
Howard University, Washington, D. C.  
Lewis, Julian Herman, (Pathology) Associate Professor,  
Pathology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.  
McKinney, Roscoe Lewis, (Anatomy) Professor, Anatomy,  
Howard University, Washington, D. C.  
Nabritt, Samuel Milton, (Morphology) Physiology, Pro-  
fessor, Biology, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.  
Sumner, Francis Cecil, (Psychology) Head, Dept., Psy-  
chology, Howard University, Washington, D. C.  
Thornton, Robert Ambrose, (Physics) Professor, Physics,  
Talladega College, Alabama  
Turner, Thomas Wyatt, (Botany) Head, Dept. Biology,  
Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia

- 2 -

Other eminent Negro scientists are George Washington Carver, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama; St. Elmo Brady, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee; Russell W. Brown, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama; Charles Wesley Buggs, Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana and Lloyd A. Hall, 1415 West 37th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

You may be interested in the book written by R. H. Merritt, entitled "The Life of George Washington Carver," published in Boston by the Meador Publishing Company in 1929.

In order to obtain copies of papers prepared by these men, I would suggest that you communicate with them asking for reprints of any articles published. This would be much less expensive than the purchase of the magazines or journals in which the material was originally published.

Very truly yours,

M. Kerlin,  
Administrative Assistant  
to The Secretary.

TEM/jv

MAILED FEB 21 1938 by V

88449?

INDEXED

September 12, 1958

MM  
FILES  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Memorandum

**For:** Assistant Secretaries Johnson and Patterson  
South Trimble, Jr.  
Mr. Kerlin

**From:** Secretary of Commerce

In the study of the personnel for operations of the Department to which we referred in our morning conference several days ago, please do not overlook the matter of Negro statistical studies, which studies were pursued in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce by E. Kinckle Jones and later by Charles Hall in the Census Bureau.

Since Hall was retired on account of age in June, we have not filled his place. We have several Negroes who are continuously pursuing us about it. Consequently, we must give early consideration to the question as to whether this work should be continued or not. It may be that you will wish to defer a positive decision on this until after the November Elections.

From my talks with persons who come to my desk from foreign field assignments, I feel that there is a great deal of information coming to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of economic and world political value that could well be briefed periodically and during these distressing times, probably monthly, for the information of the President and probably through him the Committees of the Congress having to do with this Department. I have spoken to Mr. Sowell about this and believe that it is worthy of this Committee's attention.

D.C.R.

DCR:R

*Original to Asst Secy Johnson*

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

October 21, 1938

Listed

Memorandum

For: Dr. A. H. Dye, Director  
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce

From: A. B. Sowell  
Assistant to the Secretary

The Secretary thinks it would be advisable to be represented at this meeting and wishes you would designate someone to attend and then prepare for him a brief of the discussion. Also, please make proper acknowledgment of the invitation.

RECEIVED FOR FOLDER  
8861 32 100  
OCT 22 1938

A. B. S.

Invitation of Mr. and Mrs. L. Corrin Strong  
to A Panel Discussion on "What Shall Washington  
Do With The Negro?" at their home, 2712 Thirtysecond St., NW  
Wednesday evening, Oct. 26th

ABS:A

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

Listed

November 21, 1938.

Mr. Aubrey Williams,  
Executive Director, National Youth Administration,  
1734 New York Avenue NW.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Williams:

In response to your letter of November 14th, we have informed Mr. Joseph R. Houchins that it will be agreeable to the Department for him to take part in the conference of Negro leaders on the Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth on January 12, 13 and 14, 1939.

This is a subject in which I am interested and am glad to assist in every practicable way to inform the public of what we are doing to aid the Negro.

Very sincerely,

LAUREL C. ROPER

Secretary of Commerce.

*YMK*  
MK:L.S

Mailed NOV 21 1938 by *[Signature]*

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

Listed

November 21, 1938

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Austin:

You may inform Mr. Houchins that the Department has authorized his participation in the proposed conference, but that he should discuss with you the data and exhibits which he will present, and of course, if he is to make any prepared talk that he should have it reviewed by your Office, as in the case of all addresses made by personnel of your Bureau.

Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
NOV 22 1938  
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Enclosure

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

Listed

May 23, 1939.

Mr. B. T. Bradshaw,  
President, Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.,  
Richmond, Virginia.

My dear Mr. Bradshaw:

Secretary Hopkins has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 17 and to say that he is pleased to know of your interest in the Department of Commerce and will bear in mind your suggestion that the activities formerly carried on by Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones be revived.

Very truly yours,

M. KERLIN

M. KERLIN,  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary.

Mailed MAY 27 1939

Personal  
APPLIED TO DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMERCE

oos

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

June 7, 1939

88449

Listed

Mr. George K. Hunton, Editor  
Interracial Review  
20 Vesey Street  
New York, New York

INDEXED

Dear Mr. Hunton:

Secretary Hopkins has asked me to reply to your letter to him of June 3 in behalf of Mr. Floyd J. Calvin, whom you recommend for the position of Advisor on Negro Affairs.

This position is being very capably and efficiently handled by Dr. Joseph R. Houchins, who took up the work following the resignation of Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones. There is no need at this time to increase the staff of this unit. Money is not available to expand its activities, and, in all probability, none will be made available in the appropriation for 1940.

All of the positions in the section on Negro Affairs are now under civil service, and any vacancies that may occur in the unit will require civil service status as a prerequisite for appointment. However, your interest in Mr. Calvin will not be overlooked should an opportunity arise for his employment.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. JOHNSON

Assistant Secretary of Commerce

Mailed JUN - 9 1939 by *[Signature]*

*oed*  
*mm*

*Papers to B.F.D.C.*

*Chief Clerk*  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1940

Department of Commerce

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

COLLECT

S. J. Phillips,  
Field Representative,  
Tuskegee, Alabama.

Listed  
~~██████████~~

INDEX AGAINST ESTIMATE 1935 PURCHASING POWER OF UNITED STATES NEGROES  
2 BILLION DOLLARS.

*Noble*

Edward J. Noble,  
Under Secretary of Commerce.

EMW:han:AS

*RM*

*Papers to B.P.P.*

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

UNIT ON NEGRO AFFAIRS

200 - file

88449

In November 1927, Foreign and Domestic Commerce appointed James A. Jackson (colored) at \$2,400 per annum, as a business specialist to look after affairs pertaining to business conducted by colored people. As a part of his duties he made addresses before small business groups, and fraternal, social and religious societies. In January 1931, he received his last promotion to \$3,000 per annum. August 31, 1933, his services were discontinued on account of reduction in the force.

In October 1933, Mr. Roper appointed Eugene Kinckle Jones at \$5,600 per annum as Advisor on Negro Affairs. He headed up a small unit in Foreign and Domestic Commerce, charged with a program looking towards encouragement and aid of Negroes towards business and economic improvement. Jones resigned June 30, 1937, at which time he was receiving \$5,800. His unit was then transferred to the Census Bureau and merged with unit there which handled all Negro statistics with Charles E. Hall in charge. Hall's salary was increased from \$2,700 to \$3,200. Hall had been with the Bureau for 37 years and had a very high standing among all the Negroes. On May 31, 1938, Hall retired on account of age, and Joseph R. Houchins, his assistant, has handled the unit since that time. He now receives \$3,000.

Many recommendations for appointment were received following Hall's retirement, but the Department then felt that it would be advisable to defer any appointment in the hope that Houchins would fill the position satisfactorily. He has handled the work in a splendid manner but naturally he does not have the wide acquaintenship possessed by either Jones or Hall and consequently does not have the leadership that they had.

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
JAN 31 1940

PHONE MICHIGAN 200

## NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
PRESIDENT

JOHN P. DAVIS  
SECRETARY

U. SIMPSON TATE  
TREASURER

THIRD NATIONAL  
NEGRO CONGRESS

APRIL 26, 27, 28, 1940

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NATIONAL OFFICE  
717 FLORIDA AVENUE, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Honorable Harry Hopkins:  
Secretary of Commerce  
Washington, D.C.

April 1, 1940

My dear Mr. Hopkins:

A great liberal - Dr. Frank Graham of the University of North Carolina - said last year that the test of American democracy is our nation's treatment of its Negro minority. Because we believe you to be one of those Americans who subscribe to this understanding of democracy we are writing to you about the work of the National Negro Congress.

Our organization is five years old. We are a federation of approximately 3,300 organizations operating through 72 local federations. Our task has been to integrate the Negro people into our national life. We have sought to win for them economic and social security, democratic rights and cultural freedom.

Here are a few glimpses of our work from which its basic pattern may be gleaned: We have worked to bring Negro workers into labor unions. To that end we paid for and distributed a quarter of a million leaflets to Negro steel workers alone. We have supported the program of organization of labor unions, fighting with them in strikes, in their campaigns for progressive legislation, in their efforts to win labor board elections.

We have developed a fight for passage of the anti-lynching bill, supported efforts for poll tax repeal and exposed to the light of public opinion the ugly activities of the Ku Klux Klan. The National Negro Congress has won many victories locally and nationally in its effort to guarantee the citizenship rights of the Negro people.

We have sought to promote the health and education of our people through campaigns of public health education, through efforts to secure federal and state legislation in aid of the health and education of the Negro People. Through our youth section we have dealt with pressing problems of recreation and juvenile delinquency. We have worked on problems of housing, family welfare and other serious social problems.

In dozens of communities the Negro Congress has brought to the public a true picture of the Negro's contribution to American culture: through art exhibits, music festivals, plays, forums, radio programs. Our Northern California Council has maintained a 15 minute weekly radio program for more than four years.

Now is the time to close ranks for freedom and equality. Let us unite the Negro organizations and the friends of Negro freedom on a program for security and manhood rights for the Negroes in America.

From these glimpses you will see that our organization is engaged in the task of making democracy a reality to the Negro American. In this task we are contributing to the maintenance of democracy for all the people.

The enclosed Call for the Third National Negro Congress will reveal to you our plan for a mass gathering of the leaders of Negro people this month. More than 3000 delegates will come to Washington to exchange opinions and experiences, to plan for a brighter future for Negro America. Such eminent speakers as John L. Lewis and others have consented to speak to us. Outstanding leaders of organizations in all walks of life have endorsed our work.

Such an undertaking requires large expenditure if it is to be successful. For this reason we are appealing to you to join with your fellow-Americans in making this effort to extend democracy to the Negro people a success by making a financial contribution to our cause. We need funds badly. We need the encouragement which your contribution to us at this time would give. We trust you will make as liberal a contribution as possible to help us accomplish our goal.

Sincerely yours,

*John P. Davis*

John P. Davis  
National Secretary

JPD/p

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 29, 1940

Dear Mr. Randolph:

It gives me pleasure to send greetings once again to another great and representative gathering of Negro citizens at the Third National Negro Congress. This is a time in the history of the world and in the history of our own nation when the wisdom of the whole people is more than ever needed if common problems are to be solved.

Because of confusion and unrest it is more than ever important that the place of a minority group in a democracy not be obscured by ignorance and prejudice. It is important that members of a minority group consider together their special problems in order that these problems may find expression for the benefit of all. It is of even greater importance that the whole people consider with open and sympathetic mind these problems of the minority in order that the processes of democracy may work to bring about their solution. For it is obvious that the political, social and economic well-being of the whole people depends upon the achievement of that well-being for all sections of the population regardless of color, creed or geography.

Very sincerely yours,



Mr. A. Philip Randolph,  
President,  
National Negro Congress,  
717 Florida Avenue, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

June 25, 1940.

Listed

Mr. Milton Abelson,  
Chairman, Adjustment Committee,  
United Federal Workers of America,  
532 Seventeenth Street NW.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Abelson:

I have your letter of June 25th calling attention to several acts which have occurred in the Department which, in the opinion of your organization, are discriminatory to the Negro.

This matter will be investigated as agreed at our conference on June 14th and we will get in touch with you at a later date with reference thereto.

Very truly yours,

Mr. KERRIN

Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

NO PAPERS

Mailed JUN 25 1940

88449

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
DIVISION OF PERSONNEL SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON

*Hold me*

IN REPLY REFER TO  
FILE NO.

July 3, 1940

MEMORANDUM TO MR. KERLIN:

INDEXED

The following is submitted as a basis for a reply to the attached letter to you from Mr. Milton Abelson, or as a basis for discussion with <sup>Chief of the</sup> ~~Chief of the~~ <sup>SECRETARY</sup> ~~his~~ committee:

I have personally investigated charges of bias and race prejudice referred to in his letter. In regard to item 1, there is no denial that Miss Marie Stuart and perhaps other supervisors in the Division of Population have, at various times during the induction and training of new employees in the division, informed Negro employees where the cafeteria is and have referred to the small cafeteria as "for you" or "a place for you to get your lunch" or "the place where the colored employees lunch." It is confidently believed, however, that the use of these terms has been the result of an effort on the part of these supervisors to be of service to the employees and has not evidenced any racial prejudice of a vicious or violent type, and has not been an intention of a violation of a departmental policy.

2. It is admitted that so far as items 2 to 6 are concerned, all of which refer to the Division of Agriculture, that in conversation between the supervisors and employees the Negro employees have been directed to go to "their own cafeteria" or "that the smaller cafeteria is provided for colored employees." There is an absolute denial, however, of any typewritten notice or any verbal orders emanating from the office of the Chief Statistician tending to show discrimination or making any attempt at race segregation. It is denied that Mrs. Brinton circulated a petition among the white employees of her section, but it is not denied that perhaps she and the members of her section signed a petition directed against the use of the larger cafeteria by Negro employees. It is believed that this petition refers to one now in the hands of Mr. Flaherty who has been able to identify the origin of it.

Mr. Pettet recalls the incident referred to in item 6 and describes it somewhat as follows: he was in the line advancing to be served in the cafeteria toward the end of the serving period and almost at the end of the line. Immediately ahead of him were four colored girls who impressed him as being new employees and seemed bewildered as to where they should go for cafeteria service. He says that he left the line and went to the counter girl and asked her if Charles White (a colored supervisor on the permanent roll of the Census Bureau) was in the cafeteria, having in mind to suggest to White that he give information to these girls where to lunch. The counter girl told him that White was not present and Mr. Pettet says that he asked the counter girl, also colored, if she would take care of these four employees, which she did, and they left the line and went to the small cafeteria. This is in substance Mr. Pettet's own story which was confirmed, almost in every detail, by another official of the Bureau who happened to be in line at the same time but who did not know that the case was included in my investigation.

July 3, 1940  
Memorandum to Mr. Kerlin  
Page 2

I pointed out to the officials of the two divisions herein referred to, in the presence of Dr. Reed, that the departmental policy is that there shall be no discrimination of sex, color, race, or creed, and that the administrative employees of the Bureau should refrain absolutely from giving expression on this matter beyond that statement, and that such terms as "your cafeteria" and "our cafeteria, "lunch room for colored employees" "Negro cafeteria" or "messenger cafeteria" should all be discontinued in instructions on the various facilities which the building offers to the employees. No Negro employees are to be asked to leave the service line at either cafeteria or to be impelled by attitude or instruction to leave or discontinue using either cafeteria.

I have no great deal of hope that evidence of discrimination may not from time to time develop. Some of it may even be of a vicious nature as there does exist, without doubt, very pronounced race prejudices among some people. I am convinced, however, that, so far as the officials of the Bureau of the Census are concerned, there is now and will continue to be a very conscientious effort to eliminate all sentiments of race prejudice, all appearance of discrimination, and that there will be a definite insistence upon a strict adherence to the departmental policy on this matter.

My comments regarding the three recommendations which the committee makes on page 3 of their communication are as follows:

1. My own philosophy as a personnel man and also supported by a number of years of teaching experience is that there should be at least some relationship between penalties imposed and the offense. So far as I know there does not exist any standards of penalties for biases and prejudices which individuals have. The only way, in my opinion, that biases and prejudices can be eliminated or mitigated is through the process of training and education, which aid the persons to recognize in themselves the presence of prejudices and help them to maintain a perpetual inventory upon these characteristics which they possess. Disciplinary action in connection with prejudices and biases must be self-imposed. Any attempt to impose penalties from the outside serve, in the main, to increase and aggravate these qualities. I believe that the course which we have adopted in connection with matters referred to in this letter is equitable and will have final satisfactory results.
2. I believe that this recommendation might properly be put into effect after a very carefully worded statement of policy is worked out and agreed upon. I believe the policy is thoroughly understood but the phrasing of it for distribution or publicity requires considerable thought.
3. In view of the fact that the force of the Bureau of the Census is constantly increasing and will eventually reach a proportion in that building which will tax the cafeteria facilities to their utmost, I think it would be contrary to good administration to shut down any of these facilities.

*Oliver E. Short*  
Oliver E. Short

*W. Howard*

June 25, 1940.

Mr. Milton Abelson,  
Chairman, Adjustment Committee,  
United Federal Workers of America,  
532 Seventeenth Street NW.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Abelson:

I have your letter of June 25th calling attention to several acts which have occurred in the Department which, in the opinion of your organization, are discriminatory to the Negro.

This matter will be investigated as agreed at our conference on June 14th and we will get in touch with you at a later date with reference thereto.

Very truly yours,

Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

DISTRICT 3250

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LOCAL No. 23  
UNITED FEDERAL WORKERS OF AMERICA

AFFILIATED WITH CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

532 17TH STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.



June 25, 1940

Mr. Malcolm Kerlin,  
Administrative Assistant to the Secretary,  
Department of Commerce,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kerlin:

On Friday, June 14, 1940, a committee of this Local met with you and Mr. Short to call attention to several acts practiced in the Department which are discriminatory to Negroes. These concern the situation in the Cafeteria of the new Census Building, and discriminatory work practices. At that time you requested that the committee submit to you, in writing, instances of such mal-practices which you stated would be used as a basis for investigation, especially since you indicated that by an order of May 1, 1940 no racial prejudice was to be practiced in the Cafeteria, and that acts of discrimination called to your attention subsequent to that date, and which you had had investigated, were denied by the Cafeteria management.

On Friday, June 21, another instance of such biased action occurred, an incident so flagrant that we are asking you to have an immediate investigation made of this situation in the Cafeteria. We would like to make the question of job discrimination the subject of a second letter.

To begin, we present for your information and guidance several evidences of violations of the order of May 1.

1. On May 27 Miss Marie Stuart of the Division of Population of the Census Bureau, after announcing general directions to the Cafeteria, turned to one Negro, added, "And there is a nice place for you." This can be substantiated by Dorothy Dean Kader, Augusta Lomack, and Natalie Moorman of that Division.

Notwithstanding this statement, the young women proceeded to the large Cafeteria where one of the Cafeteria Supervisors approached the group and informed them, "This is not your Cafeteria."

DISTRICT 3250

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LOCAL NO. 23  
UNITED FEDERAL WORKERS OF AMERICA  
AFFILIATED WITH CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
532 17TH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

- 2 -

June 25, 1940  
Mr. Malcolm Kerlin

The girls did not leave the line; whereupon she stated, "You can be served much more quickly in 'your' Cafeteria." When they did not leave, nothing further was said.

2. On May 8, Mr. Vandercook, of the Division of Agriculture, instructed Elise Dorsey, Lester Hitchens, Minnie L. Johnson, Jerome Vass, and Norma Wilkins, five Negroes, who had reported for their first day of duty, that Negroes were to eat in the small dining room set aside for them and that it was as nice as the white dining room, the only difference being in size.

3. Since that time a typewritten notice from the office of Mr. Pettit to the effect that Negroes were to use the small Cafeteria has been received.

4. On June 5, 1940, both colored sections of the Division of Agriculture received from Mr. Pettit's office, an order transmitted by Mr. Slich to the effect that all colored employees were to use the smaller cafeteria, set aside for them. This order was passed on by both Section Chiefs to their clerks. Any of the employees in those Sections will substantiate this statement.

5. About two weeks ago Mrs. Brinton of the Division of Agriculture circulated a petition among certain white employees of her Section which was directed against the use of the larger Cafeteria by the colored employees. We are of the impression that the petition did not originate with Mrs. Brinton.

6. All of these things are important in themselves but a more serious note was injected into the situation when on Friday, June 21, Mr. Zelmer R. Pettit, Chief Statistician of the Division of Agriculture, left his table in the Cafeteria to instruct one of the counter-girls to tell four colored employees who were waiting to be served to go where they belonged. The four young women, frightened and embarrassed, immediately left the line.

All of these incidents imply an official sanction of the racial segregation practiced in the Cafeterias, and would refute any belief that such segregation is self-imposed.

DISTRICT 3250

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LOCAL NO. 23  
UNITED FEDERAL WORKERS OF AMERICA  
AFFILIATED WITH CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
532 17TH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

- 3 -

June 25, 1940  
Mr. Malcolm Kerlin

We, therefore, recommend:

1. That an immediate investigation be made of the violations of the Department's policy of no discrimination in Cafeterias, and that those responsible for the discriminatory acts be disciplined.
2. That the Department's original order be implemented by a circular letter placed in the hands of each employee of the Department, which would make clear the Department's policy of no discriminatory practices; and that copies be posted on bulletin boards to remain.
3. That since the small dining room is now regarded as a Negro dining room that it be either closed or used as a light lunch counter and that the steam table in the large Cafeteria not now in use be opened for service inasmuch as the other two counters there are already very busy.

We appreciate your gracious cooperation and hope that this matter can be speedily adjusted.

Respectfully yours,

*Milton Abelson*

Milton Abelson, Chairman,  
Adjustment Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

August 22, 1940.

H. L. H.

Mr. Hopkins:

This memorandum is submitted at the request of Mr. Niles. I understand you had some conversation with him on the subject of Mr. Lancaster's assignment to Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

*M.K.*  
M.K.

*[Handwritten scribbles]*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

August 22, 1940.

88449

MEMORANDUM for Secretary Hopkins:

Re Service to Negro Business.

James A. Jackson (colored) was appointed a special agent in 1927 in the Domestic Commerce Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, to render service to Negro business; he was to prepare statistical and analytical data of a business nature of interest to the Negro business man, gathering the material from the files of the bureau "as well as other Government bureaus." His duties also included "to make addresses before small business groups, and fraternal, social and religious societies." Jackson continued to perform these duties until August 31, 1933.

Eugene Kinckle Jones (colored) was appointed a Special Agent October 19, 1933, in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and assumed the duties previously performed by Jackson. Jones resigned June 30, 1937.

Charles E. Hall, a colored officer in the Census Bureau, who had been in charge of the gathering of statistical data relating to the Negro, and who first entered the Bureau July 1, 1903, assumed joint supervision over this work, directing the operations of the two units. Hall retired on account of age on May 31, 1938, and it was decided to permit the position to remain vacant to see whether there was any real demand from Negroes in business for the type of services which had been previously rendered.

In December, 1939, and January, 1940, the Department received numerous requests for the re-establishment of this service to Negro business and an effort was made to locate a properly qualified man. This search was concluded with the appointment on May 23, 1940, of Emmer Lancaster (colored). Lancaster was temporarily carried on the rolls of the Secretary's Office until he had an opportunity to survey the requirements of his position and the sources of his working data and material. On July 1, 1940, he was assigned to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, where he undoubtedly should be located and where such work was inaugurated in 1927. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce was informed in a memorandum of June 28, 1940, that Lancaster was to be carried by that Bureau.

*M. Kerlin*  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

June 28, 1940.

Memorandum for Mr. James W. Young,  
Director, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Developments during the past few days have made it highly essential that we continue a few of the specialists now carried on the rolls of the Secretary of Commerce to assist the Secretary of Commerce in the study of problems arising in connection with the present national defense or emergency program. Many of the matters would normally flow to your Bureau and the others have a direct relationship to your activities. However, in view of their importance and the need for their expeditious handling under the immediate direction of the Secretary of Commerce, it is desired that they be detailed to the Office of the Secretary for service. Under these circumstances, the Secretary would like you to arrange to carry on the rolls of your Bureau the following personnel until such time as other arrangements can be made for their compensation:

V. Lewis Bassie	Principal Economist	P-6	\$5,600
Roderick H. Riley	Principal Economist	P-6	5,600
Victor Perle	Senior Statistician	P-5	4,600
Walter S. Salant	Senior Economist	P-5	4,600
Helen Tarasov	Junior Economist	P-1	2,000
John Lindeman	Junior Economist	P-1	2,000
Harold Wein	Junior Economist	P-1	2,000
Emmer M. Lancaster	Economic Analyst	P-4	4,000
Clifford J. Hynning	Associate Economist	P-3	3,500

A request has been received from the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense for the temporary loan, on a reimbursable basis, of the following, and the Secretary wishes you would arrange to carry them on your rolls with the understanding that their salaries will be taken care of by the Commission:

Don D. Humphrey	Principal Economist	P-6	\$5,600
G. G. Johnson, Jr.	Senior Economist	P-5	4,600
William B. Saunders	Junior Statistician	P-1	2,000
Robert Solo	Junior Economist	P-1	2,000

By direction of the Secretary:

*15/ Files.*  
Assistant to the Secretary.

Merlin:LQS

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

OCT 11 1940

Listed

Mr. Edwin Lacy  
P. O. Box 86  
Longview, Texas

Dear Mr. Lacy:

I am grateful to you for your commendation of James Leon Williams of Longview, Texas. When I became Secretary of Commerce, I found on the rolls of the Department an advisor on Negro affairs to the Secretary. I have found him qualified from an educational standpoint for the position, and also a man who apparently has the understanding and sympathetic support of the members of his race.

Your endorsement of James Leon Williams, however, will not be overlooked should there arise a necessity for subsequently filling the position at present occupied, or adding to the staff.

Sincerely yours,

*Jesse H. Jones*  
Secretary of Commerce  
*By M. Keelin*

OCS:J

*ocs*

OCT 11 1940

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TO BUREAU

*Personnel*

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

OCT 17 1940

88449

Listed

My dear Senator Sheppard:

I am grateful to you for your commendation of James Leon Williams of Longview, Texas. When I became Secretary of Commerce, I found on the rolls of the Department an advisor on Negro affairs to the Secretary. I have found him qualified from an educational standpoint for the position, and also a man who apparently has the understanding and sympathetic support of the members of his race.

Your endorsement of Williams, however, will not be overlooked should there arise a necessity for subsequently filling the position at present occupied, or adding to the staff.

Sincerely yours,

JESSE H. JONES

Secretary of Commerce

REF:ASH

Mailed OCT 17 1940 by V

Honorable Morris Sheppard  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

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TO BUREAU

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MK

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

88449

October 23, 1940

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Listed

My dear Senator Sheppard:

Your letter of October 5, with enclosure from the Honorable Edwin Lacy of Longview, Texas, has just come to my attention. Mr. Lacy wrote a similar letter to me in behalf of James Leon Williams, and you have also written me in his behalf. There is nothing I can add to my replies to these letters. I will keep Williams in mind and get in touch with him should work develop on which we could use him in the office of the Advisor on Negro Affairs.

Sincerely yours,

JESSE H. JONES

Secretary of Commerce

Hon. Morris Sheppard  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

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JHJ

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MAILED OCT 25 1940

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

✓  
88449  
re. desk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. Edward W. Libbey, Chief Clerk  
and Superintendent

FROM: Emmer Martin Lancaster, Adviser on  
Negro Affairs

DATE: January 3, 1941

SUBJECT: Request for additional stenographer desk,  
typewriter and desk lamp

Respectfully submitted,

*Emmer Martin Lancaster*  
Emmer Martin Lancaster

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 Office of the  
 Administrative Assistant to the  
 Secretary

*Mr. Coombs, C.C.O.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/> Approval
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Hinckley	<input type="checkbox"/> Initialing
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Trimble	<input type="checkbox"/> Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. Mikell	<input type="checkbox"/> As information
	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Austin	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct reply
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Baxter	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Briggs	<input type="checkbox"/> Filing
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Burgess	<input type="checkbox"/> Please return
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Coe	<input type="checkbox"/> For comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Adm. Colbert	<input type="checkbox"/> To note
<input type="checkbox"/> Col. Connolly	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Erwin	
<input type="checkbox"/> Com. Field	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Foster	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Libbey	<i>Papers were sent</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Mayne	<i>to Mr. Short</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Molster	<i>L.P.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Morrow	
<input type="checkbox"/> Com. Reichelderfer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Short	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Wilson	

88449  
FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
January 25, 1941.

Listed

Dear Rev. Jernagin:

I have your letter of January 24th with reference to the alleged discrimination against Negroes.

In the light of your statements I assume that you are speaking of this subject in connection with the Bureau of the Census where a large number of temporary employees are now working on the decennial census. There have been more Negroes employed in connection with this decennial census than in any previous census. In fact, this is the first time that Negroes have been employed in connection with the field work in assignments outside of Washington. In the work in the Bureau in Washington, to which I believe you have reference, I find that there is no justification for any statement that in the employment of personnel there has been any discrimination against the Negro. The peak of the work in Washington was reached about January 1st of this year; on that date there were 10,000 employees in the Bureau and of that number 9.83% were Negroes, whereas the percentage of Negroes to the total population of the United States is 9.70%.

The peak of the work in some of the units has passed and it is now the inevitable and unfortunate task of the Census officials to make separations. In the Division of Population, where the terminations are now taking place, the Administrative Office in compiling the list of those to go has no way of knowing the race or any of the personal characteristics except the production records of those persons recommended for termination. Therefore, the separations are made from the individuals' production record which contain no information as to the race of the employee. It will thus be readily seen there is no discrimination against the Negroes in these separations.

I am asking Mr. O. C. Short, the Director of Personnel for the Department of Commerce, to get in touch with you at your convenience and discuss this matter with you, furnishing any additional information you may desire.

Very sincerely,

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
JAN 29 1941  
Papers to Personnel

Ways C. Taylor  
Acting Secretary of Commerce.

MK.  
Rev. W. H. Jernagin,  
1341 Third Street NW.,  
Washington, D. C.

MK:LAS

mailed  
1/25/41 TJS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

88449

FILES February 6, 1941  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Dear Mr. Miller:

I have your letter of January 28 with reference to the alleged discrimination against Negroes in the Bureau of the Census.

There have been more Negroes employed in this decennial census than in any previous census. In fact, this is the first time that Negroes have been employed in connection with the field work in assignments outside of Washington. In the work in the Bureau in Washington, I find that there is no justification for any statement that in the employment of personnel there has been any discrimination against the Negro. The peak of the work in Washington was reached about January 1 of this year; on that date there were 10,000 employees in the Bureau and of that number 9.83% were Negroes, whereas the percentage of Negroes to the total population of the United States is 9.70%.

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I am asking Mr. O. G. Short, the Director of Personnel for the Department of Commerce, to get in touch with you at your convenience and discuss this matter with you, furnishing any additional information you may desire.

Sincerely yours,

M. KERLIN  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

Mr. Hugh Miller  
Chairman  
Washington Committee for Democratic Action  
Room 312 - 1410 H Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

MAILED FEB - 8 1941

MK:OCS:ASH

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COPY

Copies of  
Mr. Kerlin  
The Director  
Dr. Hauser  
Dr. Houchins  
Mr. Lancaster

January 30, 1941.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
INDEXED  
*File*

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am writing in response to your letter of January 28, in which you charge the Census Bureau with unjust discrimination against Negro employees with respect to work assignments and terminations. I was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss this matter with you this morning and to present the facts in the case. I am replying in an open letter which you may use as you see fit. I shall do likewise.

You indicated that the source of your information of alleged discrimination against Negro employees was the Commerce Local of the United Federal Workers of America. I have seen the circulars which this organization has distributed on this subject, and it is clear to me that if the information you have received was of the same character you have been badly misinformed about the actual facts in the case.

The facts which follow can be supported by ample records and are given with the same frankness with which they were discussed with you in my office this morning.

The percentage of Negroes in the total population of the United States as reported in the 1930 Census was 9.7. On the basis of preliminary 1940 Census data available to date, it is clear that the percentage of Negroes in the country did not change in 1940. The percentage of Negro employees in the Census Bureau is 9.83. During the enumeration period of the Census, we employed approximately 10,000 Negro enumerators and clerks. These enumerators and clerks were employed in every State except one, as I recall, and the reason it was not done in this State was because of local clamor over which we had no control. At the end of this enumeration period we had several letters from white and Negro organizations commenting favorably upon the way the two races had worked together in making the Census successful. It is clear with respect to hiring practices that

see list. I shall do likewise.  
I am replying to an open letter  
case. I am replying to this morning's  
letter with you this morning. I  
returning. I was pleased to have the  
signature Negro employees with respect to  
to which you charge the Census Bureau  
I am writing to address to

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Mr. H. H. H. H.  
Mr. H. H. H. H.

Office

Page 2  
Mr. Hugh Miller  
January 30, 1941

there has been no discrimination against the Negroes. If there has been any discrimination, it has been against the whites.

There is no factual basis whatsoever for the charge that Negro employees have been assigned to jobs that "pay the least and are of the shortest duration." Three main factors have governed the work assignments of all employees in the Census Bureau---both of the Negroes and whites: (1) the character of the job for which the person was qualified on the Civil Service registers; (2) the data of certification by the Civil Service Commission; and (3) the status of the work in the various divisions.

You mentioned this morning that unduly large proportions of Negroes were employed as punch card operators. This is entirely attributable to the fact that punch card operators certified to the Bureau for this type of work were, to a large extent, Negroes. These people must be taken from Civil Service registers, and the type of examination they have taken largely determines the jobs on which they can be placed. There are certain types of examinations which evidently Negro aspirants do not take in any considerable numbers. There are other types of jobs, including card punching, for which Negroes apparently do take examinations in large numbers. It is true that the beginning salary of a card punch operator is \$1,260 per annum, below the \$1,440 rate paid for clerical work. This starting salary, however, is fixed by the Civil Service Commission and not by the Census Bureau. That we have definitely attempted to improve the salary rates of all card punchers, including Negroes, is attested to by the fact that we have made arrangements, with the approval of the Civil Service Commission, to pay card punch operators up to \$1,620 per annum in accordance with the efficiency of the employee.

You also made reference this morning to alleged discriminatory work assignments for Negroes in the Population Division. The falseness of this charge was discussed in some detail with you. All of the large-scale clerical operations in the Population Division involve essentially the same type of work, the same rates of pay, and the same probability of tenure. You will recall that even the specific assertions made to you by the Commerce Local of the CIO with respect to the probable conclusion of Operation 7 relative to the other operations was definitely not true.

It is true that there are some small operations currently in process in the Population Division in which Negro employees do not







Mr. Hugh Miller  
January 30, 1941  
The office of the  
Director of the  
Federal Bureau of  
Investigation  
is pleased to  
acknowledge the  
receipt of your  
letter of the  
29th instant.  
The Bureau is  
currently  
conducting an  
investigation  
into the  
activities of  
certain  
individuals  
and it is  
hoped that  
the results  
of this  
investigation  
will be  
of interest  
to you.

Page 6  
Mr. Hugh Miller  
January 30, 1941

charges which have been made, it seems that it would be reasonable and fair for you to admit that the accusations made are groundless.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) V. D. Reed

Vergil D. Reed  
Acting Director

Mr. Hugh Miller, Chairman,  
Washington Committee for Democratic Action,  
1410 H Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED  
JAN 29 1941  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

Chapter, National Federation for Constitutional Liberties

1410 H Street, N. W.---Room 312---Phone NATIONAL 3765---Washington, D. C.

January 28, 1941

Dr. Virgil D. Reed  
Acting Director of the Census Bureau  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Reed:

It has been brought to our attention that the present employment policy of the Census Bureau in regard to Negroes has been unjust and discriminatory. Specifically, according to our present knowledge, Negroes have been given the jobs that pay the least and are of the shortest duration. This situation has become especially acute now that many of the operations are terminating. Partly because of the original discriminatory allocation of jobs, a much greater proportion of Negro employees are receiving severance notices than white employees.

The Washington Committee for Democratic Action, an organization representing 500 residents of the District of Columbia in all walks of life, has as its aim the extension of the democratic process and the protection of the civil liberties of all individuals and groups. We believe that today with the increasing threat to democracy everywhere we should bend all our efforts to protect the rights of minority groups as one of the basic tenets of our system of government.

Racial discrimination has no place especially in the government. It is a common practice, in case of termination of operations, to transfer the employees affected to other, continuing operations. We believe that the only way to correct the present unfair situation in the Bureau of the Census is:

- (1) transfer some of these Negro workers to other sections where operations are continuing, and
- (2) discharge Negroes only in proportion to the ratio of Negroes employed.

We protest this disturbing policy and urge that you take some action to remedy it.

Respectfully yours,  
(Signed) Hugh Miller  
Hugh Miller, Chairman

A copy of this letter has also been sent to the Hon. Jesse Jones,  
Secretary of Commerce

TELEPHONE DISTRICT 325C

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LOCAL NO. 23  
UNITED FEDERAL WORKERS OF AMERICA  
AFFILIATED WITH CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
532 17TH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 6, 1941

Mr. Malcolm Kerlin,  
United States Department of Commerce,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kerlin,

In response to your request this morning, I submit herewith this written request for a meeting with you on the question of discrimination against Negroes at the Census Bureau.

We have submitted a complete statement of the facts to Mr. Oliver C. Short, facts showing that Negroes have been permitted only in positions that pay the least and are of the shortest duration. Mr. Short has written us that he finds evidence that our statements are true, but he states that this does not constitute discrimination.

May we meet with you on Tuesday or Wednesday, February 11 or 12, at about one or two P.M.?

Yours very truly,

*Arthur Lichtenstein*

ADJUSTMENTS COMMITTEE

88449

INDEXED

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*Please  
Miss Keller.  
Time official for  
night shift?*

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

Listed

FEB 20 1941

*D. B. R.*  
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Knowing your interest in the welfare of the Negro, I thought you would wish to see a copy of a letter which the Civil Aeronautics Administration has received from Lester B. Granger of the National Urban League. This letter is particularly significant coming from Mr. Granger, who, as the attached newspaper clipping indicates, is quite outspoken when he senses discrimination.

Tuskegee is only one of seven Negro colleges where Civilian Pilot Training courses are being conducted under the auspices of the C.A.A. By June, 500 Negroes will have been trained as pilots under our program during the two years it has been in existence. As nearly as we can determine, this is more than twice as many Negro pilots as were on record from the entire country at the time this program began.

The development of the C.P.T. program at Tuskegee is the subject of an article in the March issue of POPULAR AVIATION, photostats of which I am also enclosing.

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT H. HINCKLEY

Robert H. Hinckley

BY MESSENGER

✓ Enclosures

RWright:vb

Copy to Assistant Secretary

Mailed FEB 21 1941

by *[Signature]*

COPIES RETURNED  
TO BUREAU

*C. A. H.*

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

88449

February 27, 1941

Listed

Dear Mr. Miller:

Your communication of February 25, addressed to Secretary Jones, enclosing a copy of a letter which you have written to Dr. Vergil D. Read, Acting Director, Bureau of the Census, has been referred to me for attention.

According to the information furnished me, which I have every reason to believe you can confirm upon inquiry, the ratio of Negroes to Whites employed on the decennial census was slightly more than the ratio of non-Whites to Whites shown by the 1940 census figures. The early reductions in force carried a somewhat higher ratio of Negroes to Whites than the ratio at which they were employed, but the subsequent reductions have shown a marked decrease in the number of Negroes separated to the number of Whites until at the present time the ratio of Negroes to Whites left in employment is decidedly in advance of the ratio at which they were employed. The indications are that this ratio will be increased over the next several months; for example, I am informed this morning that 16 percent of the employees on the card punching operation are Negroes.

If we followed the requests of those who have spoken to us and written to us in behalf of our Negro employees to reduce at the same ratio that they were employed, the results would be far less favorable to the Negro than the indications at present reveal.

Very truly yours,

M. KERLIN

M. Kerlin  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

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TO BUREAU

Personnel

Mr. Hugh Miller  
Chairman, Washington Committee for Democratic Action  
1410 H Street, N. W., Room 312  
Washington, D. C.

Mailed FEB 28 1941 by *V*

OCS:J  
*OCB*

86447

INDEXED

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
FILES

March 29, 1941.

MEMORANDUM for Dr. Reed:

The Adjustment Committee of the United Federal Workers of America has claimed to me that Negroes are not employed to operate tabulating, sorting or gang punching machines, although there are a considerable number of Negroes with the requisite experience to operate such machines. At the time this complaint was lodged the Committee made the point that the Negroes were thus denied the opportunity to earn the higher rate of pay for the operation of the machines and that they also desired a chance to acquire experience and skill on the machines which would be valuable to them in the future.

Will you please inform me as to the policy of the Census Bureau in this matter and furnish me any statement you might desire as to why the proposal of the Adjustment Committee is not one that can be met by the Census Bureau?

It has been reported to us that in the absence of Civil Service registers the Bureau of the Census has trained only Whites for work offering a higher pay in the Bureau of the Census, even though there were on the rolls Negroes with equal training and experience as Whites.

Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

PHONE DISTRICT 3250

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE LOCAL NO. 23

UNITED FEDERAL WORKERS OF AMERICA

AFFILIATED WITH CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

532 17TH STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 6, 1941

To: Mr. Malcolm Kerlin  
From: Adjustment Committee, Commerce Local 23, U.F.W.A.

Subject: Transfers of Negro Employees in the Census Bureau

Mr. Kerlin and the Committee were in agreement on an understanding of the facts with regard to the delayed transfer of Negroes from closing operation in the Population Division to later operations, and the limitation of such transfers to 2 operations, namely 7 and 11, in which the largest proportion of the dismissals up to date have taken place.

There was substantial agreement on the reason for the disproportionate number of Negroes dismissed from these operations because of lower production ratings due to delayed transfer.

Mr. Kerlin pointed out that due to hirings in Machine Tabulation, the total proportion of Negroes in the Census had gone above the proportion before any dismissals had taken place. The committee pointed out that notwithstanding that fact, the tenure of Negroes in the Population Division (and in the Agriculture Division as Negroes in Agriculture had been transferred to the 2 above mentioned operations in Population) had been adversely affected in comparison with whites and that this constituted an injustice. The committee asked that for the approximately 70 Negro clerks remaining in Population equal opportunity be given for transfer to other operations, e. g. final results, typing pool and other divisions of the Census. Mr. Kerlin agreed that it merited consideration and stated that he would look into the matter.

The committee also pointed out that Negroes are not employed to operate tabulating, sorting or gang punching machines, although there were a considerable number of Negroes with the requisite experience to operate such machines. Thus they are denied the opportunity to earn the higher rate paid for the operation of these machines and also the chance to acquire experience and skill in the operation of these machines which would be valuable in future employment. Mr. Kerlin agreed that this problem likewise merited correction if after investigation he found it to exist.

*Marcel Kerlin*  
For the Adjustment Committee.

*To Kerlin to  
be read about  
this*

*See memo to  
committee of  
3/29*

*Conference Mar 3, 1941*

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

1-C

88449

April 5, 1941.

Listed

Dear Miss Keller:

With further reference to the transfer of Negro employees in the Census Bureau, which was the subject of your memorandum of March 6th, you will recall that at the time your group called on me your Committee made the point that the Negroes were denied the opportunity to earn the higher rate of pay for card punching, and that I stated that the matter of the difference in compensation between the basic salaries of the punchers and the machine operators would receive serious consideration.

Since then there has been a pay adjustment and I believe that that particular point has now been eliminated.

I have received the following statement from the Acting Director of the Census concerning the assignment of Negroes to the tabulating machines:

"Upon advice that the Civil Service Commission could not fill our requirements for sorting and tabulating machine operators, selections were made from operators assigned to punching who either had previous experience on sorting or tabulating machines or training of some type that seemingly made them fitted for this work. Later it was deemed advisable to make the selections from personnel transferred to the Machine Tabulation Division from other Divisions of the Bureau, so as not to interfere with the output of the Punching Subdivision. Three Negro men were assigned to sorting machines and more would have been assigned to these and other machines if Negro employees had been available in other Divisions. The only Negro tabulating machine operator certified to us was assigned to this work when her services were needed. She, however, resigned soon after the arrangement had been made to accept a position with the Social Security Board.

"Employees assigned to sorting and tabulating machines do not have the opportunity to earn as high a rate of pay as those engaged in punching. The Maximum allowed for sorting and tabulating is \$1,560 and to secure it the

operators must be outstanding both in accuracy and production. Punch card operators can earn as high as \$1,620 per annum.

"If additional personnel is required for sorting and tabulating there is no reason why Negroes cannot be used, if any with proper qualifications are available. However, whether or not it will become necessary in the future to train additional personnel for this work is dependent solely on the condition of the work and the number of persons whose services are terminated due to resignations or enlistments. We have at present a sufficient number of trained employees to meet our needs. Further, the Civil Service Commission may require at some future time that these positions be filled from its list of eligibles. In that event, if Negroes stand sufficiently high to be certified, they will, of course, be appointed.

"There has been a larger percentage of Negroes employed in the Machine Tabulation Division than in any other Division of the Bureau during the Sixteenth Decennial Census."

Very truly yours,

M. KERLIN

Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

Miss Marvel Keller,  
U. S. Department of Commerce Local No. 23,  
United Federal Workers of America,  
532 Seventeenth Street NW.,  
Washington, D. C.

NO PAPERS

APR - 7 1941  
Mailed \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Copy to Personnel

88449

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

April 17, 1941.

Listed

Dear Mr. MacLean:

Secretary Jones has asked me to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of April 12th enclosing a copy of your publication covering the "Participation of the Negro in National Defense".

The Secretary will be interested in looking this information over and will see that it receives appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

M. KERLIN

Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

Mr. Malcolm S. MacLean,  
President, Hampton Institute,  
Hampton, Virginia.

Send papers to Mr. Lancaster

APR 18 1941  
mailed \_\_\_\_\_ by V

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Taylor Burroughs, Asst. Vice-Pres.  
J. L. LeFlore, Secretary  
B. F. Monroe, Asst. Secretary  
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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT of COLORED PEOPLE**

(Regional Conference of Southern Branches)

P. O. Box 1091

MOBILE, ALABAMA

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J. E. Perkins, Secretary, Baton Rouge  
J. B. LaFourche, Director of Publicity, New Orleans  
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A. T. Walden, Atlanta — J. E. Perkins, Baton Rouge

**AIR MAIL Official Organ: The Crisis**

Monday  
April 2 8  
1 9 4 1

Office of the—

Chairman

Regional Conference of  
Southern Branches

U. S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Will you be kind enough to rush to us by return air mail all available information with regard to Negro Business, including the total amount of such, the number of persons employed thereby, salaries, and the amount of business done annually.

In view of the fact that the information is desired for a discussion scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 1941, we shall appreciate your sending us the same at once. In order to facilitate the dispatch of the information, we are enclosing herewith an air mail stamp, which may be used on your letter to us.

Thanking you in advance for the favor, I am

Most sincerely yours,

encl: postage

JLL:K

*J. L. LeFlore*  
J. L. LeFlore  
Chairman

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OFFICE OF THE

INDEXED

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Mobile, Alabama

April 28, 1941

U. S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

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J. L. LeFlore  
Chairman

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Mobile, Alabama

April 28, 1941

U. S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

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Thanking you in advance for the favor, I am

Most sincerely yours,

J. L. LeFlore  
Chairman

aug. 30 - 41

Dear Sirs

just think I am willing  
will you please hold your  
forms. Sale to this effect.  
this is my suspect.  
you got to Best this thing.

- 1 Don't Sell Farms to white people's.  
in these States Georgia. S. Carolina  
Florida and Alabama
- 2 All of the other States don't Sell  
forms to negro's.
- 3 Don't give negro any weight to  
live in any other States But  
ala, fla, ga S. Car.
- 4 white people don't treat white  
people as good as they could. are as  
good as they could's. Cause they  
tell them I will hire negro's.
- 5 (negro's) do to many crimes to live  
among white people.

6 just look at that crime in  
Washing that JARVIS R. CATOE.  
did. you all cant give him the  
punish he need. Death is to  
good for him in any form.

7 Then I look around and see  
where a insan niger get lanch  
that hirt me to.

8 It more negros in thes States then  
in the Rest of the States So take all  
white out and put all negros  
traw lent Bill in worst Basket  
also Jim Crow.

9 just look when the world war ended  
white mend Bet and Kild niger's  
in the Sathen States case they  
had end. U.S.A. Class case they  
Kild white mend and the south  
feelt.

10 put the Black army in Black States  
White army in White States  
neger feallik the white man is

Mis treat him in training camp  
Army <sup>with</sup> chest / no niggers aloud!  
12 → How can a nigger fight with white  
men fly over him. White men  
got the tank. Dont let this get to  
Reporters news papers. Be  
tween the fingers.

11 Let us set our old time law for crime  
I for i — tooth for tooth.

12 Let me stand between you and my  
people. I will give your orders.  
With army they will be carried  
out just as you say.  
Mr. Washington

Mr. Jones

Negro how did fair  
since they have been  
in the U.S.A. I think  
I think they need to be  
give that  
they have fight in  
two wars.  
Spanish America.  
& World war.  
about 206 years. Slavery-

They deserve a  
Con  
(Colonization)

Course I have a good  
job.  
but so many negro  
dont and it aint  
me for them

So if they dont  
have a job in they  
Colonie

Kne Hick  
yours. Seven

E. J. Jones.

Mr. J. H. Jones.  
and Pres.

If this is in Rest you let us try  
it. Florida just a little Rich  
I don't like the Atlantic Ocean  
draw a line 50 miles west the  
Atlantic you take east of line  
negro take west of the line

All Manafactory. Rail Road.  
belong to government and negro.

(Colonise all negro)

I have got much of a learning so  
just I studied for the grade

Study this gentleman please  
for my good and yours to  
my wife wright me if I met saight and  
let in to nurse my mouth.

Yours

Ellis, Junior, Jr. et.  
#4026  
Highlands S.A.,

88449

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

September 10, 1941

Listed

Mr. Ellis J. Jones,  
P. O. Box 4026,  
Highlands, Texas.

Dear Mr. Jones:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 3 addressed to Secretary Jones in which you outline the plan for colonization of the Negroes. Your proposed plan involves difficulties which are quite impracticable at present in that it would require drastic revision of existing laws.

Very truly yours,

M. KERLIN

M. Kerlin  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

SEP 11 1941

mailed \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

TBM:ggk

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

88449

September 18, 1941

FILES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Listed

Dear Mr. Cramer:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 11, 1941, addressed to Secretary Jones, with reference to a complaint received by your Committee, alleging discrimination against a Negro named Philip M. Sunday, Jr., by Mr. Walter J. Bennett in the Jacksonville, Florida, Office of the Weather Bureau of this Department.

I am having an investigation made of this complaint and am directing that a report be made to you following the investigation.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT H. HINCKLEY

Assistant Secretary of Commerce

Mr. Lawrence W. Cramer  
Executive Secretary  
President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice  
Social Security Building  
Washington, D. C.

OCS:GEM

*oos*  
*TM*

MAILED SEP 19 1941

by *V*

✓  
AFFAIRS RETURNED  
TO BUREAU

*Revised*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON

88449

December 6, 1941

REC'D  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

Dear Miss Turner:

This is in reply to your letter of  
December 3 to Secretary Jones of this Department.

There is employed in the Department of  
Commerce an Adviser on Negro Affairs, Mr. Emmer  
Martin Lancaster who is a Negro. His title is  
Special Assistant to the Secretary (Adviser on  
Negro Affairs).

Very truly yours,

M. KERLIN

M. Kerlin  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary

Miss Vivian Turner  
c/o Mr. D. L. Smith  
Lincoln High School  
Tallahassee, Florida

DEC 10 1941  
Mailed ..... by .....

RSJ:GMR

*ees*

PERSONNEL  
*Personnel*

December 19, 1941

Mr. A. E. Perkins  
Darnell Public School  
3411 Broadway Street  
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Perkins:

The inclosed figures will assist you in determining the approximate wealth of Negroes in the South. The term "wealth" is most inclusive and since you failed to place an interpretation upon that expression, we have taken the liberty of defining that term in the light of facts and figures at our disposal.

We have divided this survey into three divisions; Farms, Businesses, and Non-Farm Homes. The statistics on farms and non-farm homes are taken from a study prepared by the Agriculture Division of the Census Bureau. These compilations as to financial institutions owned and operated by Negroes are based upon a survey conducted by this office during the past year. The 1940 Census statistics as to non-farm homes are not available at the present time. All the elements of Negro wealth are not included in this report for the reason that additional statistical information thereof is not at our disposal.

You are advised that the information contained herein does not represent the total wealth of the Southern Negro. These statistics are guides upon which the approximate wealth might be computed.

In the event you desire to publicize these figures, please do so with the reservations suggested herein.

Very truly yours,

Emmer Martin Lancaster  
Adviser on Negro Affairs  
U.S. Department of Commerce

EML:dmj

## I FARMS

(Agriculture of the Census)

These tabulations include the value of buildings, implements and machinery for the year 1940, of non-White full owners and part owners. These figures govern the South Atlantic division, including Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina; South Atlantic Division, including South Carolina, Georgia and Florida; East South Central Division, including Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi; and the West South Central Division, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. All these are termed Southern States by the Bureau of the Census, Division of Agriculture.

### A. VALUE OF FARMS (LAND AND BUILDINGS) 1940

1. Of all non-White operators	Value
Full Owners	\$199,049,122
Part Owners	51,041,955

### B. VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY 1940

2. Of all non-White operators	Value	No. Farms Reporting
Full Owners	\$12,300,278	117,112
Part Owners	3,478,442	28,063

### C. DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. Full Owners: own all the land they operate.
2. Part Owners: own a part and rent from others the rest of the land they operate.
3. Farm Implements: include tools, automobiles, tractors, motor trucks, trailers, wagons, harnesses, dairy equipment, cotton gins, threshing machines, apparatus for making cider, and all the farm machinery.

## II BUSINESSES

### A. NEGRO RETAIL PROPRIETORSHIPS, NUMBER OF STORES AND GROSS SALES FOR THE YEAR 1939

1. South Atlantic Division	No. of Stores	1939 Sales
Delaware	119	\$ 292,000
Maryland	1018	2,595,000
District of Columbia	300	2,327,000
Virginia	1918	3,887,000
West Virginia	190	588,000
North Carolina	1834	2,174,000
South Carolina	1246	1,074,000
Georgia	2268	2,530,000

II BUSINESSES (Cont.)

	No. of Stores	1939 Sales
<b>1. South Atlantic Division</b>		
Florida	<u>2006</u>	\$ <u>2,519,000</u>
TOTAL	10,897	17,986,000
<b>2. East South Central Division</b>		
Kentucky	554	965,000
Tennessee	1044	2,448,000
Alabama	1285	1,239,000
Mississippi	<u>1336</u>	<u>841,000</u>
Total	4219	5,493,000
<b>3. West South Central Division</b>		
Arkansas	975	1,110,000
Louisiana	1410	2,776,000
Oklahoma	647	1,381,000
Texas	<u>2579</u>	<u>535,000</u>
Total	5709	5,810,000

B. CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN SOUTHERN STATES

1. Banking Institutions owned and operated by Negroes--1940

Total Resources  
\$6,575,297

Total Deposits  
\$5,571,287

2. Insurance Companies

Total Resources  
\$ 22,646,935

a. Legal Reserve Companies

b. Sick, Health and Accident  
and Mutual Companies

954,442

c. Fraternal Companies

2,105,138

d. Burial Companies

234,740

3. Building and Loan Associations

a. Atlanta Mutual Bldg. and Loan Assn.  
Atlanta, Ga.

55,800

b. Peoples Bldg. and Loan Assn.  
Hampton, Va.

493,800

Total

549,600

III NON-FARM HOMES

(1950 Census)

A. All Owned non-farm homes in the South	No. of Homes
a. Homes under \$1,000 value	170,392
b. Homes of \$1,000 to \$1,499 value	54,791
c. Homes of \$1,500 to \$1,999 value	32,012
d. Homes of \$2,000 to \$2,999 value	40,061
e. Homes of \$3,000 to \$4,999 value	28,684
f. Homes of \$5,000 to \$7,499 value	10,648
g. Homes of \$7,500 to \$9,999 value	3,097
h. Homes of \$10,000 to \$14,999 value	1,847
i. Homes of \$15,000 to \$19,999 value	455
j. Homes of \$20,000 and over value	267
k. Homes not reported	9,322

58449

DANNEEL PUBLIC SCHOOL

3411 BROADWAY STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

E. PERKINS  
PRINCIPAL

TELEPHONES  
OFFICE: GALVEZ 0494  
RES: JACKSON 2702

Oct. 3, 1941

Mr. Emmer Lancaster,  
Advisor Negro Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Will you kindly give me the wealth, or the approximate wealth, of the thirteen Southern States, for Negroes only? If there is a nominal fee connected with any research, I shall be happy to pay it.

Your name was given to me by the Washington Service Bureau.

An early reply will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

AEP:VVN

W. E. Perkins

- Check
1. Farms
  2. Homes
  3. Businesses

**DANNEEL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

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RES: JACKSON 2702

December 5, 1941

4

Mrs. Emma Martin Lancaster  
Adviser on Negro Affairs  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Washington D. C.

Dear Mrs. Lancaster:

Referring to your letter of October 9, 1941, in which you stated that this service, statistical information on the approximate wealth of Negroes in Southern states, would be rendered as early as possible, I am just writing to express the hope that you will render the service within a short while.

While I am patient to wait, it would serve me great convenience if I could have the matter early.

Yours very truly,



A. E. Perkins  
Principal of Danneel Public School

AEP:vvv

December 15, 1941

Mr. A. E. Perkins  
Principal of Damoel Public School  
3411 Broadway Street  
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Perkins:

The request contained in your recent letter will be prepared  
and sent to you before the expiration of this week.

Cordially yours,

Emmer Martin Lancaster  
Adviser on Negro Affairs  
U.S. Department of Commerce

EMM: dmj

STANDARD TIME INDICATED

DEPT. OF COMMERCE  
BRANCH

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TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

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Mackay Radio  
Commercial Cables



All America Cables  
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DEPT. OF COMMERCE  
BRANCH

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REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

Form 16

LC151N TWS 3 MINS=LONG ISLAND CITY NY 29 1223P  
MR EMMER MARTIN LANCASTER=

ADVISOR ON NEGRO AFFAIRS U S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
WASHN DC=

PLEASE SEND ME SPECIAL DELIVERY TODAY ALL AVAILABLE MATERIAL ON  
NEGROES IN THE UNITED STATES SUCH AS PROPERTIES OWNED ANNUAL  
INCOME ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES NEGRO SCHOOLS CHURCHES CLUBS AND  
THE LIKE BY STATES IF POSSIBLE AND ALL OTHER MATERIAL THAT MIGHT  
BE HELPFUL SEND SAME TO HERMAN T SMITH 111-39 168 ST JAMAICA LONG  
ISLAND=

PEPSICOLA CO HERMAN T SMITH

111-39