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NEWSLETTER



DR. CHANNING H. TOBIAS

Supreme Council of Southern Jurisdiction of Masons, top-ranking Negro fraternal body, was cited by Treasury Department for war bond purchases...order has bought \$25 million in savings bonds since program began...One of ten women to receive 1952 gold medal awards as a "distinguished daughter" of Pennsylvania was Dr. Helen O. Dickens of Philadelphia...is one of city's most prominent physicians, member of nation's most important medical bodies.

Reflective of in-migration to East Coast, Negro population of Syracuse, New York has increased 88 per cent over the last ten years, while white population has increased only 15 per cent, according to local Census Bureau office...Trend toward urbanization of Negroes is evident in recent figures released by State Health Department of Tennessee...figures indicate that more than one-third of the state's Negro population live in Memphis...1950 census revealed a total of 180,185 Negro residents of city...analysis showed that 37 of each 100 Memphians are Negro.

Six Negro college fraternities and sororities with a combined membership of over 70,000 have invited President Truman to attend joint sessions scheduled by bodies at Cleveland in December, to receive civil rights service award...other major college fraternity is presenting a citation to former Federal Judge J. Waties Waring during its annual sessions at Philadelphia during same period...Among leading Americans who tape-recorded "Freedomgrams" to countries behind the "Iron Curtain" under sponsorship of the Crusade for Freedom was Dr. Channing H. Tobias, noted Negro spokesman...Crusade is co-chaired by industrialists Henry Ford II and Charles E. Wilson.

POLITICAL HORIZON

Post Office Department has named Thomas P. Bomar to second highest post in the Service for any employee...has been appointed Assistant General Superintendent-At-Large of the Postal Transportation Service...appointee was previously highest ranking Negro in Post Office Department...Lester B. Granger, executive head of the National Urban League, is serving as representative of the public on Federal Advisory Council of Labor Department's Bureau of Employment Security...Insertion of an anti-discrimination clause in all government contracts has been decided by Canadian government, according to Labor Minister Milton Gregg...policy will go into effect in 1953...Veterans Administration will insist on "equality of treatment for all veterans seeking loan insurance on home purchases" says director of VA's loan guaranty service.

Segregation in armed forces is rapidly decreasing, declares Assistant Secretary of Defense Anna Rosenberg...all-Negro units in army at present are approximately one-third fewer than a year ago, and decline is continuing...air force and navy has almost eliminated bias, she states...Dr. John W. Davis, president of West Virginia State College, has been sworn in as United States Director of Technical Cooperation in Liberia under Point Four program.

Both Negro members of U.S. Congress, Representatives William L. Dawson, of Chicago, and Adam Clayton Powell, of New York City, were re-elected to their posts on November 4...a third candidate, Lawrence O. Payne, of Cleveland, was defeated by the Democratic incumbent...Attorney Cora Brown, of Detroit, became first Negro woman to win seat in Michigan state senate...New York City lawyer Julius Archibald is first Negro member of state senate...first elected Negro public official in Georgia since "Reconstruction" is W. C. Ervin, candidate for Richmond County Board of Education.

For first time in nearly forty years a Negro attorney has been admitted to the bar in Halifax County, Virginia...Irvin Sugg was presented to Circuit Court by former Governor William Tuck...Mrs. Vivian Marsh is first Negro to become a member of the Berkely, California Planning Commission...Precedent has been established in naming of Negro investigator to staff of Los Angeles County Public Defenders Office...Negro patrolman of Miami, suspended by chief of police, was reinstated with full pay by City Manager Arthur Evans...policeman was relieved of duty for arresting white man in a Negro district for operating a lottery...police chief had instructed Negro officers to call white officers in these instances.

INSIDE INDUSTRY

Housing-Real Estate

A \$2 million housing project for Negro residents of Rocky Mount, North Carolina will be named after late Weeks S. Armstrong...former school janitor raised five children who have become among the most prominent citizens in the Negro community...Ground has been broken for new \$10 million E. J. Walker Homes at Memphis (IBA, July 1952)...1500-unit subdivision is believed largest privately financed project for Negroes in entire South...Berkely, California realty board head denied a report that the organization had banned the sale of properties in certain areas to Negroes...member of a board committee which surveyed the district reported that residents had opposed sales to Negro residents.

For first time in its 44-year history the Philadelphia Real Estate Board has admitted Negroes to membership...Agreement between Southwest Citizens Association and Negro real estate dealers of Atlanta is reported to effect that latter will purchase no more homes in predominantly white sections and some homes will be offered for resale to white residents...simultaneously group is seeking assurances from city officials to offer "adequate areas in which to locate new homes where tensions will not be created".

Business-Industry-Commerce

Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree was presented to Thomas E. Millsop, president of Weirton Steel Company in West Virginia, during recent convocation ceremonies at Wilberforce University, Xenia, Ohio...in address, honoree urged increased aid to private colleges from industry and business to "keep institutions out of hands of bureaucrats and thus avoid federal thought control and socialized education"...Integration of Negro employees at Philadelphia plant of Philco Corporation is "reaching new high", according to local NAACP labor relations assistant...there are now 156 workers in production department, two engineers, and a personnel executive, aide reports.

Negro citizens of Louisburg, North Carolina are alarmed about recently distributed

handbills calling for "white female applicants" for job training by new manufacturing company planning to open in community...throw-aways are signed by town's Mayor W.F. Shelton...International Geneva Association, society of chefs, headwaiters, hotel and restaurant managers of New York City, has discontinued rule excluding Negroes from membership...measure has been in effect since 1877...action marked break in white employment pattern of fashionable eating places.

Joseph Makel, national sales representative for Calvert Distillers Corporation was cited at recent annual sales meeting for ten years service to Company...received gold wrist watch from Executive Vice President Tubie Resnick...Promotion of Joseph Christian to post as National Field Supervisor has been announced by Seagram Distillers Corporation...has been with company since 1949 as field representative...Girard Chevrolet Company of Philadelphia has named Frederick J. Douglass to its sales staff...was also first Negro clerical worker with local helicopter company.

Campus Merchandising Bureau of Liggett and Myers has placed Robert H. Downs as a divisional manager...will supervise promotion of Chesterfield cigarettes on fifty college campuses...Recent college graduate John DePriest, Jr., of Chicago, has been accepted as regional sales representative for Dunhill division of Phillip Morris tobacco company...Calvin Burton is milk tester at Philadelphia's Abbott's Dairies, one of largest milk companies in area...worker is completing dairy technology course at Temple University.

With construction of atomic energy plant underway at Portsmouth, Ohio, Metropolitan Civic Forum of that city has launched program to obtain proportionate share of Negro workers at project...Brooklyn Union Gas Company has upgraded four Negro employees to jobs as meter readers...company has been under fire of local civic groups for alleged discrimination...Job bias against civilian employees at U.S. Coast Guard yard at Curtis Bay, Maryland has been charged by NAACP...unit accused electronic, rigging, and electric departments of "unfair practices"...commander has pledged investigation.

Naming of Dr. Henry Hill as Assistant Manager has been announced by National Poly Chemicals Company of Boston...will be responsible for all manufacturing and technological activities...brilliant Ph.D from MIT was formerly with Dewey and Almy Chemical Company...Dr. Alf E. Thomas of Detroit has become first Negro to be admitted to membership in local Chamber of Commerce...noted physician is hospital director and real estate company head...Only Negro broker at recent Investment Dealers Conference on Mutual Funds at New York City was Norman L. McGhee, Cleveland brokerage firm head...said to head only investment securities company operated by licensed Negro broker-dealer.

At recent annual meeting of National Negro Insurance Association in Houston it was revealed that 37 member companies now have \$137 million in assets and more than \$1 billion of insurance in force...The six Negro banks operating in Southeastern U.S. had total assets of \$15,500,247 in 1951 advises Atlanta regional office of Department of Commerce...figure represents 44 percent of national total for similar institutions...Plans for creation of national sales and public relations organization among Negro representatives of major corporations have been made...initial meeting was held at Washington, D.C. with some thirty persons in attendance.

Signing of singer Billy Daniels for nightly TV spot on American Broadcasting Company network marks first for a Negro star on national hook-up under sponsorship...will appear for 13-week period for Rybutol...weekly spot on radio of King Cole Trio for Wildroot Company was most recent "big-time" commercial spot for Negro artist...Players Magazine has named postman Albert Dinkins of Norfolk as its first Negro associate editor.



DR. ALF E. THOMAS

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NATIONAL COMMUNITY

Race Relations

Catholic Interracial Council of New York City has awarded the 1952 James J. Hoey prize to Joseph J. Yancey, founder of the Pioneer Athletic Club...medal is given annually to white and Negro laymen for "outstanding contributions to interracial justice" ...Increasing compliance with Wisconsin statute barring discrimination in resort areas has been reported to state's Commission on Human Rights.

Education

Assistant Attorney General Avis Martin of Kansas will not file a brief or appear in court in case challenging segregation in elementary schools scheduled to be heard by U.S. Supreme Court next month...Four state-supported Negro colleges of North Carolina have petitioned state for total of \$9,684,000 to carry on "separate but equal" programs.

CAPSULE PORTRAIT

Philadelphia Transportation Company



MR. CHARLES EBERT

It was the melodramatic back-drop of a "wild-cat" strike in 1944 that brought into focus the employment pattern that was to identify the industrial conscience of the Philadelphia Transportation Company...The Company was catapulted onto the national scene by a Federal "memo" to employ Negro conductors and motormen...a "war emergency" edict that aroused a dissident employee element to an antagonism that only a bayoneted National Guard could squelch.

From the "consequent charge and counter-charge" emerged PTC "policy" that now paces privately-owned transit utilities as regards job integration...Reduced to its most simple translation, PTC proposes that "good transit workers are made, not born"...the ability to make change, handle controls, or call out a street number is not a God-given virtue conditioned by birthright, it avers.

Once experience had fortified this premise, PTC moved with some acceleration, to the degree that a once curious peek at a Negro motorman or conductor over a folded newspaper became only a preoccupied glance...vehicles did not careen wildly through city streets, passengers were not short-changed.

Helmsmen during the "religion-gettin" reorganizational days, as now, was quiet spoken but efficient President Charles Ebert and Vice-President of Industrial Relations and Personnel William J. MacReynolds...able support has been lent by sincere and personable David N. Phillips who, as then administrative assistant to the President and since of vice-presidential rank, has "done detail".

Recent move to assure dove-tailing of operations was naming by Mr. Phillips of a Negro aide on his staff...one whose duties are not proscribed within the limitations imposed on his skin color, but works "across the board"...The past few months has been marked by the employment of Negro women cashiers on elevated railway lines.

Mr. Phillips has found time for board membership of a Negro-staffed YMCA branch whose 1951 membership drive he headed with singular success...he has participated unhesitatingly and whole-heartedly in all civic ventures of repute that are of concern to the local Negro Community...PTC bids fair to remain in the vanguard of forward-looking facets of American industry.



MR. DAVID N. PHILLIPS