District Masons Elect Officers

WASHINGTON

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall, Grand Lodge of the Masons for the District, met in its 98th annual communication Wednesday night at Scottish Rite Cathedral, 1638 Eleventh St., N.W., and elected the following officers for 1947:

The Rev. Melvin J. Key, 1715 Nevey Ave., N.W.; Grand Master succeeding Simpson W. Wallace of 1204 Kenyon St., N.W., and Cyrus N. Parker, Deputy Grand Master.

Lawrence E. Hawkins was elected Senior Grand Warden; David P. Highley Jr., Grand Warden; Dr. Sylvester F. Blackwell, 128 Bate St., N.W., Grand Treasurer for the 13th consecutive term; and Addison W. Chapman, 225 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Grand Secretary for the third consecutive term.

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Citation for the Champ

Joe Louis gets citation for his contributions to betterment of interracial understanding from Stoney McLinn, sports advisor of Radio Station WIP. Watching the presentation with vivid interest is Allan Freelon, left, chairman of American Youth for Democracy Committee, which sponsored the affair at the Adelphia Hotel.

Louis Honored by Youth Group

PHILADELPHIA

Joe Louis was hailed Thursday night as a champion in the fight against bigotry and racial prejudice.

Boxing' heavyweight titleholder was one of eight to receive certificates of merit for leadership in their fight for minority rights, awarded by the American Youth for Democracy at its third anniversary banquet at the Adelphia Hotel.

McLinn Make Presentation

The presentation was made at the "Tribute to Negro Youth" dinner by Stoney McLinn, sports advisor of Station WIP, in a broadcast over that station.

In making the presentation to Louis, McLinn lauded him for his sportsmanship in the ring as well as his willingness to aid the cause of all minority groups.

Accepts With Pride

Responding, Louis said, "It is with great pride that I accept this tribute. Being a champion of human rights gives me as great a kick as being heavyweight champion of the world."

Similar presentations were made to Dean Dixon, composor and conductor; Pearl Primus, dancer; Fredmand Smith, labor leader; Charles White, artist; Maxine Wood, author of "On Whitman Avenue"; Herbert Apatheker, white historian, and Wally Triplett, Penn State football star and member of AYD.

Freelon Presides

Allan Freelon, who presided at the affair, declared:

"This dinner represents a major step forward in the recognition of service given in the fight to promote better relations between all races of our country, and a tribute to the work of both colored and white in developing understanding and wiping out prejudice and discrimination."

Others appearing were Alfred Kahn, author and lecturer; Dr. Boris Blei, dean of Tyler Art School, and James Price, president of District, UERMWA.

AVC Pamphlets Hit Lisner Policy

WASHINGTON

The Greater Washington Area Council of the American Veterans Committee (AVC), Monday, distributed 25,000 pamphlets, urging the trustees of George Washington University to open Lisner Auditorium on a democratic basis.

The pamphlet urged that the auditorium be known not as another American theater, but as a "theater for Americans."

The pamphlet concludes that there is no consistent or established community policy in respect to racial discrimination. "All barriers to colored persons are the personally adopted policies of the managers or owners of the buildings," it asserts.

The pamphlet points out that George Washington University is the only university following this policy of discrimination. "The policy of non-discrimination has been followed by other universities without any complaints of a breach of community policy," it reports.

Jack Motley, chairman of the Area Council, said:

"The trustees of George Washington University have an opportunity to effect a change in the pattern of racial discrimination which disgraces the capital of the United States."

N. J. Conference Welcomes Wright

Former Sims Faction Silent at Opening

ALL SEEK UNITY

No Reprisals to Be Made, Bishop Reveals

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NEWARK

The New Jersey Conference of the AME Church, facing realities, at St. James AME Church, Thursday, dramatically approved of its new prelate, Dr. R. R. Wright Jr.

It was the same conference, which at its 74th annual session at Camden in May, faced with numerous court suits and with its morale at the lowest ebb in the denomination's history, supported Bishop Sims.

It was as if the stage had been set and a scenario written, when the Rev. Mansfield E. Jackson, pastor of St. James, host to the session, interrupted as Presiding Elder J. F. Vanderhorst was about to introduce the newly appointed Bishop.

Resolution Interjected

The Rev. Mr. Jackson, recognized by the head of the New Brunswick District, read from a paper in his hand, in a voice that faltered slightly the following resolution from the New Jersey Annual Conference:

"From the extra session at Little Rock, we have had sent to us a new bishop, one whom we all know now as the presiding Bishop of the New England, New Jersey and Bermuda Conferences."

Group Tensely Silent

The resolution continued while the assembly sat in silence. A few leaned forward so they would not miss a word, for a precedent-making incident in African Methodism had taken place.

Two Bishops had been outated, the first time in the 130 years of its history that such an event had occurred.

The Rev. Mr. Jackson went on, as the sheet of paper shook in his hands (he had served on the judiciary committee that tried the Bishops in Little Rock):

Prelate Made Welcome

"In the chain of world-shaking events, the church cannot be immune. Only a safe and sound leader can pilot the old ship of Zion to peaceful shores.

"We are happy to welcome Dr. Wright — a leader, one of the greatest presidents of Wilberforce University and head of the AME Book Concern."

The St. James pastor continued, "We have followed his progress in the 13th Episcopal District. He had always used his influence and ability to advance his race."

Pledge Is Given

He closed the long resolution with "We hail you Bishop Wright, and pledge our whole-hearted cooperation."

The resolution marked the passing of the Sims administration.

Bishop Wright responded:

"I am overwhelmed with the responsibility that has been handed over to me. . . . I solemnly hold that I am but a little child, not knowing my way in or out; I only seek your guidance."

The members of the conference applauded, and listened attentively as the Bishop began to discuss the business of the First Episcopal District, which he now heads.

Bishop Wright told the conference that already several ministers had put in their bids for the St. James AME Church in Atlantic City, where the Rev. Yancey Sims, brother of the ousted Bishop, is pastor.

Stating that the Rev. Mr. Sims's stand in behalf of his brother was the "same thing I would do for my own brother."

He added that there would be no reprisals in the district and that one of his first acts as Bishop would be to announce that "Yancey Sims shall remain as pastor of St. James."

The Rev. Mr. Sims sat in one of the front rows, hiding his emotions, despite the unhappy circumstances surrounding his brother's removal.

One woman, who would not reveal her name, said:

"I can look into the faces of many of these ministers," many who have been pushed around for years.

"Look at them" (and she pointed out and named a few), "look at them now," she continued, "their faces are full of hope and peace."

The seriousness of the meeting was reflected when the Rev. Mr. Jackson, in reporting details of the action at Little Rock, told how Bishop Monroe Davis, who was suspended, voted in favor of the sentence imposed upon him.

A ripple of laughter cut across the somber proceedings, but a woman spectator made her soprano voice heard above the din, crying: "This is not funny; it is sad; it is a pity it had to happen."

The Rev. Ira S. Jacobs, pastor of St. Matthew AME Church in Jersey City and treasurer of the New Jersey Conference, regarded as a Sims follower, opened the session with a prayer for unity.

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Leon Ransom to Talk at Garnet-Patterson School

WASHINGTON

Leon A. Ransom, attorney, who successfully prosecuted the Columbia, Tenn., trials, will speak on "A Christmas Carol — 1946 Version" Tuesday night at Garnet Patterson Junior High School.

Music will be provided by the Community Center Band, under the direction of Professor James Miller, and the Ushers' Choral Society led by Edward Dancey.

Others on the program include Miss Ruby Alahar of India, who will sing, Albert Cherry, James Hatton, president of the Junior Police Boys' Club; George Beasley, president of CNOA, and Mrs. Lillian Evanti, chairman of the Christmas program committee.

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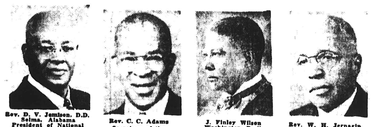
This photograph was taken when Mr. Rathblott was presented and highly endorsed by the National Sunday School and B.T.U. Congress when they convened in New York City.

The very idea of building a Progressive Community appealed to many of the National Leaders and it brought them on personal visitations to the Mizpah Development and they were so impressed by its possibilities that many of them are also Home Site Owners and plan to build. Thousands of Home Site Owners include men and women from all walks of life, from the working man to the professional man like Doctors, Lawyers, Judges, Bankers and Business Men.

Due to limited space, we mention just a few of the many Leaders who are owners of Home Sites at MIZPAH, N.J.



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Rev. C. C. Adams Secretary of the Foreign Mis. Board

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Vets' Taxicab Application Still Pending Before PUC

PHILADELPHIA

A ruling last week by the Public Utilities Commission rejecting the application of the GI Taxicab Association for a franchise to operate 100 cabs leaves pending a petition by 13 members of the Veterans Taxicab Association for similar permits.

Applications by the latter group, composed of 13 colored ex-service men, headed by Wilmont Flowers of 2114 Catherine St., have been pending with PUC since hearings ended last February.

The adverse ruling last week by the commission in Harrisburg will have no direct bearing on the application of the Veterans Taxicab Association, a spokesman for the latter group said Monday.

He pointed out that the GI Taxicab Association, which has two colored members, applied for a single franchise.

His group, he said, petitioned for separate permits for each member of the association. PUC can either reject all applicants outright or individual members of the association, he explained.

Attorney Awaits Action

Meanwhile, John F. Williams, who, with Theodore Spaulding, served as counsel for this association, would not comment on the commission's decision.

He said he preferred to await action on the Veterans Taxicab Association's applications.

In turning down the application of the GI Taxicab Association, the commission held:

"To set up a competing company with substantially similar facilities to render the same service would duplicate many of the costs and divide the responsibilities."

Yellow Cab, however, was directed by PUC to increase service "By the purchase of as many new cabs as rapidly as possible."

"The question of racial discrimination, charged to Yellow Cab during wartime peak traffic, was not touched upon in the commission's order."

Dr. Tulane Leads in Chest Drive

WASHINGTON

Dr. Victor J. Tulane, Howard University, last week, at the report luncheon at Mayflower Hotel, for by officials of the Community Chest, exceeding his quota in the current campaign.

Dr. Tulane, key man in the university Chest drive, reported 150% of the quota or $2,513.36. The quota was $1671.

Units contributing the largest amounts were Liberal Arts, $953, and Medical School, $462.50.

"There are donations that I haven't had time to collect," Dr. Tulane said, "but I will have them in by the end of this week."

Area 4 Near Goal

Area 4, under Dr. Dorothy B. Ferebee, reported 89% of its quota. The entire area has reported over $22,000.

The areas now have been eliminated, and workers may solicit any place. Brig. Gen. Albert L. Cox, chairman of the mop-up committee, is working to raise the remainder of the goal by Dec. 15.

Freedom Granted to Miss. Fugitive

CHICAGO (ANP)—Stunned by the tale of brutality practiced against accused persons in Mississippi, Federal Judge Elwyn R. Shaw, Dec. 4, granted freedom from a life sentence at the Mississippi State Prison at Parchman, to a fugitive from there.

The man, whose story of being beaten with a hose and blackjacks and burned with a blowtorch to get him to admit a murder he did not commit won him freedom, was Cornell Jones, 27, a porter in a downtown restaurant here.

Substantiating his story by stripping to the waist and revealing livid scars on his body received from blackjacks and a hose, and burns on his chest from a blow torch, Jones said he escaped the Mississippi prison in November, 1941, at the hearing on a habeas corpus petition.

Jones further testified in his successful effort to void the fugitive warrant on which he was arrested here, last August, that during his brief trail for murder in Mississippi, he was not allowed to testify in his own behalf nor to produce any witnesses.

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