

Here's
My Story
By PAUL ROBESON

An Open Letter to
Jackie Robinson

NOTICE in a recent issue of "Our World" magazine that some folks think you're too outspoken. Certainly not many of our folks share that view. They think like you that the Yankees, making many a "buck" off Harlem, might have had a few of our ball players just like B'klyn. In fact, I know you've seen where a couple of real brave fellows, the Turger-son brothers, think it's about time we continued our breaking into the Southern leagues—Arkansas and Mississippi, included.



I am happy, Jackie, to have been in the fight for real democracy in sports years ago. I was proud to stand with Judge Landis in 1946 and, at his invitation, address the major league owners, demanding that the bars against Negroes in baseball be dropped. I knew from my experiences as a pro football player that the fans would not only take us—but like us. That's now been proven many times over.

Maybe these protests around you, Jackie, explain a lot of things about people trying to shut up those of us who speak out in many other fields.

You read in the paper every day about "doings" in Africa. These things are very important to us. A free Africa—a continent of 200 millions of folks like us and related to us—can do a lot to change things here.

IN SOUTH AFRICA black folks are challenging Malan, a kind of super Ku Kluxer. These Africans are refusing to obey Jim Crow laws. They want some freedom like we do, and they're willing to suffer and sacrifice for it. Malan and a lot of powerful American investors would like to shut them up and lock them up.

Well, I'm very proud that these African brothers and sisters of ours play my records as they march in their parades. A good part of my time is spent in the work of the Council on African Affairs, supervised by Dr. Alphaeus Hunton, an expert on Africa and son of a great YMCA leader, the late William Hunton. Co-chairman of the Council is Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, one of the greatest Americans who ever lived. We raise funds for Africans and bring informa-

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URGENT NOTICE

If the address plate on your paper has a date ending '52 or Jan., Feb., Mar. '53—your subscription has expired.

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Freedom

"Where there is no struggle there is no progress"

Vol. III—No. 4

178

APRIL, 1953

10c

State Dept. Winks At Malan Church Ban

By ALPHAEUS HUNTON
(Secretary, Council on African Affairs)

The South African government has barred Bishops Frederick Jordan and Howard Primm of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from going to South Africa to preside over an estimated 150,000 AME members there.

This action is an affront to the million members of the AME church, to the entire Negro people in the United States and to all American citizens. It is, moreover, an indication of the lengths to which the Malan racists will go in their desperate effort to stop the rising tide of African resistance, for the official explanation of the ban is given that the AME Church in South Africa is affiliated with the African National Congress, leader of the resistance movement.

'Friendly Relationship'

At the United Nations Gen. Assembly sessions last Nov., in explaining why the U.S. opposed the proposal for a UN Commission to "study the racial situation" in South Africa, U. S. spokesman Charles A. Sprague said, "My government respects fully the sovereignty of the great Union of South Africa with which it has long been associated in friendly relationship. There is steady interchange of travel and trade between our countries..."

In talking about "steady interchange of travel" Mr. Sprague apparently was thinking only about certain whites. The case of the AME bishops is by no means the first of its

Robeson Urges Action



MEETINGS LIKE THIS in South Africa are callig for the end of the pass laws and wanton police terror.

Stating that "in Africa our government is doing business with the white colonialists, not the African people, and is supporting Malan in South Africa and the British in Kenya and Rhodesia," Paul Robeson, following the sentencing of Jomo Kenyatta issued a statement urging:

"Let us protest the jailing of the black leaders of Kenya. Let us call upon our government this week to stop helping the Ku Kluxer Malan and help the South African people who are marching irresistibly toward freedom. Let our voices be heard in thousands of telegrams and letters to the President in Washington."

kind. Negro Americans have not been welcome in South Africa unless they were servants, either domestic or official. And as for Africans and other non-whites leaving the country, the official policy was set forth three years ago by Malan's Minister of Labor, B. J. Schoeman, who said:

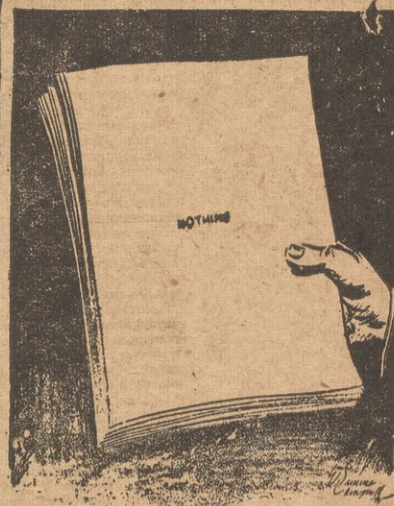
"I think it is unfair to the Non-European himself to al-

low him to go overseas, especially in a country where there is no color bar and no discrimination, and then have to come back to our conditions here. While there is a Nationalist Government I don't think that will be permitted."

People Demand Answers
The ban against the AME
(Continued on Page 4)

Situation Same As Last Month

Complete Record Of All Ike Has Given Us



From the Baltimore Afro-American

British Jail Kenyatta

The recent jailing of Jomo Kenyatta, leader of the Kenya African Union, is but the "legal" side of the increasingly brutal military attacks being conducted by the British in the East African crown colony of Kenya. Both assaults—through courtroom and machinegun—have the same objectives: to destroy the KAU, main liberation front of the five-and-a-half million Africans in Kenya, behead the leadership of the militant Kikuyu people, and decimate all Africans who continue to display the slightest resistance to the pitiless exploitation of the tiny minority of white settlers.

"Convicted" along with Kenyatta, who received a sentence of seven years at hard labor, were Fred Kubai, chairman of the Nairobi branch of KAU and president of the East African Trade Union Congress; Richard Achieng Okeko, general secretary of the KAU, and three other leaders of the organization. The "trial" was held in the deserted, out-of-the-way village of Kapenguria.

'War' in Kenya

News reports stated that Kenyatta and his colleagues stood firm and unflinching as the judge (flanked on either side by soldiers with machine guns, the courtroom filled with armed white spectators and surrounded by armed militia!) pronounced sentence.

Meanwhile, from Mombasa Cecil Gregory wrote to the Pittsburgh Courier (4/11/53)

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Negro Labor Council Launches Southern Drive

Meeting in Detroit's Carlton Plaza Hotel, the General Council of the National Negro Labor Council mapped out plans last month for its own "Operation Dixie." The militant labor body, which aims at improving the conditions and opportunities of Negro workers regardless of affiliation, set out to mobilize support throughout the nation for a drive of its Southern affiliates to open up thousands of factory production jobs to Negroes throughout the South.

Council officers pointed out that as new industries move South they invariably adopt the rigid Jim Crow hiring policies of the area, which means the total exclusion of Negroes from new manufacturing industries, or their employment only in the lowest-paid menial and unskilled jobs.

Cheap Labor Issue

(The Association of Southern Industry recently reported that in 1952 industry grew in the South at the rate of one
(Continued on Page 5)



NNLC GENERAL COUNCIL members talk over Southern drive. L. to r.: Rev. M. F. Hardin, pres. Cincinnati NLC; Walter Barnett, Louisville; Oliver Palmer, Washington, D. C.; Asbury Howard, Bessemer, Ala., natl. vice-pres. of NNLC; Leroy Wilson, St. Louis, another vice-pres., and Mrs. Anna S. Hardin of Cincinnati.

1626-1953—'Equality' Was the Watchword

FIRST OF A SERIES

This article is the first of a series on the history of the battle which Negroes have waged for political equality in America's largest city, New York. The sequels will appear in each issue from now until the November municipal elections. For a factual background of a crusade which is now reaching new heights you may want to clip and keep the series.

By FREDERICK CORNISH

In 1626 eleven Negroes came as slaves to the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam (later New York). Eighteen years later they were freed on their own petition—and to the struggle against slavery was added the fight for equal political rights.

When the British took over New York the cruellest forms of slavery began to thrive; and by 1694 New York's Negro population—mostly slaves—numbered more than 2,000: 13 per cent of the entire population!

But New York along with its "Southern" pro-slavery outlook, also early became one of the most potent centers of abolitionist and equal rights struggles.

The state's first constitution, drafted a year after the Declaration of Independence, set up no special color ban against free Negroes voting. And after the Revolutionary War, a considerable number of Negroes by joining in arms against the hated British had won their freedom and the right to citizenship.

The 1821 Constitution

It is estimated that there were nearly 5,000 Negro freedmen in New York State in 1790; while another 21,300 slaves, through the most intense forms of struggle, constantly forced the slavemasters to give ground. By 1799, for instance, the Legislature was forced to pass an act providing for the "gradual" emancipation of the slaves.

To counteract the Negroes' growing political and economic strength, New York authorities suddenly became very interested in "colonization" schemes by which free Negroes would be sent to Africa or the West Indies.

When this failed to prove "attractive," the politicians in 1821 drew up a new constitution for the State which virtually barred free Negroes from voting, while greatly easing the restrictions on white citizens.

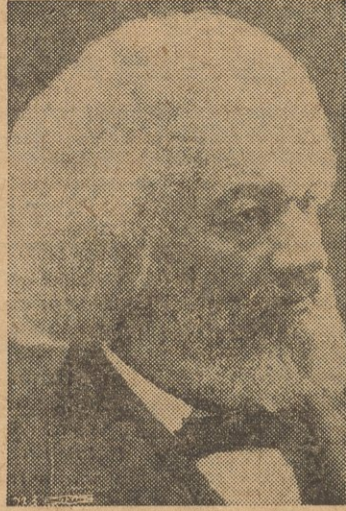
Meanwhile the sentiment against slavery had reached such a pitch, that New York finally in 1827 totally abolished the institution—just four months after "Freedom's Journal," the first abolitionist newspaper was published in New York City by a Negro, John B. Russwurm.

Economic Position Worsens

While meetings were held throughout the state rejoicing at the end of slavery in New York (the last state in the North except for New Jersey to abolish it), their joy was tempered with sorrow and anger over the loss of the vote.

Added to this was the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 and the Dred Scott decision in 1857, which made every free Negro in the city in danger from the slaveocrats.

The loss of the vote under the 1821 constitution immediately had a deep economic as well as political consequence for New York Negroes—a few of whom had even become relatively wealthy in certain



Frederick Douglass

skilled and semi-skilled jobs which had been won in the course of struggle. From 1830, until the restoration of the full franchise in 1874, the economic position of the Negro deteriorated rapidly.

Hardly a single meeting was held by Negroes in the city without a resolution being passed calling for restoration

of the elective franchise. Typical is the Call to the New York State Convention of Negroes in 1840 (two years after Frederick Douglass came to New York City), signed by 100 people, which declared:

"The principal legal disability which affects us, is, the deprivation of the free exercise in common with other men, of the elective franchise. A free suffrage is the basis of a free government, the safeguard of a free people, the strength of the strong, the defence of the weak, a powerful auxiliary to respectability, wealth, and usefulness; and just in proportion as men are deprived of this, they are shorn of their strength, and are subject to poverty, disgrace and abuse.

In 1860 a referendum was called—through the consistent agitation of Negroes and the abolitionist movement as a whole—to abandon the discriminatory franchise. The electorate, however, voted against the reform and it was defeated.

Freedom Salutes

A 'POW' Family in Connecticut

From time to time Mrs. Janet Moses reads from the neat stack of letters, securely tied with a fading blue ribbon. For many months they were the only contact which she, Patsey and Louis, Jr., had with the children's daddy, Cpl. Louis Moses, a U. S. soldier in Korea. Then, suddenly, the letters stopped. And then Mrs. Moses received the notice from the War Department: her husband was reported missing in action on February 12, 1951.

Today, more than two years later, Cpl. Louis Moses is still missing in action, presumably a prisoner of war. And the little family he left behind is one of the most effective "peace groups" in Connecticut and the nation.

Sergeant in World War II

Mr. and Mrs. Moses were both still in their teens when married in Trenton, N. J., in September, 1941. But their life together was soon cut short, for in a matter of months Louis Moses became one of the millions of Americans who helped defeat the fascist Axis in World War II. As a sergeant in the Transportation Corps he served overseas for two-and-a-half years and took part in the Battle of Normandy.

Discharged in October, 1945, he returned home to his family in Hartford, Conn. He worked as a machine molder; at night he held down another job as porter at Sage-Allen & Co. to make ends meet. When he asked that his name be removed from the inactive reserve list, it was placed on the active reserve instead. And on September 24, 1950 Louis Moses was on his way to the second war in his young lifetime the misnamed "police action" in Korea.

850 Signatures

Mrs. Janet Moses was born in Hartford and grew up in New Jersey where she met her husband. Returning to Hartford during World War II she started work in one of the main

department stores where she worked as a clerk, saleslady and assistant buyer in the basement children's department. She was forced to quit her job by a combination of ill health and the threats of local housing authorities to evict her from a government project because she was "making too much money." At present she serves as chairman of the Hartford Committee to Aid Families of Smith Act victims.

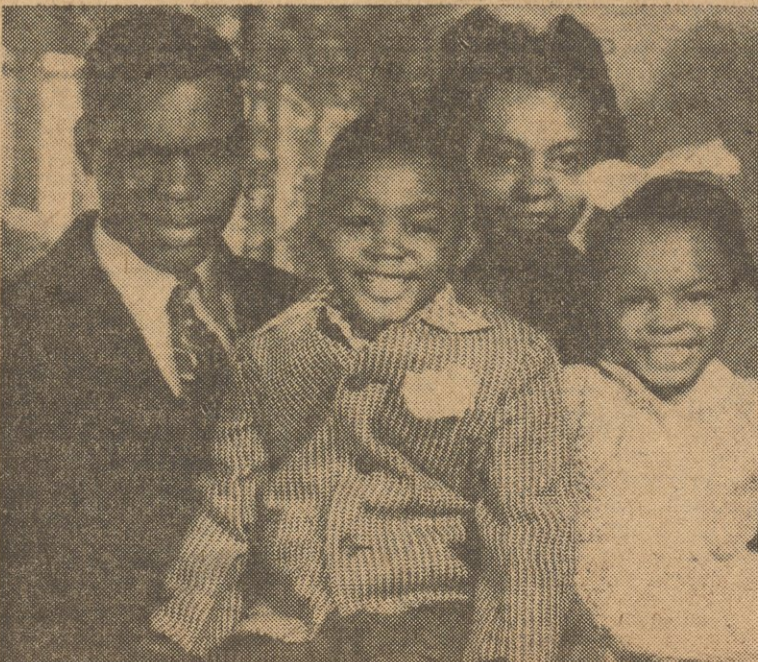
In July, 1952, Mrs. Moses started a petition to the President calling for a cease-fire in Korea and the freeing of all prisoners of war. Little Patsey, Louis, Jr. and two of their young friends collected 850 signatures in three weeks. The children have organized a group called the Hartford Champions of Peace, ranging from five to 12 years of age.

Cease Fire Now!

Speaking of the future, Mrs. Moses says: "Two wars have broken up my home. The little time the children have had

with their father since they were large enough to understand are sweet thoughts and they cry for more. The time has come when they do not talk about him any more, but you know that they think of him when they pass his picture and stop and look at it and smile. When other children talk about their fathers my children look sad and try to change the subject.

"I want to know why men should be in other lands killing their brothers; why women and children should be killed and why cities, towns and farms should be destroyed when it took years and hard labor to build? The only answer I can find is that peace would be a danger to the big businessmen who run the country. It certainly would be a blessing to me. I say stop the killing now and have a cease-fire now and then settle all questions in peace. Striving for unity of races, tongues and nationalities will bring about brotherhood of all men and world peace."



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Moses are shown with Louis Jr. and Patsey, in the happy days before daddy became a POW.

It Happened Last Month

THE POLITICAL SCENE

Professor Henry J. Williams, chairman of the Vote Commission of the Alabama State Teachers Association and also of the Birmingham Negro Teachers Association announced that over 60 per cent of the 708 Negro teachers in the Birmingham public school system are qualified voters.

The first Negro candidate in a Bibb county (Ga.) political race ran third in a field of 16 contestants as William Dunn put in a strong bid for city water commissioner of Macon. Dunn polled 460 votes to 829 for Thomas Winchester, the winner. Second-place candidate Stuart Wind, also white, polled 590 votes. All of Dunn's votes were from Negroes except one.

When two of Atlanta's leading Negro citizens, AU president Dr. Rufus E. Clement and NAACP counsel A. T. Walden were nominated for two offices in the city's May 13 primary election, the city council panicked by the prospect of their election, called off the



Dr. Clement

election! Dr. Clement was named to run for the Board of Education and attorney Walden sought a place on the city executive committee. Both men were drafted by the Atlanta Negro voters league which has been active in getting out the vote. League spokesmen, in announcing the nominations, said that the naming of Negro candidates would spur the registration among Negroes, particularly in the heavily-populated southwest, southeast and northeast sections of Atlanta.



Att. Walden

Growing city-wide support for the candidacy of a single Negro candidate, Rev. Father Joseph W. Nicholson, pastor of All Saints Episcopal Church, has caused a lily white slate of "blue ribbon" school board candidates in St. Louis considerable alarm. One of ten candidates for four places on the board which supervises St. Louis' Jim Crow schools, Nicholson has gained the support of powerful city-wide groups such as the Metropolitan Church Federation, the United Baptist Conference and the Urban League's Federation of Block Units, as well as regular political ward organizations.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A split loomed in Alexander Bustamante's reigning Jamaica (BWI) Labor Party when Mme. Rose Leon, member of the House of Representatives for Western St. Andrew resigned in a huff. Her action was in protest against Busta's accepting the proposals of wealthy planters in making ministerial

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Freedom

Where one is enslaved, all are in chains!

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Open Letter to Jackie Robinson

(Continued from Page 1)

tion to Americans about the conditions in Africa — conditions to be compared with, but worse than, those in Mississippi and Alabama.

We bring the truth about Kenya, for example—about a man like Kenyatta, leader of the Kikuyu, a proud African people of centuries of culture. I know Kenyatta. He's a highly educated man, with many more degrees than we have, Jackie. He's getting seven years in jail because he wants his people to be free. And there are Americans of African descent who are today on trial, in jail, fugitives, or dead (!) because they fought in their own way for their people to be free. Kenyatta's sentence calls to mind Ben Davis, Henry Winston, James Jackson, Claudia Jones, Pettis Perry and, yes, Harry Moore.

What goes here, Jackie? Well, I'll tell you. The same kind of people who don't want you to point up injustices to your folks, the same people who think you ought to stay in your "place," the same people who want to shut you up—want to shut up any one of us who speaks out for our full equality, for all of our rights.

THAT'S THE HEART of what I said in Paris in 1949, for example. As a matter of fact the night before I got to Paris 2,000 representatives of colored colonial peoples from all over the world (most of them students in English universities) asked me and Dr. Dadoo, leader of the Indian population in South Africa, to greet the Congress of Peace in Paris in their name.

These future leaders of their countries were from Nigeria, Gold Coast, South Africa, Kenya, Java, Indonesia, India, Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbadoes, the Philippines, Japan, Burma, and other lands. They were the shapers of the future in the Eastern and colonial world and they asked us to say to this Congress representing about 800 million of the world's 2,000 million that they and their countries wanted peace, no war with anybody. They said they certainly did not want war with the Soviet Union and China because these countries had come out of conditions similar to their own. But the Soviet Union and China were now free of the so-called "free western" imperialist powers. They were countries which had proved that colonial countries could get free, that colored peoples were as good as any other.

All these students made it clear that they felt that the nations who wanted war wanted it in order to head off struggles of colonial peoples, as in Indo-China, Malaya, Africa and Korea, for freedom. For example, if you could start a war in Africa, the authorities could clamp down completely with war measures. (It's bad enough now!)

The students felt that peace was absolutely needed in order for their peoples to progress. And certainly, they said, they saw no need to die for foreign firms which had come in and taken their land, rubber, cocoa, gold, diamonds, copper and other riches.

AND I HAD TO AGREE that it seemed to me that the

same held good in these United States. There was and is no need to talk of war against any nation. We Afro-Americans need peace to continue the struggle for our full rights. And there is no need for any of our American youth to be used as cannon and bomb fodder anywhere in the world.

So I was and am for an immediate cease-fire in Korea and for peace. And it seemed and still seems unthinkable to me that colored or working folk anywhere would continue to rush to die for these who own most of the stocks and bonds, under the guise of false patriotism.

I was born and raised in America, Jackie—on the East Coast as you were on the West. I'm a product of American institutions, as you. My father was a slave and my folks worked cotton and tobacco, and still do in eastern No. Carolina. I'll always have the right to speak out, yes, shout at the top of my voice for full freedom for my people here, in the West Indies, in Africa — and for our real allies, actual and potential, millions of poor white workers who will never be free until we are free.

And, Jackie, the success of a few of us is no final answer. It helps, but this alone can't free all of us. Your child, my grandchildren, won't be free until our millions, especially in the South, have full opportunity and full human dignity.

WE FIGHT IN MANY WAYS. From my experience, I think it's got to be a militant fight. One has to square off with the enemy once in a while.

Thanks for the recognition that I am a great ex-athlete. In the recent record books the All-American team of 1918 and the nationally-picked team of 1917 have only ten players—my name is omitted.

And also thanks for the expression of your opinion that I'm certainly a great singer and actor. A lot of people in the world think so and would like to hear me. But I can't get a passport. And here in my own America millions of Americans would like to hear me. But I can't get auditoriums to sing or act in. And I'm sometimes picketed by the American Legion and other Jim Crow outfits. I have some records on the market but have difficulty getting shops



Jackie Robinson

to take them.

People who "beef" at those of us who speak out, Jackie, are afraid of us. Well, let them be afraid. I'm continuing to speak out, and I hope you will, too. And our folks and many others like them all over the world will make it—and soon!

Believe me, Jackie.

'Robeson...a veritable Othello...led the Rutgers 11'

Since the 1917 All-American football team is listed these days without the name of Paul Robeson we decided to dig up a few quotes from the sports writers of that year: Here they are:

George Daley, N.Y. World (11/28/17)—"Paul Robeson, the big Negro end of Rutgers, is a football genius . . . Robeson is the best all-around player on the gridiron this season and the most valuable man on the

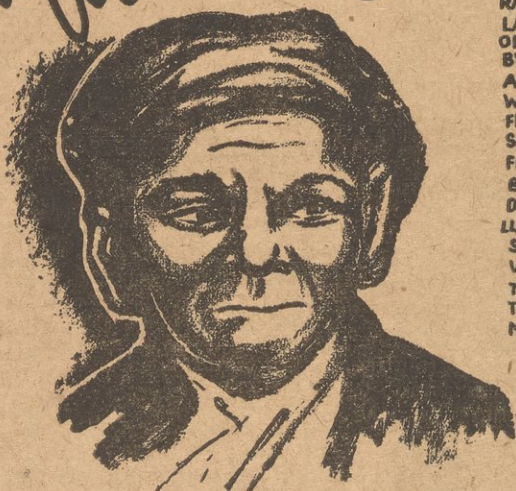
team. After seeing his play at Ebbets Field on Saturday against 'Cupid' Black's Naval Reserve team . . . Robeson must be ranked with such men as Tack Hardwick and Eddie Mahan of Harvard, Charley Barrett of Cornell, Jim Thorpe of Carlisle Indians. It is seldom indeed that a lineman can develop such a versatility. . . . His ability to size up plays and quickly get to the point of danger is almost uncanny. . . . Opening up holes for his backs

on line plays; providing remarkable interference . . . on end runs; going downfield under punts; taking forward passes, in which, by the way he handles the pigskin with almost the same sureness as a baseball. . . ."

Well, there's lots more, but just to sum it up, another writer, describing the same game says: "It was Robeson, a veritable Othello of battle, who led the dashing little Rutgers eleven to victory. . . ."

HEROES IN OUR HISTORY

"MOSES"



HARRIET TUBMAN

BORN A SLAVE IN MARYLAND AROUND 1820. WORKING AS A FIELD HAND AT THE AGE OF 5 SHE LEARNED THE BRUTAL FACE OF SLAVERY. AS THE RESULT OF A BLOW TO HER HEAD BY AN OVERSEER SHE WAS SUBJECT TO SEIZURES OF SLEEPING ILLNESS. HER OWNERS TOOK THIS AS A SIGN OF DULL-WITTEDNESS, BUT WRONG THEY WERE. HARRIET ESCAPED, FLEEING NORTH, BUT SHE COULDN'T FORGET SLAVERY AND SHE SOON BECAME A CONDUCTOR ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD WHERE SHE EARNED THE NAME "MOSES."

HARRIET MADE OVER 20 TRIPS AS A CONDUCTOR ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND STIMULATED THOUSANDS OF SLAVES TO ESCAPE BY THEMSELVES. AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO VALUED HER FRIENDSHIP WERE SUCH WELL KNOWN FIGURES AS JOHN BROWN, FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND WM. LLOYD BARRISON. SHE WAS THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY TO PLAN AND LEAD A MILITARY CAMPAIGN.



REWARD!
\$40,000
DEAD OR ALIVE
FOR
HARRIET TUBMAN

SO HATED WAS SHE BY THE SLAVE OWNERS THAT DOZENS OF REWARDS WERE OFFERED FOR HER CAPTURE, RUNNING AS HIGH AS \$40,000 AT THE AGE OF 93 SHE DIED. SHE WAS BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY RITES AND HER DEATH WAS TREATED AS NATIONAL NEWS.

It Happened Last Month

(Continued from Page 2)

appointments, rather than the demands of the workers who make up the party.

Speaking at an army-sponsored Economic Mobilization Course at New York's Astor Hotel, Col. Alvin R. Glafka called Africa the "continent of tomorrow" and "a virtual storehouse of strategic materials." He pointed out that Africa produces 98 per cent of the world's diamonds, 85 per cent of the cobalt, 30 per cent of the manganese, 15 per cent of the tin and half the world's supply of uranium.

The Liberian government recently made minor adjustments in the 99-Year Concession Agreement granted to the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. in 1926. The changes do not affect the length of the lease, however, and Firestone undoubtedly plans to be doing a record business at the same old stand in 2025!

Dr. Edgar Worthington, a white British scientist, claims that the problems in Africa, and especially Kenya, are due to overpopulation. Five-and-a-half million Africans in Kenya seem to be saying, however, that if the 16,000 Europeans would either act like guests or go back where they came from the population situation would be just fine and the Africans' biggest problem would be solved.

One or two injections of such powerful drugs as penicillin, terramycin and auromycin, administered by the World Health Organization, have cured over a million Haitian peasants of the dreaded yaws disease since 1950. It is predicted that this virulent affliction with its syphilis-like open sores will be wiped out in Haiti by July, 1953.

Alan Paton, author of "Cry, the Beloved Country," is leading liberal South African whites in the formation of a lily-white "liberal" party in South Africa after the April 15 elections.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Edward Oscar walked out of the state prison at Kansas City, Mo., after serving five years of a 20-year sentence. A 16-year-old white school girl had accused him of rape when she was 11, now admitted she had lied. Despite repeated denials of innocence a jury had found him "guilty" and set sentence at 99 years, which the court reduced to 20.

The American Automobile Association still denies auto insurance to Negroes in most states. A bill introduced by State Senator Charles Diggs, Jr., will eliminate the practice in Michigan.

Detailing acts of violence dating from 1943, a federal grand jury at Miami, Fla., returned a report which described the reign of Klan terror as "incredible"—but failed to file a single indictment against the terrorists.

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South Africa Bans Bishops

(Continued from Page 1)

bishops places three questions squarely before the U. S. government.

1. Does the U. S. government's respect for the "sovereignty" of South Africa include giving it the right to bar at will American citizens, Negro or white, unless they pledge support of the Malan government's policies?

2. What does the U. S. government intend to do about the case of the AME bishops—especially since one of the leading prelates of the church, Bishop D. Ward Nichols, is one of the most widely publicized Eisenhower supporters?

3. When will the U. S. government speak out against South Africa's racist oppression?

Will Secretary of State Dulles answer these questions? He can be forced to if enough people demand that he do so—if a barrage of telegrams and letters descends upon the State Department.

Bunche Withdraws

There is another related question which needs to be addressed to Lester Pearson, President of the UN General Assembly and to the UN Secretary-General. Last December

a UN commission was appointed to investigate racial conditions in South Africa. Not a single meeting of the commission has been held in three months; there is no indication that the group plans to go to South Africa; and now Dr. Ralph Bunche has asked to be excused "because of other duties." Other members of the commission are Hernan Santa Cruz of Chile and Henri Laugier of France.

Was Bunche's withdrawal due to the pressure of other duties or the pressure of the U. S. delegation on the UN secretariat? What are the commission's plans? Is it going to make an on-the-spot investigation. If so, WHEN? We have received several communications from South Africa asking these questions. They should be answered—NOW. If Malan dares exclude the UN commission as he did the AME bishops, the world ought to know about it.

Bellegarde in Bunche Position

As FREEDOM goes to press we learn that Dante Bellgrade, distinguished Haitian writer and historian, has been substituted for Dr. Ralph Bunche on the UN Commission to investigate conditions in South Africa. Information from Dr. Bunche is that the Commission is scheduled to hold its first



IN SOUTH AFRICA, the AME Church, as well as other denominations, has been an important part of the fight against the repressive legislation and policies of the Malan government. Rev. Dr. F. H. Gow, leading AME churchman in South Africa, is shown, left, at a meeting of the Franchise Action Committee called in defense of the colored vote. Others shown are: Mr. S. Pillay who presided, Councillor Mrs. Z. Gool, and Mr. Sam Kahn, M. P., and Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, president of the South African Indian Congress.

meeting in New York on April 20. There is no word at the UN as to whether the Commission plans to go to South Africa to conduct its investigations.

Elections

As we go to press the national election pending in South Africa is likely to have far-reaching consequences both in terms of the form and character of the South African liberation struggle. FREEDOM will deal with the elections in its next issue, and in June will publish a special supplement (four pages) on developments throughout Africa.



Dr. Ralph Bunche

Kenyatta

(Continued from Page 1)

that all of Kenya is in an actual state of war. Seven thousand Africans were arrested in one week, a number equal to the total number of prisoners of war held by both sides in Korea. Since January, when General Sir Brian Robertson, Commander of the British Near East Ground Forces, flew to Kenya to take over active command of the armed forces, a buildup has been under way which will soon result in three divisions of troops in the field plus home guards, police, and a totally armed white civilian population.

What's behind the buildup?

In Kenya 30,000 white settlers (whose predecessors came in 1901 as "visitors" passing thru to Uganda) live as a privileged elite. Three thousand of them own half the land, and all the richest land of the colony. The African is ground down under merciless exploitation in his ancestral home.

Four months ago (12/12/52) James Cameron, a writer for the Daily Mirror, England's most widely circulated paper, described the Europeans in Kenya as "a trigger-happy white minority howling for Kikuyu blood."

And more recently another Britisher, Mr. L. Hale, Labor member of the House of Commons, described the conditions of the Africans. Addressing the House he said: "I have in my hand a contract in printed form. . . . It is a contract for three years which cannot be terminated by the worker. It provides that he shall have a piece of land not more than two and a half acres in extent. It does not provide any home, but does provide that the occupier shall supply him with

building materials with which he can build his own house. It does not provide him with any food; it specifically says "No posho." It restricts the crops he can grow on his land to maize, potatoes and other vegetables. It refuses to allow him to own any cattle. . . . It is an agreement for 42c a week, seven days a week, and keep. Women and children must work, too, and sons of 16 must be prepared to work or get the

sack."

Once the facts are known it becomes clear that no amount of shouting "Mau Mau" or "terror" and no amount of British arrogance and oppression will settle the question of Kenya's future. That question will only be settled when Kenya is ruled by the brave people whose country it is and when the white settlers behave like guests or get thrown out for wearing out their welcome.

Who Is Jomo Kenyatta?

JOMO KENYATTA was born in 1893 in the Kikuyu reserve. His parents, who left him orphaned at an early age, named him Kamau Wa Ngengi. At the Church of Scotland Mission School near Fort Hall, where he went when he was about 10, he was baptized "Johnstone." Later in England he adopted his present name.

As a youth he learned the trade of carpentry and went to Nairobi, the capital, to work. There in 1922 he identified himself with the national liberation movement of that period, the Kikuyu Central Association. He served as General Secretary of the Association; published its organ Muigwithania, the first Kikuyu-language newspaper, from 1928 to 1930; and in the next year went to London, bearing the Association's petition for relief from the white settlers' expanding encroachment upon the Africans' lands—the first of several such missions in which he addressed the Government for his people.

After a year back in Kenya following his initial brief visit to London, Kenyatta returned to England and remained away from home for 13 years. He studied anthropology and other subjects at the University of



Jomo Kenyatta

London and wrote Facing Mount Kenya (1938) a classic work on African tribal life, dedicated "to Moigo and Wamboi and all the dispossessed youth of Africa." He traveled through Europe and visited Moscow. During World War II he "did his bit" for England as a farm laborer and gave

Facts on Africa

The facts on developments in Kenya and all parts of Africa can be gotten from the Council on African Affairs, 53 West 125th Street, New York 27. Paul Robeson is chairman; Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, vice-chairman; Dr. Alphaeus Hunton, secy. Join the council and receive its Newsletter for \$2.00 a year.

lectures for the Workers' Educational Association. In 1942 he married an English woman who bore him a son. In October, 1945, he was present at Manchester, England, with Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Kwame Nkrumah (prime minister of Gold Coast) and the other 200 delegates to the Fifth Pan-African Congress.

The following year Kenyatta returned home and entered energetically into the work of the African liberation struggle in Kenya. He became Principal of the Teachers' Training College at Githunguri, organized by and for Africans in association with the Kenya Independent Schools Association. He then assumed presidency of the Kenya African Union which had been founded in 1944. Under his leadership the KAU has advanced rapidly. It was reported last year to have a membership of 100,000 with branches in all parts of the country.

Then came the Government crack-down. Several of the KAU leaders had been arrested even before the Governor of Kenya declared a "state of emergency" on October 20, 1952. Jomo Kenyatta was arrested Oct. 21 and spirited away to internment in Northern Kenya.

It Happened Last Month

(Continued from Page 3)

Negroes seeking to move into the previously lily-white Northwest section of Atlanta were met with violence and police inaction. The homes recently purchased by a Negro real estate firm were burned by race-hating arsonists.

Though Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel issued a pastoral letter condemning segregation in the 160 Catholic churches of his New Orleans Archdiocese, Negro communicants still complained that they were shunted to the rear seats of downtown churches on Palm Sunday.

Hugh Johnson, "summarily dismissed" by the Market Street YMCA of Asheville, N. C., charged that "certain powerful whites prodded the branch's committee of management into firing me," because as co-chairman of the Buncombe County Committee for Jobs for Negroes, Johnson organized campaigns against discrimination.

In an interview with the N. Y. Amsterdam News, Harlem Assemblyman Hulan Jack accused real estate and city, state and federal politicians of a plot to "make small ghettos out of big ones." The plan, according to Jack, has the double-edged purpose of short-circuiting the growing movement for adequate political representation in Harlem and at the same time creating small segregated pockets of Negroes in other areas. Under it, 150,000 Harlemites are being moved into powerless little ghettos in Long Island, the Bronx and elsewhere.

Connecticut colleges, headed by Yale U., banded together to fight a proposal of the State Civil Rights Commission for legislation banning discrimination in college admissions, scholarships and other operations. The colleges claim there's "no existing evil" which needs correction. The answer would seem to be, "Where there's smoke there's fire."

ON THE LABOR FRONT

The lily-white status of the top officialdom of the United Auto Workers, CIO, remained unchanged as Negroes were left off all slates for executive board posts and district directorships at the union's Atlantic City convention. Dave Moore, speaking for five former unit officers of Ford Local 600, electrified the delegates for a solid hour as he presented a case against the international's action in removing the "Ford Five" on trumped-up subversion charges. But the Reuther-stacked convention voted down the appeal. The convention took a strong stand on peace, calling on Eisenhower administration to "talk it out, not shoot it out," and attacked McCarthy's hysteria.

Clarence Mitchell, head of the NAACP's Washington bureau, asked the Navy Department to end segregation of employees at Navy Yards in Charleston, S. C., Norfolk, Va.,

(Continued on Page 5)

Government Jails Negro Woman Peace Worker

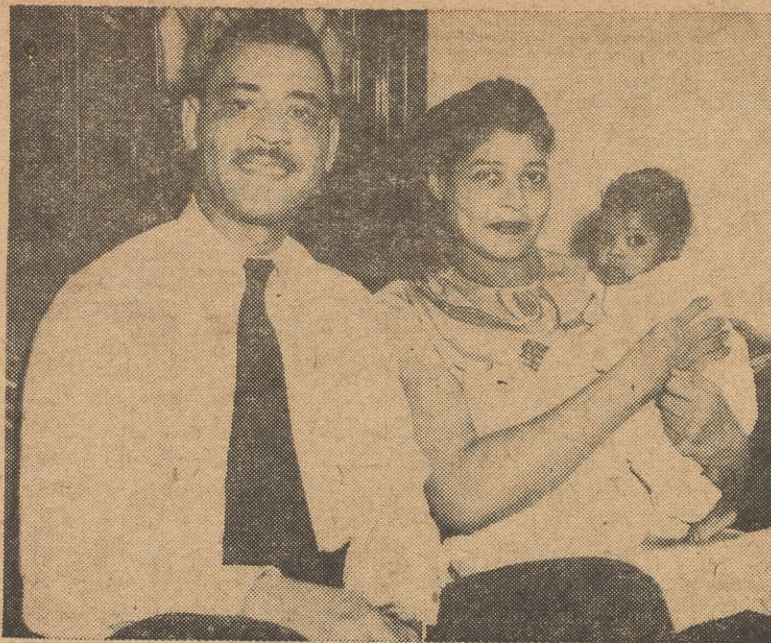
A year ago Mrs. Myrtle Dennis made a trip to several European countries as part of a group of trade unionists. Upon her return she wrote for the *Cleveland Call and Post* an account of her travels in England, France, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Soviet Union. She spoke to clubs, church groups, labor organizations and civic associations.

Many of the things Mrs. Dennis reported have recently been repeated by a touring group of editors which has just returned from Moscow; the Russians were a warm and friendly people, much like the Americans; the Russians want peace; they are busy in all kinds of construction projects, restoring the horrible devastation of World War II and creating houses, schools, hospitals and cultural centers.

Last month—a year after her voyage—Mrs. Dennis, a worker and housewife, was arrested and held by U. S. marshals on a technical charge of passport violation. At the time of her arrest she was ill and taking care of her six-months-old baby. Her husband, Ray Dennis, international executive board member of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union and financial secretary of the National Negro Labor Council, was in Denver on union business.

Mrs. Dennis is charged with giving a false name in applying for her passport. Denying the charge Mrs. Dennis explained that she applied under her rightful name and that "When the papers arrived I found that several facts relating to my birth were required, some of it information that I did not have. I sent the papers to my father in Illinois so that he could supply these facts. He is an elderly man and through some error placed the name of my youngest sister—there are eleven of us—on the papers, instead of mine. When I learned of the error it was too late to correct it and still leave with the delegation."

"At no time, says Mrs. Dennis, was there any effort or intent to misrepresent any facts in the matter, and the officials had plenty of proof



MRS. MYRTLE DENNIS is shown above with her husband, Roy Dennis, international board member of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, and their six-weeks-old daughter. When Mrs. Dennis, a shop worker and active trade unionist, had an opportunity to visit Europe as a guest of the World Federation of Trade Unions she thought "it was the chance of a lifetime."

of my true name in the multitude of other papers they handled of mine."

A Defense Committee for

Mrs. Myrtle Dennis has been set up and is calling upon persons throughout the nation for support.

'A Pamphlet with the Glow of Truth'

THIS IS MY HUSBAND, by Esther Cooper Jackson. Published by the Natl. Comm. to Defend Negro Leadership, 1660 Fulton St., Brooklyn 13, N.Y. 36 pp. 25c.

The hunted man—here is a theme that runs through all the Negro's history in the Land of the Free. The first written mention of Crispus Attucks—20 years before he died a hero-patriot—was a newspaper advertisement urging his capture as a runaway slave. Then a century later—Frederick Douglass, fugitive slave and later a fugitive from the slaveholders' Federal government. Bloodhounds . . . patrols . . . U. S. marshals . . . county sheriffs . . . and nowadays, the FBI.

This little booklet tells the story of James Jackson, a modern Negro hero who is hunted by the oppressors' Law. It is the story of a good man, told by a good woman, his wife. There is the glow of truth in **This Is My Husband**, and the glow of love, too.

The narrative begins with James Jackson's boyhood in Richmond where he was born in 1914. We see the family that nurtured him: his militant

father, a druggist in a community of poor working people; his mother, "a gentle woman who found her greatest happiness in doing for others."

Then there were the tobacco workers, thronging past the Jacksons' store after a long day's toil at starvation pay: "old folk and mere children . . . their shoulders draped about with burlap sacks against the chill wind."

And over all—Jim Crow, the pall of a people's oppression.

We follow young James through high school and his college years at Virginia Union and Howard where he won his doctorate in pharmacy. A brilliant student, a restless, searching spirit, it was inevitable that he would find his way into the student movement for peace, for anti-lynching legislation—and into the ranks of the young Communists. And it was inevitable, too, that he would turn from the mortar and pestle of pharmacy to the speakers' platform, the union hall and picket-line.

He remembered the hungry tobacco workers: he helped to organize them. He remembered his oppressed people of the Southland: he helped organize and lead the Southern Negro

'Othello' In Harlem

Sunday, April 19, at 4:00 P. M., will mark almost a quarter of a century since William Shakespeare's "Othello" has been presented in Harlem and almost ten years since Paul Robeson's unequalled portrayal of the title role in the last Theatre Guild Broadway production.

The Harlem presentation, a concert version of the classic, will present William Marshall as Othello and will take place at the Mother AME Zion Church, 146 West 147 St. Others in the cast are Jane White, Henry Scott, Lloyd Richards and Helen Marsh.

Lawyers Guild Offers Concert

A unique musical evening will be presented by an interracial group of vocalists and instrumentalists when the N. Y. chapter of the National Lawyers Guild presents its Town Hall concert on April 17.

Youth Congress that made the countryside ring with its cry for "Freedom, Equality, Opportunity."

Then came the war, service in the Army, a first-hand look at the evils of imperialist rule in India, and his return with a strengthened vow to help free his people at home. He became a leader of the Communist Party in the South and among the auto workers of Detroit.

In 1951 James Jackson was indicted under the thought-control Smith Act and since then he has been a political refugee: "my husband and several others chose to find a way to continue their struggles for peace and democracy in spite of the fascist-like law."

Esther Cooper Jackson and her two small daughters, and her husband's family in Richmond, have been cruelly hounded by the FBI manhunters. But she writes: "I am not to be pitied but to be congratulated. I am proud of my husband and his colleagues!"

Readers of this booklet will be proud of James Jackson, too, and should feel impelled to help in the fight to repeal the Smith Act and win amnesty for its victims. L. L. B.

It Happened Last Month

(Continued from page 4)

and all other naval establishments. Mitchell pointed out that Negro employees are now forced to use separate restaurants, restrooms and drinking fountains.

Eleven nurses at the municipal Negro hospital in Tampa, Fla., sued Mayor Curtis Hixon and the city council. They charged discrimination in pay, "solely because of race and color."

Ninety per cent of 1,229 companies surveyed by a committee appointed by Pennsylvania's Governor Fine were found to discriminate in hiring policies. Discrimination according to job classification is as follows: semi-skilled, 52 per cent; skilled, 67 per cent; supervisory, 83 per cent; office, 88 per cent; engineering, 89 per cent; sales, 92 per cent.

The Women's Committee of the Los Angeles Negro Labor Council officially launched its second annual Labor's Negro Woman of the Year Contest on April 1st. Last year awards were given to the women writing the best essays on the question, "What Discrimination Means to Me and How I Fight It."

The Greater New York Negro Labor Council called upon the State Commission Against Discrimination to "give its unqualified support and endorsement to the agreement" between the Brewery Board of Trade, the Brewery Workers Joint Board and the Urban League for the hiring of 100 Negro workers in permanent production jobs. Rumors are that SCAD, to which the agreement was referred, is contemplating "modifications." Meanwhile the Council continued its picketing of the Statler as part of its campaign for jobs and upgrading in downtown hotels.

Meeting in Denver, the executive board of the Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union pointed to the Eisenhower Administration with its "Billionaire Cabinet," the danger of a depression "in all American industry" and the "fight-back spirit spreading among workers" and said "this year, things are different." It drew up 1953 wage and contract demands and launched a drive to achieve them.

The militant Marine Cooks and Stewards union, issuing a call for its fifth biennial convention to be held in San Francisco July 20, declared: "Our strength has the the unity of all our members and officials, Negro, white, Asian, Latin-American. We go into the forthcoming convention with over half our officials and members of minority groups and with one of our two national officers a Negro brother, the other a white brother." Soon after the call was issued, MCS president Hugh Bryson was indicted under the Taft-Hartley act for alleged perjury in filling out a non-communist affidavit. The union's top Negro officer is Joe Johnson, secretary-treasurer.

Negro Labor Council Launches Southern Drive

(Continued from Page 1)

new million dollar manufacturing plant for each working day.)

According to Coleman A. Young, executive secretary of the Council, "The drive will not only open up thousands of production jobs for Negro men and women in the South for the first time in history, but will also force both the CIO and AFL to deal with the question of organizing millions of unorganized Negro and white workers in the South."

Emphasizing the importance of the Council drive for the trade unions, Young pointed out that "Through a strict Jim Crow hiring policy they [big business] are depriving Negro workers of jobs in order to insure that a cheap labor reserve shall be maintained in the hope of breaking strikes and undermining the entire labor movement."

Opening Gun

The opening gun of the Southern campaign has already been fired in Louisville, Ky. There the organization's local Council is in the thick of a community campaign to win 3,000 jobs for Negro men and women at the General Electric Company's Appliance Park plant.

GE has moved its appliance divisions from several parts of the country to this Southern border city, set up a consolidated appliance factory manufacturing refrigerators, washing machines and other appliances on a 700-acre tract on the outskirts of the city. Approximately 1,000 workers have been hired from Louisville and the surrounding area; of these 25 are Negroes, all hired as janitors.

Negroes are 18 per cent of the Louisville population. It is estimated that when the plant is completed more than

16,000 workers will be employed. Thus the campaign of the Labor Council, which has the support of the local NAACP, Urban League, church and community organizations, is for 3,000 jobs in all categories.

Travis Letter

An important part of the Louisville An important part of the Louisville by Maurice Travis, secretary-treasurer of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, and vice-president at large of the Negro Labor Council, to the national leaders of the CIO, AFL and the international unions seeking jurisdiction at the GE plant.

Aside from Kentucky the main areas of concentration of the Labor Council in its Southern drive are Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. Northern chapters are being called upon to raise \$10,000 to assist the campaign.

Paul Robeson's Birthday

ON APRIL 9 PAUL ROBESON marked his 55th birthday.

Few are the men and women of our time whose private anniversaries have become so much a matter of public interest as his.

This is true because throughout a brilliant career he has infused his every act with such love of the masses of his people, sympathy with their struggles and responsiveness to their needs, that they count him as one of themselves and see the outlines of their future cast in his gigantic achievements. As is true of all great leaders, he is in a sense a "forerunner"—the present embodiment of our early tomorrow.

Thus what in others may have been one more tale of unique individual achievement has become, in the Paul Robeson story, the continuing chronicle of a people's struggles and triumphs, personified in their most faithful prototype.

THE GREATNESS OF HIS SINGING lies not only in the unmatched qualities of his voice, but also in the fact that he sings the folk songs of his people, and all peoples, as the folk would have them sung.

His achievements as an actor rest not only on his incomparable "Othello," but also on the fact that years ago he turned his back on a Hollywood which withheld roles that would truthfully portray his people.

While others, to save their skins, would surrender our direst needs to the demands of the warmakers, he touched the deepest aspirations of his people—for peace—and boldly declared it unthinkable that Negroes should fight to further the aims of their oppressors against peoples who had never failed to befriend them.

When, on the heels of his Paris statement, the U.S. "white supremacy" bloc and their servile dependents in our midst frothed and threatened and "disavowed" Robeson, he refused to crawl or cringe.

They visited Peekskill upon him, but he stood his ground. In the finest tradition of Negro leadership—(Toussaint, "The Opener," opening new paths to dignity; Douglass, the fearless and lion-hearted; DuBois, pursuing truth wherever it leads)—in this great tradition he stood his ground.

AND THE PEOPLE, SENSING A NEW DIMENSION added in the realm of Negro leadership, have responded.

Everywhere he goes the people approach him—Negroes, white workers, youth and little children. They smile, or shake his hand; they caress him and say: "Stay in there, Paul, you're fighting for us."

The editors and staff who put out this little paper to be an aid and an inspirer in your daily struggles count ourselves honored to be called upon to spread, through FREEDOM, Paul Robeson's message.

We seek only to make FREEDOM as powerful a standard bearer as he is. We seek to put it into the hands of the hundreds of thousands, and eventually millions who know, as we do, that the people who have produced Paul Robeson cannot long be robbed of their full deliverance from insult and servitude.

Unpardonable Sin

The Baltimore Afro-American asked whether Dr. Gene Weltfish was fired from Columbia University because she refused to bow down to Senator McCarrans' inquisitors, or because she had written a book, "The Races of Mankind."

The book exploded the racist theories held by McCarran and his sidekick, Senator Eastland, the Afro-American explained, adding "There can be no forgiveness for those bold enough to puncture a big hole in the bubble of white supremacy."

We agree, and we'd like to know whether Columbia is now trying to plug that gaping hole.

Frederick Douglass said:

The peril and misfortune of the country has been the existence among us of a privileged class of irresponsible despots, authorized tyrants and blood-suckers, who fasten upon the Negro's flesh, and draw political power and consequence from their legalized crimes, rather than from their virtues. Such a body are the slaveholders. Proud, grasping, ambitious, nursed in lies and cruelty, these men are fitted for their present infernal work.

(Douglass' Monthly, August, 1861.)

Turn Around, Ike!



OPENING THE MAIL

Coast Will Help

Enclosed is a money order for four subscriptions to FREEDOM. We have not yet done as much as we must on the FREEDOM subscription drive; but those of us here on the West coast who do have subs to FREEDOM anxiously look forward every month for FREEDOM's inspiring message of peace and equality. We will do all we can here to help make FREEDOM's sub drive successful. Best of luck to FREEDOM and to the chairman of its editorial board, Paul Robeson.

Horace Alexander
Los Angeles, Calif.

It's Not Imagination

FREEDOM is so good! I already got one sub. Here's \$1.00, enclose me another paper with the one I already get. If I could I'd take 100 more. The March issue is so inspiring. Is it my imagination or my awakening? Are progressive papers improving? March 5th Guardian was also so good! Oh how I wish I had millions to give to fight discrimination, poverty and war and its evil concomitants.

Mrs. Grace Maged
Hoboken, N. J.

Good Start

I am a member of the Negro Labor Council and chairman of the subscription committee for FREEDOM. Enclosed you will find \$5 for five subscriptions as a beginning of our drive. I would like any information or literature to promote the drive.

Theodore Sutton
Bridgeport, Conn.

Wants Print of Peace Drawing

I have been intending to write to ask you if you would reproduce on paper the size and quality suitable for framing the wonderful picture entitled, "For All the World's People—Peace" from your December, 1952 issue. I would be glad to

pay whatever cost required. Your paper continues to be a really outstanding fighter and I wish you further success.

Caroline Parafax
Seattle, Wash.

Plugging in P. P.

First let me say how very much I appreciate the high caliber of the February issue. We are plugging for subs through our Iowa State Bulletin of P. P. May we run your article on the Puerto Rican Courts Martials? Please send us about 50 sub blanks and names of all expired subscriptions.

Edna Griffin
Des Moines, Iowa

The Power of Truth

The power of words of truth such as are contained in your paper are helping to free all mankind from the bondage of ignorance and superstition. More power to you! With faith—and trusting that the new world of peace and good-will toward all men for which we are working will soon be a reality.

Mrs. Lorena A. Naylor
Vancouver, B. C., Canada

Pamphlet and Book Section Urged

Let me take this opportunity to make a suggestion on the content of the paper. You mention in the March issue the writings of Douglass, a poem, and the Negro National Anthem. On the other hand, I for one would like to see a section of each issue, no matter how small a section, devoted to the theme that all Negro and white readers of the paper should try to get ahold of pamphlets and books as often as possible on Negro history.

A. B.,
San Francisco, Calif.

Spreading Subs

I enclose ten dollars not only

as contribution to your outstanding paper, but would like you to use it for ten people who would like but cannot, for financial reasons, buy a subscription themselves. More power to you.

Mrs. L. Marcus
Canada

Delighted

Inclosed find a money order in payment for my bundle of 15 FREEDOMS for another year. We are delighted with the paper and feel it is doing a good job. We need a Negro Labor Council in Portland and hope the means can be found to organize same. Please excuse the lateness in renewing the bundle order. I hope you can send the April issue because I don't want to miss a single issue.

Vincent M. Howard
Portland, Ore.

(Note: Reader Howard circulates 15 copies of FREEDOM each month among his friends. If each reader would take a little bundle for friends each month, we'd soon reach our goal of 50,000.)

How To Be a N. Y. Yankee

To be a member
Of this champion baseball
breed,

These are some
Of the talents you need:
Be like Irvin
Among the highs
In collecting
Those r.b.i.'s.
Be like Jackie
Way above
Any second baseman
With a bat and a glove
Be like Black
A cinch
In a pinch.
Or do a Doby deed
Lead in home runs
In your League.
If you can meet
Anyone of
These feats,
The Yankee owners might
Sign you up—
If you're white.

Robert Mende
Brooklyn, N. Y.

N.Y. Theatre Fans Enjoy 'The Big Deal'

The problem of leadership is one of the big questions in Negro life today and it is the theme on which Ossie Davis has based his play *The Big Deal*.

The play is the story of Jay Weatherscott (Bill Robinson), a popular Negro singer who is offered a job on a major broadcasting company. The new job means position, more fame and a fabulous salary. And all Weatherscott has to do is make a few statements against an outspoken Negro leader and read some prepared speeches over the Voice of America; speeches which describe the "free and happy" life of American Negroes.

The conflict begins when Weatherscott's own misgivings about the job are outweighed by his desire to make so much money so fast. The author has staged wonderful scenes of familiar rationalization, such as when Weatherscott tells himself and his friends that they are jealous of his good fortune. He tells them that they are "typical Negroes," always pulling down a fellow when he is succeeding. Besides, he argues, his taking the job "is really an advancement for the whole race." He doesn't believe it any more than his real life counterparts believe it, but the job and the money are real inducements that make him want to believe it. And so he accepts the job.

That's when the other force in Negro life enters the story. First he loses the friendship of his relatives, and then old friends insult him, and then the maid who works in his house tells him what she, a working Negro woman, thinks of him—and finally he loses the love and respect of his wife



SINGER JAY WEATHERSCOTT (Bill Robinson) tries to explain his "big deal" to his wife Alice (Milroy Ingram) as his boss (Mort Lawnor, l.) and reporter (Martin Slade) look on.

(Milroy Ingram) who leaves him.

All of this is powerful and believable enough. But one question is the conversion of Weatherscott at the end of the play.

One of the finest things about *The Big Deal* is the performance of Bill Robinson (*Just a Little Simple, Swan Song, Gold Through the Trees*). This young actor is a brilliant and well trained artist who knows the character of Jay Weatherscott well and plays him straight from life.

Particularly outstanding also is Alyce Weir in the role of the Weatherscott's maid. The play is directed by Julian Mayfield and produced by Stanley Green for New Playwrights Inc., and is running at New York's Yugoslav-American Home Theatre.

BOOKS

THE OUTSIDER, by Richard Wright, Harper & Bros., N. Y.; 405 pages, \$3.95.

Remembering Richard Wright's *Black Boy* and *Native Son*, certain sharp literary experiences yet hang in our minds. Experiences, etched hard and true by the skill of the young Negro writer from the South. We remember, that whatever his weaknesses as a writer—he had power. He had the ability to scoop out the filth and sickness of white supremacy and present it to his readers with a stark and terrible realism. And we still remember how that power almost realized itself once when a strong hint of its mighty potential escaped in a short story called *Bright and Morning Star*.

It is 18 years since Richard Wright wrote that powerful little glimpse of the promise of dignity achieved through human struggle. And now Richard Wright has written *The Outsider*.

The Outsider is a story of sheer violence, death and disgusting spectacle, written by a man who has seemingly come to despise humanity. The hero is Cross Damon, a twenty-six year old Negro postal clerk on Chicago's Southside. For 45 pages Wright describes Damon's deterioration into a drunkard who leaves his wife and children, has an affair with a fifteen year old girl, murders one of his best friends, fakes a new identity and murders three other people and finally winds up being shot in the streets by some grotesque characters who are supposed to be agents of the Communist party. And that is the story.

Cross Damon is someone you will never meet on the South-

side of Chicago or in Harlem. For if he is anything at all, he is the symbol of Wright's new philosophy—the glorification of—nothingness.

Richard Wright has been away from home a long time. He has forgotten which of the streets of the Southside lie south of others, an insignificant error, except that it points up how much he has forgotten other things. In one passage he describes in great detail the contents of a garbage can. And a stark, real description it is. But nowhere in his four hundred pages can he bring himself to describe—say, the beauty or strength in the eyes of the working people of the Southside. It seems that he has forgotten.

As a propaganda piece for the enemies of the Negro people, of working people and of peace, *The Outsider* has already been saluted with a full page spread of praise by the *New York Times Sunday Book Supplement* (3-22-53). On the other hand it has been appointed to the trash category by the Negro newsweekly, *Jet* (3-20-53) which summed the book up simply and accurately, "... his almost psychopathic lust for violence gets the better of him in this second novel and his story becomes as completely phony and unreal as a cheap drugstore whodunit."

Such is the pronouncement on Negro America's onetime most promising writer. Richard Wright is correct in one thing: he is an outsider, he is outcast from his own people. He exalts brutality and nothingness; he negates the reality of our struggle for freedom and yet works energetically in behalf of our oppressors; he has lost his own dignity and destroyed his talent. He has lost the bright and morning star—but the Negro people have not.

—L. H.

Unique Affair To Aid Africa

A unique benefit for the South African resistance movement will take place Thursday evening, April 23, when the North Star Players present "A Milestone on the Road to Truth," a cultural reception in honor of the distinguished historian, Dr. Herbert Aptheker. The program will take place at 8 p.m. at the Royal Manor Ballroom, 157th Street & Broadway, and will feature dramatizations from Dr. Aptheker's work, "A Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States."

Miss Alice Childress, the outstanding actress, playwright and FREEDOM columnist, is director of the North Star Players. Tickets, at \$1.20 each, may be secured at 54 West 125th St., or by phone at LO 8-6740.

Stories for Children: Ida Barnett Fought for Equal Rights

One day in March, 1898, a group of congressmen were ushered into the office of William McKinley, who was then President of the United States.

The group was led by a famous Negro woman whose name was Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett. She and the congressmen had been sent to see the President by the Negro people of Chicago. These were the times when terrible crimes of murder called lynchings were being committed against Negroes all over the country. So in Chicago they had called a great mass meeting to protest, and the people had elected Mrs. Barnett to go and present their complaints to the President.

One of the congressmen, whose name was Senator Mason, introduced Mrs. Barnett and she stepped forward and spoke to the President. Even though she was quite angry about the murder of her people, she spoke calmly and clearly and told the President exactly what the Negro people expected him to do to put an end to lynching. She told him that more than 10,000 people had been killed by lynch mobs since slavery was abolished 33 years earlier. She said that the United States government had always made statements against other countries for treating their citizens badly. Then she asked why the President and the government didn't make laws which would punish people who committed such terrible crimes right in our own country. Mrs. Barnett said, "We refuse to believe this country is unable to protect its citizens."

The President listened and promised that he and the Department of Justice, which is



supposed to handle such things, would do everything they could to stop lynching.

But the President did not tell the truth, because he did not do anything and the Department of Justice did not do anything, and Negro people continued to be murdered throughout the country.

And Mrs. Barnett continued to write and to speak against lynching. She had once been the editor of a newspaper in the South, the *Memphis Free Press*. The stories and articles that Mrs. Barnett wrote in her paper against lynching and discrimination made those white people who mistreated Negroes so angry that they formed angry mobs outside of her office and her home and threatened her life. But Mrs. Barnett was truly a brave woman, and once she bought two pistols and wore them through the streets of Memphis, and continued to write her articles.

Years later wherever there was a meeting or an organization being formed to fight for the rights of the Negro people, Mrs. Barnett was there.

For a long time she toured the country lecturing for equal rights for all people and her writings appeared in many Negro papers and magazines until she was known as one of the most outstanding leaders of the anti-lynching movement.

Today in the city of Chicago, on the Southside, there is a big housing project covering many blocks, where hundreds of Negro families live. This project is named in memory of this great woman. It is called the *Ida B. Wells Homes*.

A Conversation from Life

By ALICE CHILDRESS

'Let him live his life'

Marge, life just brims over with first one thing and then another, and if you throw all your troubles in a bag, there's no tellin' which one will jump out first. . . . No, I didn't have another run-in with the rent man. . . . It's my sister. . . . Listen to me Marge, and stop crocheting that dolly. . . . Oh, is it a chairback? . . . Excuse me, I thought it was a dolly. . . . No, I don't want you to teach me how to make one 'cause I got other things on my mind.

Now where was I? . . . That's right! My sister. . . . She calls me up today and says "Mildred, I want you to come over and talk to Bubba 'cause he's after getting himself in trouble." Bubba is her son—his name is John, we just call him Bubba. . . . Well, I jumped over there on the fly 'cause I'm just crazy about my nephew.

Marge, the long and short of it was that Bubba has been mixin' in politics and things. . . . You know what I mean. . . . Shoutin' about civil rights and

thing in this world I'd want to do." . . . I felt like I was pickin' on him somethin' terrible but I went on. . . . "Then why don't you listen to her?" . . . He held his head in his hands for a minute and then he started talkin': "Aunt Mildred, I want to be free. Are we free, Aunt Mildred?" . . . Well Florence kept lookin' for me to say somethin' so after I thought for a while I said—"No"—And then I asked her—"Are we free Florence?" And she answered. . . . "I don't want nothin' or nobody to hurt Bubba that's all."

He was most distressed Marge and the words poured out of his mouth so fast, but I remember every one of them: "Aunt Mildred, I don't have to tell you about our troubles—you know—we're lynched and bombed and segregated. . . . We been hurt, bruised, threatened and murdered and our pride's been trampled. . . ."

"Go on son," I said. His voice was loud and clear. . . . "Aunt Mildred, I cannot do the popular thing. . . . I cannot close my eyes, ears and mouth and swallow down my own manhood. . . . I cannot join the chorus of liars singin' out 'All is well'. . . . I cannot crawl around in Jim Crow and be content to eat my crust of bread, sleep a restless sleep. . . . I cannot watch indifferent white folks flit across a movie screen. . . . or hear their voices and laughter pouring into my living room. . . . and say—"this is my pleasure. . . . this is my joy. . . . this is my rest.' It's unjust Mamma! It's wrong Aunt Mildred!"

Marge, Florence began to cry. . . . "I know all that but there's others wiser than you. . . ." Bubba cut her off. . . . "Mamma, they are mealy mouth liars! Fear has put the smiles on their faces, fear has turned their blood to water. . . . You know I'm tellin' the truth! Soon I'll be grabbed up against my will. . . . They say it's to fight for the "freedoms" of others. . . . Well, it's a poor piece of a man that won't fight for his own freedom!"

"Amen" I said. . . . Florence spoke up softly. . . . "I know. . . . I know, I just don't want to see you hurt, Bubba."

. . . . And Marge, that lovely young man gently put his arms around his mother and told her. . . . "But I am hurt, and we're all hurt and you've been watchin' it all your life, so I



sendin' off petitions and preachin' against war and carryin' signs and Lord only knows he don't think nothin' of criticizin' anybody's government any time! . . . Sure you can go to jail for that! . . . That's what my sister was so worried about!

Well, I sat Bubba down and I says: "Bubba, why don't you behave and stop worryin' your mother?" Marge you should of seen him. . . . He started pacin' the floor and when he stopped he gave me a look that would melt your heart.

"Aunt Mildred," he said, "Hurting Mamma is the last

Civic Worker Mourned in Motor City



DETROIT—Members of Freedom Associates of Detroit joined their organizational secretary Mrs. Mattielee Hawkins in mourning the passing of her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Logan Saunders, who was for many years an active business woman and civic worker in the Motor City.

Mrs. Saunders was buried on February 21, from St. Stephens AME Church. In 1947 she received a 25-year citation from the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission for her excellent work in the real estate field.

guess you can just about stand anything. Don't you want everything for your children that others want for theirs?"

Well, I just told Florence—"Leave this man alone—it's his life. . . . let him live!" . . . Of course Marge! That's what I say. . . . If we'd of done our work this child wouldn't have to do it for us now. . . . I tell you, there's a great burden on these little children we see playin' in the streets. . . . A great burden. . . . And its cowardly for us to dump it on them. . . . I declare it is.

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