



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET  
ROY WILKINS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890  
HENRY LEE MOON  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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NAACP URGES FBI PROBE OF  
EMMETT TILL KIDNAP CASE

November 10, 1955

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.--Attorney General Herbert Brownell has again been called upon to intervene in the kidnaping of 14-year-old Emmett Till in view of the acquittal of his accused killers and the refusal of the LeFlore County grand jury to indict them on the kidnap charge.

In a telegram to Mr. Brownell, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, today pointed out that the jurors in the murder trial based their verdict on the claim that the body was not that of young Till, who has been missing since August 28.

If this is so, Mr. Wilkins told the Attorney General, "the clear presumption is that his [Till's] kidnapers have carried him across a state boundary bringing the case within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the Lindbergh act."

The text of the telegram follows:

A jury in Tallahatchie County, Miss., has acquitted two men charged with the murder of 14-year old Emmett Till on the ground that the body recovered from the Tallahatchie River was not that of the missing youth. In neighboring LeFlore County a grand jury yesterday refused to indict the men on a kidnap charge although they had previously admitted taking the boy from the home of his great uncle and were identified by witnesses. In view of the acquittal and the refusal to indict, NAACP again urges Department of Justice to enter the case actively. Young Till has been missing since August 28. If, as the Tallahatchie jury decided, the corpus delicti was not his, the clear presumption is that his kidnapers have carried him across a state boundary bringing the case within



WRIGHT REPLACES MRS. BRADLEY  
FOR NAACP WEST COAST MEETINGS

November 10, 1955

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.--Following failure of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, to undertake a tour of West Coast cities in accordance with terms agreed upon with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, announced termination of NAACP sponsorship of any future meetings for her and substitution of Moses Wright for the far west tour.

Mrs. Bradley was scheduled to leave Chicago on Nov. 7 for a series of 11 NAACP-sponsored meetings in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Colorado. However, on that day, she informed the NAACP, through Mrs. Anna Crockett, her personal representative, that she would not make the tour unless given a flat fee of \$5,000 plus all expenses or a lesser guarantee plus expenses and one-third of all funds collected at the meetings.

Early in October, Mrs. Bradley came to the national office of the NAACP and asked for Association sponsorship of her appearances. Terms were agreed upon and Mrs. Bradley spoke under auspices of NAACP branches in a number of eastern and midwestern cities.

Mr. Wright, great uncle of the slain Chicago boy, was secured to replace Mrs. Bradley on the western tour. As previously scheduled, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP southeast regional secretary, is also addressing the series of meetings. Mr. Wright was flown to Seattle for the opening meeting on Nov. 9, after having testified the previous day before the LeFlore County grand jury in the kidnap charges against Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam who had admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home on the night of August 28. The all-white grand jury refused to return an indictment.

In announcing the termination of the arrangements with Mrs. Bradley, Mr. Wilkins said that "NAACP does not handle such matters on a commercial basis."

SEES COURT'S RULINGS AS  
HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

November 10, 1955

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.--The United States Supreme Court ruling banning segregation in publicly financed recreational facilities is "another indication that the nation's highest tribunal has turned its back upon the obsolete 'separate but equal'



been prevented from playing on the Bobby Jones public golf course in Atlanta.

"These latest rulings, reaffirming the Court's historic anti-segregation decision of May 17, 1954, bring closer to realization the NAACP's drive for complete emancipation by 1963, by which time it is hoped that all legal restrictions based on race shall have been wiped out," Mr. Wilkins asserted.

"They are the handwriting on the wall spelling the ultimate doom of all Jim Crow and vindicate our claim of moral leadership among the free nations of the world."

TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR TO DISCUSS  
WHITE'S "HOW FAR THE PROMISED LAND?"

November 10, 1955

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.--"How Far the Promised Land?", recently published book by Walter White, late secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will be used as the basis of a Town Meeting of the Air panel discussion scheduled for network broadcast on Monday, Nov. 20. The program will be heard over the facilities of the ABC radio network from 8 to 9 p.m., EST.

Participating in the panel discussion will be Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary; Robert C. Weaver, a member of the NAACP Board of Directors and New York State deputy commissioner of housing; and Elmo Roper, public opinion analyst. Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, who wrote the foreword to the book, will make a brief statement.

New York Times critic Charles Poore called Mr. White's last book "one of the most buoyant and brilliant as well one of the most heartfelt of American testaments." Lewis Gannett, reviewing the book in the New York Herald Tribune, said it "is a triumphant example of the kind of American story which ... needs to be told to Asia and understood at home."

"How Far the Promised Land?" was completed shortly before Mr. White's untimely death on March 21, 1955. It is an account of the progress made in race relations during the past 15 years. As Gerald W. Johnson points out in his review in the New York Sunday Times: "The book nowhere suggests it, but the fact is that much of the credit for the feat belongs to the author."

The first part of the broadcast on Nov. 20 will consist of a documentary featuring recorded excerpts from earlier Town Meetings on which Mr. White appeared,



NEW YORK, Nov. 10.--The announcement of Georgia Governor Marvin Griffin that he will attempt to insert a states rights plank in the 1956 Democratic party platform was seen here by the NAACP's top official as a sure way to lose needed Negro voters in the 1956 presidential election.

Addressing a dinner sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity on Nov. 6, NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins pointed out that "the Negro refugees from behind the Cotton Curtain who have traveled northward and westward" hold "the balance of power in key states" in the coming election.

This has been recognized by southerners, Mr. Wilkins said, in efforts to change the electoral system to "cut down the effectiveness of the Negro vote in the North."

He described Governor Griffin's proposed states rights plank as "framed in such a way that states will be free to deal with segregation as they choose, without interference from federal sources -- executive, judicial or legislative."

According to the southern view "the Negro is not to enjoy equality before the law and under the Constitution," the NAACP official charged.

"This," he continued, "is the fantastic line of reasoning that is being dropped into the lap of the Democratic party, particularly, and of the Republican party insofar as some elements of it have demonstrated kinship and cooperation with the Southern Democrats."

The NAACP spokesman predicted a 1956 election "battle" between Negro voters in "key" northern and western states and "the lily-white Dixie die-hards."

"The Democrats, who, after Mr. Eisenhower's success in the South in 1952, worried about restoring unity with Dixie, must now worry about holding their Negro supporters in the North and West," Mr. Wilkins maintained. "Without this vote, there is a very real danger that the party may not win the prizes of the Congress and the White House in 1956."

Occasion for Mr. Wilkins' address was a testimonial dinner for City Judge Myles A. Paige, honoring the jurist at the conclusion of 20 years on the bench.

NEWSPAPERS CALL "RED" ATTACK ON  
NAACP "SILLY", "NO-NOTHINGISM"

November 10, 1955

NEW YORK, Nov. 10. Following a charge last month by Georgia Attorney



the NAACP, it shouldn't condone this scurrilous attack by the attorney general of Georgia."

"Cook offers no evidence that the NAACP is a Communist or Communist-front organization," the News continues. "He doesn't indicate that the organization was ever on the U.S. Attorney General's 'list' or that it was investigated by the House Un-American Activities Committee or any other official body. His attack appears to be 99 per cent hysteria and demagoguery and one per cent 'guilt by association.'"

"The South needs wise leadership in this mid-century education crisis. It ought to tear down the red shirt of intolerance and bigotry waving from some of its bastions."

"If anybody has any evidence of the truth of such statements," says the Lynchburg, Va., News, "that somebody is keeping it dark. The Georgia official didn't even bother to present anything real or synthetic. He would have been wiser if he had not opened his mouth on the subject."

The Des Moines, Ia., Tribune says that Cook's speech was a "silly effort to label the NAACP as 'Red.'"

Calling Mr. Cook's charge "distressing," the Worcester, Mass., Telegram expresses the opinion that "the Georgia attorney betrays his mental twist, of course, by his own words. He says the NAACP's real purpose is 'to force upon the South the Communist-inspired doctrine of racial integration and amalgamation.' In short, he lumps Communism and racial integration together. By his definition the Supreme Court of the United States, which ruled against segregation in public schools, and millions of good Americans who believe in de-segregation, are Communists."

Cook's charges have set "a new low for southern pro-segregationists," editorializes the Springfield, Ill., Journal. The attorney general's purpose in making this "unfounded" charge, the statement continues, "was to smear the NAACP and stir up Southern Whites against the U.S. Supreme Court ruling barring segregation." The editorial concludes: "It is this ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that Cook and his kind are opposing when they fight desegregation. Whether they realize it or not, they are trying to undermine the Constitution. And that is un-American as any act of race-baiting ever performed by a Communist."

The Flint, Mich., Journal says it agrees with NAACP spokesmen who say: "There is nothing subversive in demanding equality under the Constitution."

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI ADVISED  
TO "BECOME PART OF U.S.A."

November 10, 1955

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 10.--Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, has advised the State of Mississippi to stop trying to "buck the entire United States" and to "become part of the U.S.A."

The civil rights attorney spoke at the tenth annual convention of the Mississippi State NAACP here last week.

He pointed out that "the good people of Mississippi -- those who believe in their God and their country -- cannot escape the responsibility for allowing this atmosphere of lawlessness to continue."

Holding that "there are many good people in Mississippi," Mr. Marshall concluded that "the only way to bring about a better Mississippi is to bring about a better United States."



In addition, \$3,029.73 was received from individuals and organizations, including churches; \$7,250 from labor unions; \$41 from Armed Forces personnel; and \$34,872.18 from NAACP units.

## PENNSYLVANIA STATION RED CAPS BECOME NAACP LIFE MEMBERS

November 10, 1955

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.--The Red Caps at this city's huge Pennsylvania railroad station have taken out a collective life membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A report on NAACP life memberships in October, made public today, showed that the number increased five-fold in comparison with the same month of last year. Sixteen persons and organizations became life members during October, while another 72 made a subscription payment on a life membership.

In addition to the Red Caps, new life members are: Raymond L. Johnson, Montclair, N.J.; J.B. Thomas, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Joseph H. Thomas and William L. Adams, Baltimore, Md.; Russell Leavitt, Greenwich, Conn.; H.B. Warner, John Kepke and Irving Mariash of New York City; Mrs. Agnes C. Robinson, Palo Alto, Calif.; George Harrison, Chicago, Ill.; Shiloh Baptist Church, Cleveland; Baltimore chapter of National Alliance of Postal Employees and M.W. Hiram Grand Lodge, Inc., Baltimore; the Greensboro, N.C., Men's Club; and Tau Sigma Gamma Sorority, Chicago.

Those who made an initial subscription payment on an NAACP life membership in October are as follows:

Jack Waldor, Dr. Robert E. Fullilove, Jr., Dr. J. Bruce Massey, Mrs. Tina E. Bohannon, Theodore Pettigrew, and Metropolitan Baptist Church, all of Newark, N.J.; Cecil B. Murrell, Norman Houston, James H. Garrott, C.G. Price, and Dr. Leroy R. Weekes, of Los Angeles, Calif.; Miss Bertha Sperber, Beverly Hills, Calif.;

Ro chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Durham, N.C.; the Roanoke, Va., NAACP branch; Prince Hall Masons, Lodge No. 85, Charlotte, N.C.; AME Zion Church, Raleigh District, Lillington, N.C.; Dr. G.W.C. Brown, and First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.;

D. Eldridge Woody, Orange, N.J.; Dr. Walter T. Darden, Mrs. Mamie Darden, Miss Norma Jean Darden and Miss Carole Dianne Darden, of Montclair, N.J.; Cavaliers Club and Union Grove Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio; Frederick T. Tansill, Friendship Baptist Church, Julius La Rosa, and Les Seize Club, New York; Arthur Wilson, an anonymous person, and the Rev. J.M. Stone, of Chicago, Ill.;

Mrs. R. Frank Thomas, Milwaukee, Wis.; the Rev. J.R. Butler, Charles H. Jones, Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, Dr. Garland R. Chissell, Dr. W. Atwell Jones, Real Estate Brokers of Baltimore, Inc., Women's Auxiliary Monumental of the Medical Society, Enon Baptist Church, Epsilon Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Mrs. Emma Henson, Miss Philathea Hall, Dr. Charles E. Watts, and Maryland Dental Society, all of Baltimore, Md.;

Gillfield Baptist Church, Petersburg, Va.; Glen A. Kniss -- in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Kniss, and Mrs. A.R. Eveloff, Springfield, Ill.; Crescent City Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, New Orleans, La.; Miss Rosalie Barrett, Detroit, Mich.; the Madison, Ill., NAACP branch; Bon Amicus Social Club, and Las Amigas Charity and Social Club, San Francisco, Calif.

## OKLAHOMA CITY'S ROSCOE DUNJEE WILL BE HONORED AT BANQUET

November 10, 1955

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Nov. 10.--Roscoe Dunjee, editor of The Black Dispatch and member of the NAACP's board of directors, will be honored here at a banquet next week on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of his well-known weekly newspaper.

Principal speaker at the banquet, scheduled for Nov. 18, will be Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel.

In addition to sponsoring the banquet, a Citizens' Testimonial Committee For Roscoe Dunjee is attempting to raise sufficient funds to enable the 73-year-old editor



"The most law abiding, peaceful, religious, respectful Negro in Mississippi, in this late date, is not only denied the right to vote but stands a chance of being killed solely for politely asking for the right to vote," Mr. Marshall asserted. "Any Negro in Mississippi who dares to exercise his constitutionally-protected right to ask a school board for desegregated schools will either lose his job, be denied the normal small loan for his crops or be beaten up and/or killed."

The NAACP official termed the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till "a horrible example of terrorism tactics being practiced against law abiding citizens throughout this state."

On the Till case he said further: "I am perfectly willing to agree that the average Mississippian is opposed to cold-blooded murder of anyone, even a poor, defenseless Negro. I know that by far the majority of people in this state condemned the murder of Emmett Louis Till."

"That is not enough. Everyone who permits murderers to remain free and who permits the continuation of such an atmosphere of unequal justice based on race is himself responsible for conditions as they now exist. Wherever it exists, lawlessness exists solely because law abiding citizens permit it to go unpunished."

#### NAACP Will Go To Court

The NAACP, Mr. Marshall said, will seek redress in the Federal courts on Mississippi's denial of the vote to Negroes and refusal to desegregate public schools, and will "insist" that the University of Mississippi admit Negro students.

Another speaker at the meeting, held Nov. 4 to 6, called the effort to obtain civil rights for Negroes in the U.S. "part of a world wide struggle for freedom and human dignity."

Willard L. Brown, president of the Charleston, W. Va., NAACP branch, contended that "our country seems to be ready, willing and able to spend billions of dollars to make democracy work in China, Japan, Yugoslavia, Italy and other parts of the world, but not one dime to make it work here at home."

"Democracy should begin at home and then spread abroad, and not spread abroad and be forgotten at home," he declared.

Defining democracy as "the political equality of all individuals, the right to private freedom and to petition our government for redress of grievances," he maintained that democracy for Negroes is "very limited" in "certain sections and localities in our country."

Mr. Brown is chairman of the West Virginia NAACP state legal redress committee.

Other speakers at the meeting included Clarence Mitchell, director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau; and Mrs. Ruby Hurley, southeast regional secretary for the Association.

MONTH'S DONATIONS TO  
NAACP TOTAL \$51,703

November 10, 1955

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.--Contributions to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People totalled \$51,703.55 during October, it was disclosed at NAACP headquarters here today.

The donations were received from more than 2,000 different persons.