

VOICE READERS COMPRISE A \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

NAACP Memberships Ideal Xmas Gifts

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the Advancement of Colored People was founded more than half a century ago upon principles which embodied the highest ideals of a truly democratic society. Except in rare cases on the local level where self-seeking individuals have attempted to circumvent these high principles, the NAACP has always conducted its activities within the framework of the democratic process.

Those of us associated with the NAACP have a deep feeling of pride in its achievements down through the years. We are humbly grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute in some small way to the persistent, law-abiding efforts of this remarkable organization to bring democratic practices in step with the democratic principles upon which this nation was founded. And we firmly believe that all Americans worthy of the name should be proud of the major role played by the NAACP in the victorious struggle to have the 1964 Civil Rights Law enacted by Congress.

Reaffirmation through supplementary federal statute of the basic rights to personal dignity and freedom spelled out in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Constitution is a triumph for all Americans.

THERE REMAINS MUCH to be done to bring about universal and uniform compliance with this new law, however. Mere existence of the law will not automatically provide equality of opportunity in employment, education and housing, and the free exercise of the ballot.

Implementation of the new law will fall heavily upon the shoulders of organizations created to work for these desirable and necessary objectives. The heaviest burden, perhaps, will fall upon the NAACP.

In order to carry this burden effectively, the NAACP must be continually strengthened by new and vigorous blood. It is from this new blood, tempered by the experience of those who have fashioned the sinews of the organization, that we must derive future leadership.

NOW AS NEVER BEFORE, the NAACP must have the highest quality of leadership. Such leadership must be capable of intricate, workable programming from national headquarters down through the regional organizations and local branches everywhere. Each branch must place its best qualified members in the leadership structure. Each branch must enlist all the human resources available in its area in order to assure loyal followers as well as inspiring leaders. Many hands make light work.

We can devoutly utilize the Spirit of Christmas to strengthen the Las Vegas branch. If each branch member, in the spirit of Christ, would present a worthy non-member friend with a gift membership in the NAACP, we could double our manpower and make our job only half as difficult. If each member gave two or three friends two-dollar memberships, the local branch could triple or quadruple its potential effectiveness during the coming year. And the problem of "what to give" for Christmas would be solved in a mutually beneficial and heart-warming manner.

GIVE A MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAACP FOR CHRISTMAS!

Your gift will help spread Christ's doctrine of brotherly love. Your gift will help provide a stronger, more effective membership upon which our leaders can draw to carry out their

in Africa's development in recent years has been that many of the potential sources of money, both for loans, gifts and investments, have not been tapped simply because there were not enough well-prepared projects.

There is a big difference between a politician's expression of the need for a dam here, or a new railway line there, or a textile industry somewhere else, and the detailed preparation of such a project, together with a study of its feasibility and its potential contribution to development in the area.

Both the African Development Bank and the OAU's Commission for Scientific and Technical Research will help to supply this need.

programs for the betterment of all.

WHAT BETTER GIFT COULD YOU GIVE AT ANY PRICE?

(From the Washington Post)

Federal Election Law

It will be interesting to see how far the Department of Justice can go, with the aid of the courts, in bringing Mississippi and some other states into line with the Fifteenth Amendment. That Amendment was undoubtedly designed to invalidate every legal device which denies or abridges the right to vote "on account of race." For many years it has been systematically flouted by Mississippi and various other Southern states. We think the Department is wholly justified in seeking to upset the arbitrary laws and practices themselves instead of merely striking at isolated cases of discrimination.

It is well to remember, however, that the state which revised its constitution in 1890 in order to keep its government "under the control of the white people of the state" can pass new laws with astonishing ease. If the whole system of laws, practices, customs and usage by which Negroes are denied the vote should be upset in the courts, Mississippi would doubtless pass new laws intended to serve the same purpose. The state would be quite capable of providing a new set of discriminatory laws as fast as the Supreme Court could declare them to be unconstitutional.

The problem is complicated by the fact that the Constitution leaves the electoral machinery for the choice of both the President and members of Congress largely in the hands of the states. Voters in congressional elections must have the qualifications prescribed by the states for the "most numerous branch of the state legislature." The method of "appointing" presidential electors is left entirely to the states. It is a precarious system on which to rely either to safeguard the national government or to enforce the nondiscriminatory policies which the Constitution lays down.

In our opinion, the best remedy would be a constitutional amendment transferring to Congress authority to determine the qualifications of voters in national elections and to supervise such elections. No government can be entirely secure if it has to rely upon other governments to conduct its elections and to determine who shall vote in them. We think the time has come to assert national control over this vital function so far as the presidential and congressional elections are concerned.

The states could have no substantial objection to this proposed reform, for states' rights can scarcely be regarded as including control over national elections. No doubt the states will always be allowed to control their own balloting within constitutional limits, although they might well be deprived of representation in Congress to the extent that they disfranchise any part of their inhabitants, as the Fourteenth Amendment already provides. As a matter of self-protection and vindication of its own principles, however, the Federal Government needs to assert control over its own electoral process.



AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

HERE'S THE LATEST information on the soon to be established African Development Bank, an ambitious project conceived almost five years ago that could go a long way toward putting the Dark Continent on its feet economically.

As we have explained previously, the World Bank, despite its all-encompassing name, is unable to cope with many of growing Africa's needs. It is usually restricted to helping out with such grandiose schemes as Ghana's Volta River project or Nigeria's Niger River Dam.

The African Development Bank is being set up by 33 countries for less spectacular aid at the everyday level, concerning itself with the thousands of smaller projects on which widespread development really depends. It will lend to individuals as well as governments, thus stimulating much needed private investment in Africa.

Working closely with the bank will be a new research group called the Commission for Scientific and Technical Research of the Organization of African Unity. This outfit will furnish technical assistance to projects underwritten by the bank.

THE NEW BANK will concentrate on developing projects of interstate value, examining not only profit potential, but the contribution of a project to the overall development of a country in relation to its neighbors. Emphasis on this consideration could prevent competing industries from being established within a few miles of each other with a national border in between.

The idea of the bank goes back to a resolution of the Pan African Conference at Tunis in 1960. Two years later the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa gave it shape by setting up a committee of nine nations to make the rules and prepare for the inauguration.

This committee of nine--Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanganyika and Zanzibar (now Tanzania) and Tunisia--has just finished the last of five meetings in Lagos, Nigeria.

The inaugural meeting will follow, also in Lagos. Then the 25 countries that have already effectively joined the bank by contributing to its capital will elect a chairman, two vice chairmen and nine directors, and the bank will start work.

A POINT OF DISPUTE is likely to be the choosing of a site for the bank's headquarters. Everybody wants the bank in his capital.

Should it be established in a place already well developed, such as Lagos, or would it be fairer to put it in a less developed capital, such as Yaounde of Bamako? Or should it go to Addis Ababa, headquarters of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa?

The bank has an authorized capital of \$250 million, of which a small proportion already has been subscribed by the 25 governments.

Another eight governments have signed the treaty establishing the bank, so it will have at least 33 members in all.

EACH COUNTRY'S contribution is assessed according to its economic potential, by which the largest sum comes from the United Arab Republic, the second from Algeria and the third from Nigeria.

A serious, though little publicized, handicap

LAS VEGAS VOICE

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