

RELIGION & RACE

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

WEEK'S QUOTE

"As bitter as the poverty is for whites in America...the cruel fact is that while most whites live in relative affluence, most Negroes live in poverty. And they live in poverty because the nation has inhumanely and blindly willed them so to live." Emery F. Bacon, executive director, Federal-Interagency Committee on Education, addressing the United Presbyterian Men's eastern area meeting, New York.

WIN SUIT

ATLANTA - (NPI)--Black Muslim prisoners at Atlanta federal penitentiary have won judicial approval of their right to have their own clergyman minister to their spiritual needs. U.S. District Judge Frank A. Hooper ruled that a Muslim chaplain must be provided, at government expense, regardless of whether there is one or more prisoners in the penitentiary of that faith. The prison has Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish chaplains on duty.

TELLS THEM

CINCINNATI - (NPI)--It took Stokely Carmichael no less to describe the relationship between the Negro church and black power, one which he sees as aiding and abetting the other in the elevation of the Negro to his rightful place in the nation's picture. According to Carmichael, "the church is uniquely qualified to unify the Negro because it has been the one free agent in the Negro community, controlled by Negroes, and (a means to) preserve Negro culture and free expression."

CRITICISM

CHICAGO - (NPI)--The seven Negro priests assigned to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago took issue last week with the church's "follow-the-leader" approach to the problems of its Negro members, and also its disdain of the militant black power forces. Noting that the militants "whether we like it or not, are de facto in touch with grass roots in the black community," the priests urged that the church take the lead in helping Negroes achieve their legitimate aspirations.

FIRST ON FACULTY

CORAL GABLES, Fla. - (NPI)--The distinction of being the first Negro to serve as visiting instructor for the Christian Enrichment School in the Miami District at the local First Methodist Church last week went to the Rev. Roger P. Fair, an alumnus of Clark College, Gammon Seminary, and Atlanta University. Rev. Fair teaches "The Modern Message of the Gospel of Luke" to a class of more than 100.

OPERATION ERADICATION

DAVENPORT, Iowa - (NPI)--In a pastoral letter to the faithful in the Southeastern Iowa Catholic diocese, Bishop Gerald O'Keefe urged priests, religious and laity "to become more active in efforts to rid our diocese of racism and poverty." His letter urged support for local housing laws, use of the vote to elect legislators sensitive to the problems of race and poverty; and the use of Catholic schools and religious education classes to teach the truth "about the equality and innate dignity of all men."

INTERIM DIRECTOR

NEW YORK - (NPI)--Pending the next meeting of the board of directors of the National Committee of Negro Churchmen in Chicago May 4-5, the group has named the Rev. J. Metz Rollins, Jr., as acting executive director. The NCNC, organized in Dallas, Tex., last Nov. 1, with a membership of some 700 clergymen from across the country, proposes to mobilize power with the black churches of all denominations for more effective confrontation of racism within religion, and for economic, political and cultural development within Negro communities.

BANQUET TO HONOR BETHEL BAPTIST PASTOR



The Banquet Committee of Bethel Baptist Church are shown finalizing plans for the Banquet honoring the Church Pastor, Rev. I. W. Wilson. The Banquet will be held Saturday, March 9, 1968 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jeep Posse Building, 1608 Gragson Drive. Principal speaker for the evening is Judge Robert Reid. The public is cordially invited to attend and donation is \$2.50. Reservations may be obtained by calling the Banquet Chairman, Mrs. M. C. Terry at 649-1295.

Pictured seated at the table are Mrs. Rosie Lee Brewer, left, Pastor I. W. Wilson, and Miss Barbara Jefferson. Standing, from left, are Mrs. Irene Jones, Miss Judy Derrett, Mrs. Evelyn Mouplin, Mrs. I. W. Wilson, Mr. R. Pamplin, and Mrs. M. C. Terry, committee chairman. In rear are Mr. Lionel Porter and Mrs. Pamplin.

Evers Faces Real Battle In March 12 Runoff

JACKSON, Miss. - (NPI)--Charles Evers faces his real battle now--after coming out ahead of six white Congressional candidates in the recent primary election.

Can he convince enough of the white electorate that he will represent all the people, or will they hang onto the segregationists' belief that he is a rabble rouser determined to force integration down their throats?

In the primary, Evers received a plurality of the votes, because his white opponents were divided. However, in the March 12 runoff, he will have but one opponent, Charles Griffin, who is white.

Griffin is the former aide to Gov. John Bell Williams, who vacated his Third Congressional district seat to run for governor--and in so doing, gave Evers his political opportunity. Griffin is outspokenly a segregationist.

Voting in the predominantly white Congressional district is likely to be largely along racial lines. This could be expected to give Griffin the victory, as the defeated white candidates would almost certainly pledge their support to him.

However, this is not necessarily so. Evers could come out ahead in Mississippi, despite the Negro minority behind him--just as Carl B. Stokes was elected mayor of Cleveland, even though 65 per cent of the city is white.

STOKES WON by seeking a coalition of racial and ethnic groups, rather than playing one off against another. He effectively convinced whites that he was no "black power" bogeyman, and thus managed to walk off with a victory.

The same situation faces Evers, but in a somewhat different degree. Evers, too, is no racial extremist, and commands considerable respect among both whites and blacks in Mississippi.

Formerly NAACP field director in the Magnolia state, he is the brother of another NAACP leader, Medgar Evers, who was slain a few years ago by a white racist. The candidate could win some sympathy votes from whites in view of this fact.

Even if he doesn't win, Evers' primary election victory heralds a day of increasing involvement in the nation's political process by black men, from coast to coast.

His election plurality also shows how far Mississippi has come in but a few years. Until passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, few black

Virginia Teachers Win Case In Appeals Court

RICHMOND, Va. - (NPI)--Nine Negro teachers who were not rehired after area schools desegregated have won their case in the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The court ruled that the teachers' Constitutional rights were denied when they were not rehired because their pupils had been transferred to predominantly white schools.

The decision was expected to have a major effect on Southern school systems which have been letting Negro teachers go in a possible "retaliation" against school desegregation.

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people were allowed the ballot in the state.

There is still a chance, however, that Evers might be sent to Congress on the strength of his primary victory. He has petitioned the U. S. Justice Department to investigate a 1954 state law requiring a runoff election to fill a vacancy if no candidate wins a majority in the first race.

That law, he said, is designed to "keep Negroes from being elected."