LOBAL PORTRAI

by Lou LuTour

GLOBAL PORTRAITS salutes the NAACP in its 44th Annual Freedom Seals Drive, with the beautiful Lena Horne (as she has since 1953) serving as chairman of this annual Christmastide fund-raising effort; and for the 18th straight year Miss Bobbie Branche of the Association's National Office Staff is Director of the Campaign.

Miss Horne, in a letter to the NAACP sup-porters recalled the historic role of the NAACP as a defender of the rights and liberties of Negroes. She said, "From one end of the country to the other, Black people turn to the NAACP automatically for help when they are in trouble. They take it for granted that the NAACP will be there. It is assumed that if civil rights laws are needed, the NAACP will be leading the fight for them. If an urban renewal plan threatens the homes and chances of the poor and the Negroes, it is the NAACP which wages the campaign against it ... if people are going hungry in Mississippi or Alabama, it is the NAACP which raises money and disburses it to poor families so that they can buy the Federal food stamps they need." "Please make your holiday gift as big as you can so that this essential work can go on."

The NAACP gives credit for the origination of its seals program in 1926 to Mrs. Memphis T. Garrison, an active member of the organization and a school teacher (now retired) who for five years, 1926 through 1930, designed

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the new seals, had them produced and hand-led their sale and distribution from her home in Huntington, West Virginia. Through her efforts the NAACP seals program netted \$291.36. However, Mrs. Garrison's NAACP venture grew to such proportions that, by 1931, the NAACP National Office under took the production, promotion and sale of the seals from which the net income has steadily expanded. Only last year (1969) this campaign netted about \$164,000 or 5 per cent of the total NAACP income. It is noteworthy that Mrs. Garrison contunues to serve as national coordinator of the annual campaign.

For the past 26 years the Freedom Seals have been designed by Miss Louise Jefferson, former head of the art department of Friend-Press in New York City. Other Negro artists who have designed the seals include Romare L. Bearden, Elton Fax, E. Simms Campbell and Richmond Barthe.

Our readers might like to know that the seals

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are sold both by direct mail from the NAACP National Office at 1790 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019, and by volunteers working with local units of the Association which has a total of 1,700 branches in the 50 states. The seals which come in sheets of 100 are sold at \$1.00 a sheet...Remember, buying NAACP Freedom Seals helps the organization to help many in

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