



Mary White Ovington  
1911 - 1918



John R. Shillady  
1918 - 1920



James Weldon Johnson  
1921 - 1930



Walter White  
1930 - 1955



Roy Wilkins  
1955 - 1977



Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks  
1977 - 1993

# "The Present Crisis"

*"Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,*

*In the strife of Truth with Falsehood for the good or evil side;*

*Some great Cause, God's New Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight,*

*Parts the goats upon the left hand, and the sheep upon the right.*

*And the choice goes by, forever 'twixt darkness and that light.*

*"Then to side with Truth is noble when we share her wretched crust.*

*Ere her cause bring fame and profit, and 'tis prosperous to be just;*

*Then it is the brave man chooses, while the coward stands aside,*

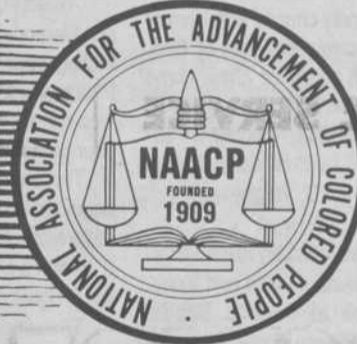
*Doubting in his abject spirit, till his Lord is crucified,*

*And the multitude make virtue of the faith they had denied."*

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis  
1993 -



# The Torch Is Passed.

The eighty-four year struggle of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for civil rights has helped make the United States a better place for all Americans.

Despite notable achievements, the struggle for equality - in education, in housing, and in economic opportunity - is as

challenging today as when James Russell Lowell wrote "The Present Crisis" one hundred and fifty years ago.

As the torch passes from Benjamin L. Hooks to Benjamin Chavis, we at Philip Morris Companies celebrate the legacy of the NAACP, thank Dr. Hooks for his service, and wish Dr. Chavis the best.



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