

The Lighthouse

AND INFORMER

EVENTEENTH YEAR, EDITION NUMBER 39

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1954

PRICE TEN CENTS

Walter Lee Irvin Faces Electric Chair

Last Plea Rejected BY Florida Parole Board

NEW YORK—The last plea to save the life of Walter Lee Irvin, the lone defendant in the famous Groveland Case who has already died a thousand deaths, was rejected last Tuesday by the Florida Parole Board.

As a result, Walter Lee Irvin must die for a crime he swears he never committed.

He must die in the electric chair unless the Governor of Florida steps in and commutes his death sentence to life imprisonment.

It is reported that Governor Charles E. Johns will soon name the day and hour for Walter Lee Irvin to die.

Walter Lee Irvin, now 27, and three other Negro youths, Ernest Thomas, Charles Greenlee and Samuel Shepherd, were accused by a Groveland whit farm housewife of beating her husband and attacking her on the night of July 6, 1949.

Ernest Thomas was shot down and killed by a sheriff's posse. Greenlee, then 16, was sent to prison for life and Irvin and Shepherd were "tried" and sentenced to death in September, 1949.

As a result of the alleged crime the entire Negro population of Groveland and nearby communities had to flee their homes, farms and businesses.

On the eve of the new trial ordered by the United States Supreme Court, November 6, 1951, Shepherd and Irvin were shot down by the sheriff in the middle of the night and left to die alongside a lonely road.

Shepherd died - Irvin was seriously wounded.

The second trial began February 14, 1952, with Walter Lee Irvin standing alone. Three days later another all-white jury convicted and sentenced him to death again after one hour and twenty-three minutes deliberation.

Attorneys for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund appealed to the Florida Supreme Court and charged the trial court with committing 22 errors in convicting Irvin. The appeal was denied. A petition for rehearing was also denied.

NAACP lawyers then took the case to the United States Supreme Court for the second time on the ground that Irvin was denied due process of law. The petition was denied in January and a plea asking the high court to reconsider this refusal was rejected January 19, 1954.

The last plea to save Irvin's life was made by the Florida Committee on Social Justice, a group of white ministers who asked that clemency be granted and Irvin's life be spared.

The five-man Florida State Parole Board showed no interest in denying the request.

Now, after five years of legal battle to save Walter Lee Irvin from the electric chair, NAACP attorneys must set aside their law books and place their trust in man and God.

For Walter Lee Irvin's life is now in the hands of Governor Charles E. Johns of Florida, and he alone can decide whether Irvin will live or take the last long walk to the electric chair.



Officers presiding at meeting of New Homemakers Association of District 3, March 20, at Lexington Rosenwald School, Lexington.

Race Leaders Write Senator Jenner To Protest Committee's SCEF Action

NEW ORLEANS—Thirty-two Negro leaders from 15 Southern states and the District of Columbia have submitted an open letter to Senator William E. Jenner...

...composed equally of whites and Negroes, includes many distinguished civic leaders in the Southern states. Its sole concern through-out the years has been with the evil effects of racial segregation in education, hospital services, transportation, and other public facilities. Its goal harmoniously enning all racial barriers is our goal.

How can you presume to sit in judgement on the patriotism of an organization which shares with Vice-President Nixon the conviction that "every act of racial discrimination or prejudice in the United States hurts America as much as an espionage agent who turns over to a weapon to a foreign country."

We vigorously protest the unfairness of the hearings. We further demand that as an act of simple decency and common sense, you make appropriate apologies to those individuals whose names have been sullied in the press.

Signed: Rev. L. A. Alexander, Knoxville, Tenn.; Mrs. Andrew W. Simkins, secretary, South Carolina Conference, NAACP; Rev. B. L. Davis, Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President-Emerita, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Beach, Fla. Rev. W. T. Crutcher, Knoxville, Tenn.; Roscoe Dunfee, Editor and Publisher, Black Dispatcher, Oklahoma City, Okla. Rev.

Lt. Parker declared killed in action

Columbia, S. C.
Mr. & Mrs. John Parker of 2510 Richland St. has been informed by the War Department that their son, 1st Lt. James N. Parker has been declared killed in action, November 29, 1952.

Lt. Parker attended the Waverly Elementary School and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1947. He attended S. C. State College in Orangeburg, S. C. and graduated in May, 1951, where he received a commission as Second Lieutenant. During his senior year at State College, he was Colonel in the E. O. T. C.

He entered the army at Fort Jackson July 20, 1951. He was stationed at Fort Benning, Ga. where he attended a training school for officers. He was sent to Japan in April 1952. There he graduated from the Far East Command Chemical School at Camp Gifu with high honors.

He was later sent to Korea. There he first served with the 45th Infantry Division and was later transferred to the 27th Infantry Regiment, Air Force Headquarters Company. He attended Officers School for three weeks before he began his mission as observer over enemy territory. He was on his 103rd mission, for which he volunteered, when he and Lt. Wyatt, of Los Angeles, was shot down.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Parker, three sisters, Mrs. Jessie M. Peterson, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; Miss M. Elizabeth Parker, Mrs. Virginia D. Parks, his twin brother, Edward S., one aunt, Mrs. Emma Veasey, of New York, a nephew, Master Joseph N. Peterson, III and a host of relatives and friends.

URGENT NOTICE

To be properly credited all funds due the Lighthouse and Informer must be mailed directly to:
Treasurer,
The Lighthouse and Informer
1507 Harden Street
Columbia 4, S. C.

Bunche United Fund Speaker Negro College

NEW YORK, N. Y., MARCH 30
Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Principal Director, Department of Trusteeship, United Nations, will be the main speaker at the 1954 national campaign opening of the United Negro College Fund on April 5, at 4 p. m. in the Terrace Room of the Hotel Plaza.

John W. Hanes, National Campaign Chairman and Vice-President, Olin Industries, will preside. Dr. M. S. Davage, President, Huston-Tillotson College will speak briefly on the future of the Fund and the private Negro college in view of the imminent Supreme Court ruling on segregation. The meeting will also mark the opening of the Greater New York appeal, headed by Boylston A. Tompkins, Vice-President, Bankers Trust Co. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Chairman of the Fund's National Council, will be among those on the dais.

A goal of \$1,750,000 representing a \$250,000 increase over last year will be sought by the Fund this year. The larger quota is made necessary by rising operating costs and increasing numbers of qualified Negro high school students seeking higher education. The Fund raises approximately ten per cent of the combined operating budgets of its 31 member colleges.

Talledega College To Have \$300,000 Union Building

Ground breaking ceremonies held at Talledega College March 27 initiated the beginning of construction for a \$300,000 Union Building. The new structure, growing out of UNCF's Capital Fund Campaign, will be attached to a newly modernized Callanan Gymnasium.

Combined structures will provide a modern gymnasium, student and faculty lounges, game room, canteen, stage equipment, and other facilities.

This new addition to the 16 major buildings on Talledega's Campus will be known as Callanan College Union Building.

FIRST WOMAN SEEKS PEA PRESIDENCY

ORANGEBURG—Mrs. James Madge Perry Harper, native of this city, and assistant director of instruction for the Orangeburg city schools, is a candidate for the presidency of the Palmetto Education Association. Records show that Mrs. Perry is the first woman in the history of the organization to offer for the position, it was learned.

Medics Set Annual Meet At Spartan

ROCK HILL—Dewey M. Duckett, M. D., chairman of publicity and public relations of the Palmetto medical, dental, and pharmaceutical association, announced this week final plans for the annual meeting and clinic of the organization to be held in Spartanburg, April 27-30.

Program features outlined at a principals and teachers in our Negro schools. In this position she has made a wonderful contribution to the instructional program and has furnished excellent guidance in this area. She is qualified, I believe, to offer real leadership to the Negro teachers of South Carolina.

"I am sure it is unnecessary for me to remind you of the importance of attending the Palmetto Education Association Convention and casting a vote for your candidate. Continued On Page Eight

Political Opportunists Baffled At Cheraw

CHERAW (Special):—A well designed plot to disrupt the long standing civic and political action program of the Chesterfield citizens committee was shattered here last Thursday evening when Mrs. Andrew W. Simkins, state NAACP secretary and acting editor-manager of the Lighthouse and Informer, while addressing an overflow audience in the Coulter Academy auditorium, denounced slick opportunist moves by anyone, white or black, that are aimed to destroy the effect of intelligent political action in South Carolina.

Mrs. Simkins handled admirably a situation where certain persons well-known to be conspiring with Dixiecrat forces to destroy the constructive influence of the Citizens committee had come to the meeting for the known purpose to break up the organization.

The speaker, prominently connected with the State and Richland county divisions of the South Carolina citizens committee, quoted Christ in the basic theme of her skillful attack on the insurgents, as he said, "He that is not for me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." Mrs. Simkins declared that there is no middle ground when it comes to cooperation, and that one works against his fellowmen even when he does absolutely nothing about constructive program of which he should be a part. She declared, too, that we must discipline ourselves so well politically that we can not be bought and will not be sold.

The speaker insisted that the masses should follow the leadership that has pointed the way to the fuller life, even when the going was hardest, and when Negroes had been constantly denied the ballot by the very Dixiecrat forces now conspiring with certain of our people to misdirect our struggle for the best government for all South Carolinians.

"Look who is screaming about the so-called bloc voting of Negroes," the speaker exclaimed. "They are the selfsame demagogues that historically have condoned bloc voting against the progress of the masses. Bloc voting irks the opposition only when its plans are set aside."

Declaring that there are thousands of white citizens in South Carolina who want to see progress here, Mrs. Simkins said that by the opposition she means the vicious elements, bloc or white, who are self-centered and disinterested in human dignity and constitutional rights for the masses.

"Governor James F. Byrnes, patron saint of the Dixiecrat forces, and a traditional adherent, manipulator, and benefactor of minority bloc voting in the era of the infamous white primary, now denounces what he calls bloc voting on the part of constructive forces in South Carolina because he failed miserably in 1952 to bloc vote South Carolina, and even his own home county of Spartanburg into the Eisenhower column," the speaker asserted.

The two segments of disruptive forces whose intention it was to breg up the citizens organization could not withstand an assault by rational and above board thinking. At the close of the meeting the audience appeared joined in mind and heart to work constructively for Chesterfield county.

By a unanimous vote, the audience selected the Rev. Mr. Ellis as their candidate for membership on the district school board.

While the name of one other candidate was mentioned, the audience decided that the most important task was to strive for increased registration.

Earlier, Mrs. Simkins had pointed out the wisdom of attending the political campaign meetings and of eventually judging candidates by family background, the degree of success in their chosen work, performance of duty and voting records of candidates already in office, and their platforms, although it was said that the last point is of least importance.

The audience was reminded that election day is the politicians' payday for the type of service rendered or an advance in support for expected salient service, and that only registered citizens can hire and fire politicians.

Naacp ASKS COURT TO REVIEW TWO DEATH CASES

NEW YORK—The United States Supreme Court was asked within the past three weeks to review two cases involving Negroes by lawyers of NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. One is in Georgia and the other in Alabama. It is alleged that the constitutional rights of both convicted men were violated.

(a) "The evidence introduced in behalf of the applicant substantiated to a large extent, the allegations of the petition and while there was evidence to the contrary, one could not help being impressed with the conviction that the attorney had made very little, if any, preparation for the trial of the case and was not adequately prepared for the trial of a case of such gravity and importance." (R. 67)

The Georgia case involved a Negro, Ozzie Jones, who was found guilty of rape and sentenced to death on October 7, 1952, by the Superior Court of Chatham County Ga. On appeal to the Georgia Supreme Court the conviction was upheld with one judge dissenting. A petition for writ of habeas corpus filed in the City Court of Reidsville, Ga., was denied and the Supreme Court of Georgia in affirming the conviction denied a petition for a rehearing.

In their petition to the U. S. Supreme Court, NAACP Legal Defense attorneys ask for a review of the case on the grounds that Jones, whose lawyer did not prepare for his defense and who was compelled to defend him by the court, did not have representation in the trial and is entitled to a new trial.

In the Alabama case, a 17-year old Negro, Jeremiah Reeves, Jr., the accused claimed she was raped on July 28, 1952, by an unknown assailant. On November 10, almost four months later, Reeves, a 17-year old youth, was arrested and charged with the crime.

He was taken to the state penitentiary at Kibby, Ala., held for three days and not permitted to consult with anyone. He was questioned constantly in a room with an electric chair and told that if he did confess to the crime he would be saved from the chair, otherwise he would die.

Ozzie Jones was arrested and convicted on the testimony given by a white woman who identified him by the light of a match.

On November 12, he was taken to the county jail in Montgomery and placed in a room where his accuser identified as her assailant. He was indicted on November 14.

Jones was represented in the lower court by an attorney who did not prepare for the case because he had not been paid and was not in court when the case was called for trial. He had to be sent for by the trial court.

At the trial the judge ordered the court cleared with the exception of witnesses and court officials. A motion by Reeves' lawyer to have a public trial, as required by the press and his private stenographer. Another repetition-death motion to have the press and his private stenographer be allowed to remain in the courtroom was also denied.

However, immediately after the trial, the attorney made a statement to the press saying that he knew nothing of the date of the trial until ten minutes after the trial was supposed to have begun and did not have adequate time to prepare a defense.

During the trial, a number of witnesses corroborated Reeves' story as to his whereabouts and also that he was emotionally unbalanced.

Upon hearing this statement the court, which convicted Jones, convicted the attorney in a contempt proceeding.

Near the close of the trial, it was learned for the first time that

UN Delegate To Address PEA

Archibald J. Carey, Jr., First Alternate Delegate of the United States Delegation to the Eighth General Assembly of the United Nations will address the opening Convention of the Palmetto Education Association 8 P. M. Thursday, April 1st. Attorney Carey was appointed by President Eisenhower on July 27th and was confirmed by senate without dissent or debate on July 31st, 1953.

The association lists the following professional meetings as to department, chairman, and place and time of meetings:

Thursday, April 1, 4:30 to 6:30 PM: Elementary Principals, James A. Miller, Antisidel Chapel, Benedict College; Jeanes Teachers, Mrs. J. W. Washington, Browning Room, Allen Library; Secondary principals, G. A. Anderson, Lecture Room, Allen Library; Higher Education, Howard Jordan, Browning Room, Benedict Library.

Friday, April 2, 10 AM to 12 Noon: American Vocational Association, H. W. Crawford, Cafeteria, C. A. Johnson High School; 12:30 to 2 PM Future Teachers of America, Joseph Kimpson, Taylor Street USO.

This son of the late Bishop and Mrs. A. J. Carey is a graduate of Northwestern University and Chicago-Kent College of Law. He has been honored with awards by the following organizations: American Veterans Committee, 1952 for distinguished Public Service; Chicago Sunday Evening Club, 1952 with one of five Bibles presented with this inscription, "Appreciation of your efforts to apply the principles of Christianity to the field of Government in Chicago; "The Council Against Discrimination of Greater Chicago, 1954, with its first Abraham Schwartz Human Relations Award (a bronze plaque and \$500.).

The officers and members of the Palmetto Education Association invite the citizens of this state to hear this distinguished public servant 8 P.M. Thursday April 1st Township Auditorium

Record Membership and Attendance
The officers of the association announce a record membership for this year are planning for an attendance of 6,000 teachers.

Also, Friday, April 10 AM to 12 noon: (Elementary Education) Primary Group, Miss Ruth Bynum, Cafeteria & Room 107, Waverly School; Intermediate Gr. 415 Mrs. Dorothy Bracey, Auditorium, Allen University, Upper Grades 6-7-8, C. I. Young, Antisidel Chapel, Benedict College.

Music for the general session will be furnished by Allen University, State A. & M. College, Barr Street School, Lancaster, Holmes Elementary School, Florence, Howard High School, Georgetown and Brewer High School, Greenwood.

Department Meetings
The departmental meetings are scheduled for 4:30 P.M. Thursday and 10: A. M. Friday. The following is the schedule of these meetings.



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