

*Some of the groups that have advanced the status of the Negro.* Racial Advancement ~~and~~ Through Group Action Feb. 1960

It is usual to portray the achievement of individuals during this week of emphasis on the history of the Negro; but tonight I wish to place emphasis on and to express appreciation for the great mass of Negroes, the nameless millions who under their leaders have sought adjustment in ~~@@@~~ a world that more than often has been a hostile one.

~~The course of American history has been vitally affected by the Negroes' presence in this country. In return the Negro has taken on so much of the culture of the American civilization that he is as truly American as any member of other ethnic groups, despite the fact that his survival has depended on his capacity to adjust himself to the dominant culture, and to make many accommodations.~~

~~This adjustment has been aided to a great extent by his white compatriots but much of what has been achieved has been through the efforts of the Negro himself because he has not been welcomed as a citizen as have many groups which have cast their lot voluntarily with this evolving civilization.~~

Slave Revolters. The first groups that I wish to mention are those slaves who followed their leaders in plotting against



~~their~~ ~~their masters but particularly~~ ~~against their status, for~~

*for* this was the most sensational and desperate reaction of Negroes to their status. They called this "carrying the fight to the enemy."

They accepted bloodshed as the price of liberty, ~~and~~ revolts and conspiracies persisted down to 1865. ~~They~~ *They* began with the institution of slavery ~~and~~ did not end until ~~it~~ *it* was abolished. As far as history goes, not one of these revolts was successful, but so deeply in-

grained was the desire to become free, that the record is full of the efforts of slaves to regain their freedom. Slavery ~~may have~~ *was*

~~been~~ a very profitable institution for many slave holders, but it was also a very unhappy one, for over their heads hung constantly

the fear of revolt by their slave workers, *a very demoralizing threat,*

*needs special mention*  
Black Abolitionists. Negroes gave support to the anti-slavery

as well as to the abolition movement. Strong abolitionist doctrines

were preached by Negroes *long* before Garrison was born; even before the

War of Independence, slaves brought actions against their masters

for their freedom, which they regarded as their inalienable right.

During and after the Revolutionary War, Negroes petitioned State and

Local Governments to emancipate all slaves. So extensive was this

movement that by 1830, Negroes had organized 50 anti-slavery societies.

When militant abolitionism began, Negroes were ready to join with whites to eliminate slavery, and <sup>they</sup> organized their first national convention a year before Garrison's Liberator appeared. In fact, most of the 25 subscribers to the first issue of Garrison's paper

were Negroes. *Black abolitionists certainly made a contribution to the Negroes progress.*

✓ Negro soldiers. One of the amazing phenomena in American history is the fact that throughout <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ history of the United States, Negro ~~soldiers~~ have sought to fight in defense of their country, despite the fact that their willingness <sup>to do so</sup> ~~of/ to fight~~ has never been accepted graciously, to say the least. While Negroes had distinguished themselves in war previous to the <sup>American</sup> Revolution; and despite the heroism of such men as Crispus Attucks, Peter Salem and Salem Poor and numbers of others, in the overall policy for military service, after General Washington took command, it was decided that Negroes services were not needed and they were excluded from enlistment, although those already in the service were not affected. This policy would not have been changed had not Lord Dunmore, <sup>the English</sup> Governor of Virginia issued an order freeing all Negroes and indentured servants able and willing to bear arms. Because of their persistence, before the end of the war, the Continental Congress <sup>began</sup> ~~were~~ enlisting slaves and free-



those that served at the end of their service.

In the Civil War, Lincoln deferred arming Negroes because white soldiers objected to their wearing uniforms, because he thought the border states would object and that this would alienate the North. And although Negroes rushed to offer their services to the Union they were rejected. However, ~~even~~ such was the need for men that Negroes eventually saw service in every theatre of operation during the war, *and eventually 188,000 served*

*while in the war as soldiers,*  
In the War of 1812, there seemed to be no serious objection to using Negroes, ~~but~~ there was little inclination to recruit them.

They served in the Army and the Navy and were ~~praised~~ were given unstinted praise by Naval officers. *for their behavior as fighting men*  
*John Johnson & John Davis*

In World War I, although Negroes thronged to the recruiting stations seeking to volunteer, they were not accepted generally until the Selective Service Act of ~~May 18~~, provided for the enlistment of all able bodied Americans 21 to 31. Their efforts to become officers were met with <sup>decided</sup> resistance ~~and it was not~~ until college students at Howard University, Fisk, Atlanta, Tuskegee and other institutions began a program of agitation for the training of Negro officers; and ~~after~~ they had <sup>to obtain</sup> ~~obtained~~ the names of 1,500 Negro

college men who wanted to become officers <sup>before</sup> did the training of Negro officers begin.

In World War II, with only about 5,000 Negroes within an army of 230,000, and despite a clause in the Selective Service Act forbidding discrimination ~~against~~ <sup>again</sup> Negroes, they had to protest ~~against~~ ~~discrimination against Negroes.~~ Despite barriers of all kinds, <sup>to keep them from serving</sup> a rough estimate of 1,000,000 men and women served in the various branches of the Armed services. <sup>in this war,</sup> Army, 701,678; navy, 165,000; coast guard, 5,000; Marine Corps, 17,000, women ~~of~~ in various types of the service, 4,000. <sup>This is a vast group who certainly should be honored during WWII</sup>

Negro Communicants of Religious Denominations. Such religious

Absalom Jones, William White leaders as Richard Allen, Peter Williams who started the movement in the North <sup>after they were mistreated by their white colleagues</sup> for separate Negro churches/could not have been successful had they not had large followings <sup>of ordinary people.</sup> The great masses supported the <sup>churches</sup> so that the Negro church became not only <sup>a place of worship</sup> a rallying ground for their ~~communicants~~, but <sup>a</sup> social centers for Negroes, who had few other outlets. By 1950, it is estimated that the all Negro denominations <sup>had a</sup> claimed a membership of more than 5 millions, <sup>annually</sup> ~~had more than~~ <sup>more than</sup> 35,000 churches and property valued at nearly \$200,000,000.

Supporters of Negro Businesses. The survival and prosperity of Negro busi-



nesses is due to the support of the Negro ~~popul tion~~ <sup>people</sup>. Out of the

early mutual benefit societies and associations have come the

powerful present-day Insurance companies ~~with their valuable assets~~ <sup>of our times</sup>

~~It is estimated that there are~~ <sup>It is estimated that the</sup> 53 life insurance companies operated

by Negroes ~~with~~ <sup>have</sup> assets of \$137,708,766.07 ~~and~~ <sup>with</sup> insurance in force of

~~\$~~ 1,278,216,075.

The 102 credit unions chartered under state and Federal laws operated by Negroes in 26 states could not have continued to exist and grow without the support of large numbers of Negroes.

Similarly, although many of the early banks of the Negro ~~have~~ failed, ~~as have many banks and the nation~~ because Negro depositors and borrowers did not engage in trade, industry and commerce in sufficient volume to support them satisfactory, presently the Negro

is supporting <sup>approximately</sup> 14 banks, with combined resources of <sup>about</sup> ~~approximately~~ \$35,000,000 in 1950, and 110,000 depositors.

I think Negro women are justifiably proud of the pioneers in the beauty business, <sup>especially of</sup> Madam C. J. Walker ~~and others for making hair~~

~~and in preparations~~ in this field, the first of a large number of such businesses to spring <sup>since her time;</sup> ~~up since~~, <sup>Negro</sup> but women have in ~~large numbers~~ supported these businesses, so that today, the beauty business



\$25,000,000  
among Negroes is a multi-million dollar affair, giving to large numbers of women beauty as well as jobs.

The Supporters of Negro newspapers. The Negro now supports 350 newspapers, magazines, bulletins, representing an investment of more than \$5,000,000 and employs more than 6,000 persons. Without the support of the ~~press~~ Negro population, the Negro press could not exist. In turn, without the Negro press, who champion of ~~press~~ their cause, <sup>leaders</sup> Negro/would not have a platform from which to speak, mass action would not be coordinated and Negroes generally would hardly be educated with respect to public affairs. They have become the champion of the masses and important business institutions in the Negro's world.

Negro Organizations. No tribute is too great for Negro organizations generally, especially those working for the religious, social political and economic advancement of the Negro. While it is impossible to name all of the important organizations, it is entirely pertinent to name the National Association of Colored Women, established in 1895 with the motto "Lifting as we climb," <sup>whose members</sup> These women have set up girls' home, hospitals, have supported educational and welfare programs <sup>all through</sup> throughout the years; ~~The Association for the Study~~ <sup>in this same connection</sup> ~~we should mention the Nat. Council of Women, the~~ <sup>Coronet, fraternal and similar groups.</sup>