

Howard Odum Wins New Bernays Racial Award

NEW YORK.—Announcement of the Edward L. Bernays award for outstanding achievement in Negro-white relations to Dr. Howard W. Odum of the University of North Carolina was made this week by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

The award, a \$1,000 United States Savings bond, Series E, and an engrossed scroll was donated by Edward L. Bernays, of New York, public relations counsel, through the department of race relations of the council, George E. Haynes, executive secretary. Presentation will be made in public ceremonies on February 12 at the Broadway Tabernacle here.

Five nationally known race relations experts were judges in selecting Dr. Odum: Dean William H. Hastie, Howard University School of Law, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, president, State Teachers College, Cheney, Penna.; Virginius Dabney, editor, Richmond Times-Dispatch; Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher, author, Arlington, Vt., and Dr. Samuel McCune Lindsay, professor emeritus, Columbia university.

Chosen From 55

Dr. Odum was chosen from among 55 candidates because of his accomplishments in improving Negro-white relations in the South, and for outstanding public services as an author, professor in southern universities, and leader in organized movements.

His books and articles date back to 1909 and include not only research into the social and economic conditions surrounding Negroes in this country and their relations to whites, but also studies in Negro literary and musical fields. His latest book, "Race and Rumors of Race, a Challenge to American Crisis," published in 1943, fosters better understanding of the causes of racial tensions within the United States.

Quoting from a statement of the judges Dr. Haynes said:

"The judges were greatly impressed by both the number and variety of worthy candidates presented by sponsors from many parts of the country. The examination of the records revealed a heartening kind of courageous pioneering along a wide and difficult social frontier. The initiative of Negro citizens is pronounced and manifold. The majority of these pioneers, however, are white citizens who, without apology or fear of personal status, are determined to do what they can to right the most pronounced wrong now weakening our American civilization. It is pioneering that clearly denies the pessimism of those who would despair of our democracy. And notably in the South there is emerging a liberal white womanhood, uttering a ringing protest against the stark evils of sheer race prejudice and supporting the protest by effective organization.

'True Spokesmen'

"The judges feel from their scrutiny of the records of these candidates that our democracy will progressively find its true spokesmen, its practical workers and its convincing leaders. All these are coming forward in art, in literature, in education, in religion, in

government and in all walks of labor and industry.

"So much extraordinary accomplishment has been presented to the judges by outstanding candidates from both racial groups that it has not seemed possible or advisable for them to attempt without prejudice the naming of those who are distinctly worthy of honorable mention.

"In awarding this signal honor to Howard Odum, the judges recognize in him highly distinguished service in that part of the nation where the problems of race and of a functioning democracy are most complex, and where the social imagination, moral and intellectual integrity, the efficient and self-sacrificing effort which he has exhibited, constitute for our democratic hopes a sure foundation."

The announcement of the award last August brought to the department of race relations a quantity and variety of evidence from 55 candidate, 17 Negro and 38 white, 45 men and 10 women from sixteen states and the District of Columbia.