

Editor Issues Plea For Leadership

Says Unified Action Needed

By ART SEARS, JR.
CINCINNATI — (NNPA) — A plea for Negro leadership in America to begin planing for the unification of action and effort of the 16 million persons it represents, was issued by W. O. Walker, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association here.

Before a nationwide gathering of individuals, representing the most powerful Negro organizations in the country, Walker, who is also publisher-editor of the Cleveland Call and Post, cautioned his listeners to:

“Give the Negro the leadership” which can eventually assure his receiving benefits from his work, his money and his power.

Walker addressed a special segment of persons who attended the Summit Conference of Negro leaders at Washington, D. C., last May, during which time he was authorized to call last week’s session.

The special committee as it will now be known, heard Walker spark it to thoughts of the Negro problems at Cincinnati’s Hotel Sheraton Gibson Saturday morning, where the previous day, he, along with other members of NNPA, held their annual meeting.

NNPA SPONSORED

Sponsored by NNPA, the Summit Conference attracted several hundred persons to the Gibson where they were divided into various groups charged with deciding various facets of the Negro problems. Future action of the Summit Conference will be based on their findings.

Walker, in his opening speech, declared that:

“Today, the Negro in America is at the bottom of the heap! The white people have planned it that way. Most Negroes believe they are inferior!”

But the Negro, Walker continued, “inspite of himself,” must be raised to a much higher level of thinking and working.

“We already have resources and strength upon which we can draw, in this cause,” Walker said.

“One is in number. We have 16 million Negroes in the United States. Some say more; some say less. But numbers mean nothing unless those numbers are united.”

The publisher went on to explain that “Unless these 16 million begin to work together,” it will continue to mean nothing. He cited the fact that the Negro reputedly buys 16 billion dollars worth of goods each year.

“Yet Negro business has not advanced in the last 20 years,” he exclaimed. An exception, he stated, was in the case of Negro banks, which had advanced in some degree. “In many fields, we have stood still; in others we hhave lost ground,” the editor declared.

We have not taken advantage of our tremendous potential. I doubt that we spend 16 million of the 16 billion dollars we are supposed to be worth, with Negro businesses!

“We would be helping tremendously if each Negro only spent \$1 per day at a Negro business. And, it isn’t how much we earn, but how we spend what we earn,” Walker continued.

The NNPA leader said that the Africans are “catching fire in a wave of nationalism. . . they are echoing the theory of Marcus Garvey.

“We in America have got to catch fire on a wave of nationalism, or become second class citizens of Africa!

“Let us start giving back to the Negro, the leadership which can bring meaning to the number 16 million.

Walker’s second resource already held by the Negro, is the power of the vote.

“If the proper organization and direction is brought to bear, we think, will do a lot toward the unifying of Negroes.

“And new, young leadership is needed.”

As concerned the use of money, Walker said, “We must not only get the Negro dollar, but also find a way to get the white man to spend some of his money with us.”

These, then, Walker said, “are some of the challenges which face us. We’ve got to sit down together, talk about them, and then do something about them.

“We don’t know the answers. . . we must probe and plan. That’s why we’ve asked for your help, which we need so badly in this effort.”

NOTED REASONS

The virtual who’s who list of persons attending the session, Saturday included:

Mrs. S. W. Boynton, Alabama State Association of Women’s Clubs, Selma, Ala.; Atty. George W. Crawford, sovereign grand commander, Northern Jurisdiction,

Prince Hall Masons, New Haven, Conn.; Cong. Charles C. Diggs, jr., Washington, D. C.; James P. Davis, retired government worker, Little Rock, Ark.; Alex Fuller, vice president, Tuskegee Civic Association, presently on leave attending Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio;

Sir Forrest W. Thomas, Knights of Pythias, grand chancellor of Ohio, Cleveland; Dr. Guy R. Taylor, Prince Hall Masons, Grand Master of Ohio, Canton, Ohio; Judge Perry B. Jackson, grand treasurer, IBPOE of W, Cleveland; J. K. Haynes, Baton Rouge, La.; William H. Oliver, co-director Fair Practices and anti-Discrimination Depts., UWA, Detroit;

Mrs. Willa Goodwin, National Beauticians League, Cincinnati; Boyd L. Wilson, international Representative, United Steelworkers of America, Pittsburgh; Val J. Washington, director of Minorities, Republican National Committee; James E. Turner, Fair Practices Director, United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastics Workers of America, Akron;

Charles E. Armstrong, grand treasurer, Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Wyoming, Ohio; Mrs. L. B. Robery, Alabama Christian Movement For Human Rights, Birmingham, Ala.; W. H. Aiken, builder, contractor and real estate developer, Atlanta; Prof. Jessie B. Blayton, certified public accountant, Atlanta; Mrs. Marion H. Bluit, Supreme Basileus, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Washington, D. C.;

Golden B. Darby, member, Youth Commission of Illinois, Chicago; Atty. Earl B. Dickerson, president Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co., Chicago; Mrs. Blanch Crayton, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s clubs, Cleveland.

Mrs. Hilda H. Price, Mammoth Life Insurance Co., Louisville, Ky.; Moss H. Kendrix, public relations, counsellor and market consultant, Washington, D. C.; B. Doyle Michell, president, Industrial Bank of Washington, D. C.; Dr. R. O’Hara Lanier, Phelps-Fund, New York;

Dr. Harry T. Penn, the Roanoke Development Association, Roanoke, Va.; E. Shell, Great Lakes Mutual Life Insurance Co., Detroit; Dr. R. B. Atwood, president, Kentucky State College, Frankfort; Dr. Horace Mann Bond, dean, school of Education, Atlanta; Rev. Oliver B. Quick, pastor, Mt. Zion Methodist Church, Cincinnati;

Mrs. Edna M. Douglas, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Little Rock, Ark.; Mrs. Bessie S. Estell, president, Alabama State Teachers Association, Birmingham, Ala.; William Trent, jr., United Negro College Fund, New York; Bishop J. W. Walls, senior bishop AME Zion Church, Chicago; Mrs. Ruth Hubbard, the Links, Inc., Cincinnati;

Miss Elsie Austin, executive director, National Council of Negro Women, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Minnie J. Hitch, Kentucky State College, Frankfort; Nimrod B. Allen, executive secretary, the Frontiers of America, Columbus, Ohio; Charles H. Bynum, chief, Intergroup Relations, the National Foundation, New York;

Atty. Theodore M. Berry, representing Dr. Frank S. Horne, executive director, Commission on Intergroup Relations, New York; Atty. Marjorie M. Lawson, Washington, D. C.; George M. Snowden, asst. to Commissionier, Intergroup Relations Service, FHA, Washington, D. C.;

Prof. Andrew H. Calloway, professor of education, director public relations, West Virginia State College, Institute, W. Va.;

Chester E. Stovall, executive secretary, St. Louis Council on Human Relations, St. Louis, Mo.; Brother William J. Moore, BAS, Beta Iota Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Cincinnati; Mrs. Arnetta G. Wallace, former president, AKA Sorority, Chicago; Prof. Wilton C. Scott, president, National Alumni Association of Colleges and Universities, Savannah State College, Savannah, Ga.; Mrs. Perry B. Jackson, IBPOE of W, Elks, Cleveland; Atty. Thurgood Marshall, NAACP, New York City.