

NATIONAL CONVENTION RANDOM THOUGHTS

By NAHUM D. BRASCHER

CLEVELAND, O., June 12—
World Political Center this week.

Western Reserve Republican, one of the most famous political headquarters in America, qualifies as a SHRINE since the historical protest meeting against the Republican National committee Dred Scott decision of 1936: "A Negro has no right that a white man is bound to respect."



R. R. Church

In 1912, in the Chicago Coliseum, in the press stand, I heard the stand-patters yell down the Roosevelt Progressives I heard the governor of Indiana, with waving arms and red face, warn the "Old Guard" that "You will lament the day that you do this; and you will see the results in November." They did: Eight years of Woodrow Wilson, Democrat.

From all sections of the country, black Americans warned Herbert Hoover and the Republican party that the attitude of the President and the organization, that of indifference and humiliation; and lily-white condoning in the South, would show in the November election of 1932 It showed. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democrat, president; and the largest shift in Negro voting in the history of American politics.

Democrats, today, are not only appealing for Black votes, they are catering to them in the North; appointments by the wholesale are being made in every VOTING state. Organization is being knitted, with the Oil of Cash; and Black men, and women, are preparing to attend the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia this month in unprecedented numbers. The irony of Republican lily-whitism is stupefying!

In all the forty-eight states of the American Union, where Black men and women have their eyes turned to the tower of the mighty \$75,000,000 Terminal Tower in Cleveland, 15,000,000 patriotic and loyal Americans raise their hands, and lift their faces, and most solemnly inquire: "Watchman, What of the Night?"

The Republican party must give these millions an absolute answer this week on the political weather. We pause to learn whether it will be sunshine, fair, cloudy, rain, storm or cyclone. By the Cleveland Tower answer, these millions will know whether to lift the Eagle of Republicanism, hitch up with the Democratic donkey, or sit by and see destruction on the November day of DOOM!

There were never so many men and women attending a Republican National Convention as we have in Cleveland at this hour. There are social activities, but these men and women, under God, are in dead earnest about human rights.

Robt. R. Church of Memphis, delegate from his district says: "I always have a fight, and never know until the contest is finished; but, thus far, our side has always won." Many years ago "Bob" Church told me in Washington that "I seek no political office. What I want is power to be used in behalf of my race and human rights."

J. Leonard Lewis of Jacksonville, Fla., who rose to national fame over night by his masterly presentation of the now famous Florida contest, is a lawyer, graduate of New York university; fourth vice-president of the Afro-America, one of our largest insurance companies, whose father is the president; and whose grandfather, A. L. Lewis, is chairman of the board. Ah, lilywhites, you can't kick folks like these around, with ramifications of influence through their insurance members in every section of Florida.

Councilmen Bundy, Payne and Hubbard of Cleveland, with Clayborne George, member of the Civil Service Commission, and Chester Gillespie, president of the NAACP, who in the city-wide primary nominations for the Ohio legislature, got the highest votes of all candidates, regardless of color, form a combination of aggressive pursuance that is invincible.

There is politics everywhere in Cleveland this week, but there is also interest in the election of the next president of Wilberforce university by the board of trustees. The Leon Ransom announcement was both premature and without authority, as anyone might know. The president is elected annually by the board of trustees during commencement week, which is NOW.

There are two names most mentioned: Dr. Gilbert Jones, former president, and Dr. D. Ormond Walker, minister of St. James AME church, Cleveland. Jones is a scholar and Walker is trained, but he is famed here as a money getter. So what?

Many Clevelanders have gone to Wilberforce for the commencement and election.

The junior member of the Brascher organization is finishing his second year at Wilberforce university. I had wanted to go to the commencement, but alas.

The only daughter, like the son, and the mother, was born in Cleveland, in a beautiful house which I can see from the ninth floor of the Phyllis Wheatley, where I now write. Lavinia Olive Brascher will graduate from Englewood high school, Chicago, this week. I have to forego this privilege of seeing the graduating exercises, in the interest of our America and patriotic newspaper service.

Naturally I think of that August day nearly 19 years ago when I came home and Mrs. Brascher and the nurse presented me with a little sliver of life all wrapped in white. I think of all the paternal waking nights and sweet sacrifices, and of the years the mother and I have gone to the window each school morning and waved good-bye as "Sister" wended on to school.

My body will be in Cleveland Thursday night, but my thoughts will be in the auditorium of Englewood high school. If, by then the Republican convention does the square thing by my people; and, nominates a square American for president, my sacrifice will not have been in vain. God luck. "Daught." to you; and the Republican party in Cleveland.

Atty. Thomas W. Fleming and Mrs. Fleming, attended the contests in Public Hall, and were greeted cordially by scores of friends. They both look well. Fleming, Alexander H. Martin, the late Samuel E. Woods, and this writer attended the Republican National Convention together from Cleveland, 1908, when William Howard Taft was nominated in Chicago. We all stopped together at the home of Alpha Bass Adams, still living in Chicago, and founder of the Ohio club, of which Dr. Harry Garnes president.

Cleveland To All Everywhere
Commissioner Clayborne George informs me that the Cleveland entertaining committee has done everything possible to prove this city the finest place in America to live—outside of Chicago, I'd say. The general committee insists that there shall be no discrimination of any kind in Cleveland—and that means anywhere. Delegates and visitors are invited everywhere and expected to attend.

There are two special East side events: a reception from seven to nine at the Phyllis Wheatley, Wednesday; and a dance, at the new and beautiful Trianon Ballroom Thursday, out fascinating Euclid avenue. George says both races will be present in large numbers for both events. Such is Cleveland, you lilywhites of the South.

Cleveland Publishers of the three local newspapers, Call and Post, The Cleveland Eagle and the Gazette, are extending genuine hospitality to the large corps of newspaper men in the convention city.

Miss Jane Hunter, executive secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley has cordially granted excellent space on the beautiful lobby floor of this institution for Convention headquarters for The Chicago Defender. The bureau, which is quite popular with the visitors, is in charge of Miss Bronley, a Wilberforcean, and niece of Mrs. Sarah Anderson, wife of the late Major W. T. Anderson, former chaplain in the United States army. The bureau has given employment to one of our sign painters, photographers, and others, during convention stay. "In union there is strength." A. N. Fields and this writer were dinner guests in the association Saturday, with Alexander O. Taylor, Cleveland correspondent of The Defender, host.

Alex is one of the "World's Greatest" oldest correspondents in point of service, more than 25 years.

Good boy, Alex!