

What The People Say

[The Chicago Defender does not vouch for the authenticity or truthfulness of letters printed in this column, nor do letters contained herein express opinions or views of the Defender. All letters must be signed with name and address of writer. Confine them to 300 words.]

Editor, The Chicago Defender:—
 I was pleased to read your splendid article in your popular and widely circulated paper of April 10, urging our group to write to the postmaster general, James A. Farley to issue a commemorative stamp for our illustrious Frederick Douglass, etc.

As secretary of the Frederick Douglass Commemorative Stamp Committee, I would suggest it would be far better to petition the Hon. James A. Farley, postmaster general, and report to you that our committee has secured to date over 5,000 names on a petition, from our own district of Massachusetts, and we are now circulating these petitions in other states of the union. My reason for this method is to know just how many people we can obtain to support this movement, and by this system gain recognition.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of our petition for your consideration and kindly ask if you will support us in our endeavors.

To give you more information about our petition, I will mention the names of but a few of the prominent petitioners, as follows: the governor of our state, Hon. Charles F. Hurley, and his secretaries; the attorney general and his staff; Secretary of State Frederic Cooke, Auditor Thomas Buckley, and many state senators and representatives; Mayor Mansfield of Boston and Mayor Lynch of Cambridge, and many councilmen of several cities;

Prominent church, club, business and civic leaders of various groups have also signed. Among our own group are, former Assistant U. S. Attorney General William H. Lewis, his son, William H. Lewis, Jr., Commissioner of Correction Matthew Bullock, Clerk of Court Lane, former Assistant Corporation Counsel Wolff, former Asst. Attorney General Schenck, Butler R. Wilson, attorney and former Boston president of the NAACP; President Irvin T. Dorch of NAACP; parole board members and Massachusetts head of Race Democrats, Dr. Silas Taylor; Atty. Joseph Mitchell, head of Massachusetts Race Republicans;

Attorney Butler, Drs. Benjamin Robinson, Walter O. Taylor, Theo A. E. McCurdy, Fubler, William A. Cox, Gaskins, Long and Summons; Undertakers Basil F. Hutchins, Morrison, Reid, Johnson, O'Brien, John O'Brien, Adams and Davis;

Revs. Davis, Union church, Cambridge, Powell and Biddle, Battle, Hester; Maude Trotter Stewart, Boston Guardian; the Boston Chronicle, William S. Sparrow, Thomas Lucas and Leon Lomas;

The complete 372nd battalion from Major Davis, officers and the last private.

Your Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell has signed and has been to the postal authorities and has forwarded me very valuable information and advice. He informs me that he will be one of the sponsors.

Edward Galliger, secretary to President Roosevelt's son James has signed, and informs me he will seek James Roosevelt's approval.

Our U. S. Senator David I. Walsh says he will do all in his power to aid us and sends me a report from the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster, as follows: "The stamp program of the department, is already committed for the balance of the year and is unusually heavy, in view of which no further applications can be accepted until the present schedule is more nearly completed.—Signed, Acting Third Assistant Postmaster."

By the above we realize that pressure must be brought to bear. One method, thousands of names. We do not ask for the stamp this year, but a certain date in 1938. We think our petitions are in proper time for next year's consideration. We will send them in soon.

Note: President Roosevelt and Postmaster General Farley are the real powers behind the throne in the matter of new stamp issues.—J. Arthur Whaley, secretary, Fred-

erick Douglass Commemorative Stamp Committee, 37 Hubbard avenue, Cambridge, Mass.