

FOLKS AND THINGS 'ROUND WASHINGTON

By VENICE TIPTON SPRAGGS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—THOUGHTS WHILE STROLLING — The District of Columbia had a population of 663,091 at the time of the 1940 enumeration which is greater than each of the 12 states of South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Utah, New Mexico, Idaho, Arizona, New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware, Wyoming and Nevada and yet these combined states have 24 senators and 20 members of the House of Representatives in the United States Congress . . . In the Senate they have the chairmanship of five committees out of a total of 33 standing committees, and three out of a total of 10 special and select committees . . . In the House they have the chairmanship of 4 out of a total of 47 standing committees. These 12 states also have a fair proportion of ranking majority and minority members giving further evidence of the weight of their influence.

Meanwhile, the citizens of the District of Columbia must submit to the rule of a Southerner whose single purpose is to relegate all American Negroes to Liberia where they can enjoy a democracy of their own making . . . Organized civic groups in Washington are supporting a proposal to have the Constitution amended which would empower Congress to grant voting representation in the Congress and among the presidential electors to which as American citizens they are entitled . . . This proposal warrants YOUR support.

The Capital Transit Company hauled 614,833,878 passengers last year, an increase of 19.6 in transportation. Revenues increased 16 per cent to a total of \$27,809,203 . . . The company still has not seen fit to live up to its agreement with the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices to employ Negro operators on bus and trolley lines.

Consumer Cooperatives seem to offer a great opportunity for American Negroes in the realms of business and business administration . . . Noseying around during the past two weeks—invited of course—there has been the opportunity to gain some first handed information, information which holds great promise. The Frederick Douglas Cooperative in Southeast Washington of which Harry L. Terry is manager, and the Consumer's Services, Inc., on Benning Road, Northeast Washington of which Inez E. West is manager, are excellent examples of our assertion. Perhaps one of the fine assets of cooperatives is its unifying potentialities as well as the opportunity it affords for democratic relationships.

"Library Pointers," by Elizabeth S. Duvall, Reader's adviser for the public library, Washington, D. C., listed the following books as helpful in bringing about a "greater national unity and better understanding among our racial and cultural groups." . . . "American Counterpoint," Alexander Alland; "Brothers Under the Skin," Carey McWilliams; "Our Racial and National Minorities," Francis Brown and Joseph Roucek; "When Peoples Meet," Alain Locke and Bernhard Stern; "Intercultural Education in American Schools," William Vickery and Stewart Cole.

The housing controversy continues in Washington with some members of the Federation of Citizens' Associations conceding that the association should have investigated the National Capitol Housing Authority more thoroughly before demanding its abolition.