

# INTERRACIAL CONFERENCE CLOSES SESSION: DR. LESLIE HILL STIRS WOMEN DELEGATES TO ACTION

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## INTERRACIAL CONFERENCE CLOSES SESSION

### Dr. Leslie Hill Stirs Women Delegates to Action

OBERLIN, Ohio, July 3.—That the women attending the third general interracial conference of church women at Oberlin college could themselves revolutionize the world in its attitudes on race relations was the challenging statement of Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill in the closing address of the conference.

Dr. Hill, who is principal of the Cheyney Training School for Teachers, near Philadelphia, went on to show that the attitude of white American women tourists in Europe is responsible for growing discrimination shown the Race in London, Paris and Rome, where formerly they had real freedom of action, and no amount of education, cultural training and experience or money can make the American nonwhite really free in his native country. While recognizing the need for group study and action, Dr. Hill stated that it is, after all, the attitude of the individual that settles the great social problems of the world, and he urged his hearers to adopt this pledge: "Where I stand all shall be right."

At this last session the conference adopted the findings from the discussion periods of the past two days. The aim of these discussions has been to find the methods by which church women may work effectively for better race relations.

In commenting on the conference Miss Katherine Gardner, secretary of the church women's committee of the commission on race relations, Federal Council of Churches, which held the conference, said: "This gathering marks a distinct advance over the two previous ones, both in numbers and in spirit. The delegates have come, and some at real personal sacrifice, from states as far away as Texas, Missouri, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Iowa. Even while we have been in session some of the delegates have gotten together as denominational groups to plan what they can do immediately in their own denominations. One such group listed nine points of attack and planned just how they would go about it."

In addition to Dr. Hill, the speakers at the conference were Dean Lucy D. Stowe of Howard university and Dr. Will W. Alexander of the commission on interracial co-operation, with headquarters at Atlanta. The chairman was Mrs. May Leonard Woodruff, corresponding secretary of the Women's Home Missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal church, and leading the discussion was Miss Rhoda McCulloch, editor-in-chief of the Woman's Press, national board Y. W. C. A.

The findings of the third general interracial conference of church women can best be interpreted by those who shared in the conference experience. Each item in this program of study and action was wrought out in the spirit of friendly understanding which controlled the discussions.

In order to carry out this program

we shall have to find a way to bring about effective participation by both national and local groups. The conference suggests careful experimentation in cases where there is joint responsibility.

If the program of the next conference, two years hence, is built upon the study and action which follows the adoption of these findings, we shall then be able to measure our progress and discover new ways of work to meet new situations.

We recommend: That we ask the women's committee to interest a research organization in undertaking a study of the policy and practice of the denominations:

(a) In their training of Negro leadership for church activities at home and abroad with particular reference to problems involved in isolating racial groups.

(b) In relation to Negro women employed as missionaries at home and abroad with reference to opportunities for employment, qualifications of candidates, salary and living conditions, and opportunities for professional advancement.

We recommend: The work of the curriculum committee in the criticism and preparation of material and in securing Negro members on denominational curriculum committees and look for report of further progress at the next conference.

We recommend: That each local unit examine the groupings for interracial work to see (1) whether the committees are adequately representative of all groups concerned, and (2) to discover ways in which their work can be influenced by the experience of interested groups outside the membership of the committee so that the interracial committee shall have the confidence of the whole community.

We believe that the best results from meeting concrete situations in the community life as they arise, rather than attacking the question of race relations in the abstract or merely setting up special events.

We need to study ways in which groups have arrived at successful solutions and ask the women's committee to make reports available to local groups.

We believe that the churches ought to be reminded of the importance of the work of groups of laymen in the development of public opinion in regard to race relations, and in supporting individual members of the church who may find themselves in critical positions in the life of the community.

We believe that members of churches could increase the effectiveness of any community enterprise if they would insist that the planning committee include representatives of all racial groups involved.

We believe that local groups should study ways in which public opinion may be influenced in regard to race relationships—for instance, the use of the press.

We recognize that only by a long continued program of steady work, which persists despite temporary failure, will our community life in its interracial relationships measure up to Jesus' definition of the good life.