

# DR. LOCKE ENDORSES DEFENDER STAND ON PROGRESSIVE ACTION

Dr. Alain Locke, chairman of the department of philosophy at Howard university, congratulates in a letter the Chicago Defender's stand on progressive action, and endorses the general trends of the new deal program in relation to the members of the Race. The full text of the letter follows:

Congratulations on the high ground you take in your recent editorial, "Give Credit Where Credit Is Due," in endorsing the general progressive trends of the New Deal program in relation to the Negro.

for his best group interests are vitally included in the social and economic reforms aimed at the conditions and plight of the common man.

Those of us who here in Washington observe closely the crusade of the progressive wing of the Roosevelt administration for social and economic justice know against what odds both within and without the party and its old-line traditions this fight is being made.

Like you and other independents, I, too, deplore the luke-warm fight for the anti-lynching bill, but over against this stand out the positive gains of the security legislation, the great benefits of approximately fair enforcement without regard to race of the relief program, of the appointment of many Negroes of high-type on a non-political basis to strategic key positions in the administration of those newer programs of labor, social security, housing, health and agricultural aid.

## Promising Prospects

Recently too we have the promising prospects of the new, almost revolutionary wage-hour legislation and the politically courageous and costly campaign to break the reactionary solid south and challenge its disfranchising practices of the closed primary and its demagogery of race hate.

Surely no one can charge that this is soft-pedalling the Negro issue. On the contrary it represents an unusual devotion to principle above the immediate interests of political expediency. More and more the main trends of the New Deal point to a squarer deal for the Negro.

Next week the colored citizens of Chicago will have unusual opportunity to further the progressive momentum of this New Deal aid to the Negro cause.

## General Racial Concern

The elections there involve the issue of the return to the only assured representation of the Negro in Congress of an experienced loyal and efficient New Deal congressman, Mr. Mitchell, and the sending to Washington of one of the staunchest and best friends of the Negro cause that I have had the good fortune to know, T. V. Smith, candidate for the post of Illinois congressman at large.

In this light, as I see it, the election of these men lifts the issue far from the level of local interests, though these two will no doubt be well-served in addition, to a position of national moment and general racial concern.

Professor Smith is one of the original sponsors of the liberal principles of the New Deal, and short of the advantage of other direct representation of the Negro in Congress that may come from other political provinces, nothing could better re-enforce our interests there than the presence of so staunch a liberal and friend as this dyed-in-the-blood Democrat.

## Equal Rights, Benefits

Mr. Mitchell has now experience and accumulating seniority in his favor and a record of consistent support both of the New Deal and the Negro cause. I can think of nothing more favorable for the critical developments of the next Congress as it relates to Negro interests than what I hope will be the contribution of intelligent Negro voters toward sending to Washington for combination team-work these two supporters of the New Deal program.

Again as in your editorial, I advocate this not on partisan grounds, but out of deep interest in the fight for truer basic democracy in America that will mean more practical equal rights and benefits for the Negro.