

# HOW RACE FARES UNDER THE NEW DEAL

## Congressman Gavagan Cites Figures to Prove That We Are Not Worse Off Now Than We Were Under Former Administrations

### Points To President Roosevelt And Postmaster-General Farley As Sponsors Of Fair-Play Plan

#### Facts Revealed in Congressional Record

(A page from The Congressional Record)

Mr. GAVAGAN. Mr. Speaker, representing the Twenty-first Congressional District of New York, including the greater part of Harlem, the native state of both President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Hon. James A. Farley, Postmaster General of the United States and chairman of the Democratic National Committee, I therefore take peculiar pride in setting forth in the Congressional Record as I see it just how the colored citizen has fared under the "new deal."

It is understood, of course, that as part of the whole citizenry the colored American citizen has and will enjoy the same wholesome benefits to be derived from higher standards of living, increased wages, and better housing conditions in the national recovery program as his fellow compatriots.

It has been increasingly evident that President Roosevelt, unlike his predecessor as well as Mrs. Roosevelt, have drawn no "color line" at the White House.

The Chief Executive of the United States entertained President Steno Vincent, of Haiti, and then posed with him for a picture and the sound movies. He was no less diffident in the honor freely bestowed upon his classmates of Harvard University, among them some 14 distinguished colored citizens. They and their families found the sociability of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt as they chatted on the White House lawn most stimulating. The little 6-year-old colored boy during the Easter-egg rolling fete who was "shot" in the picture with the three other youngsters, got a great thrill out of holding the hand of the First Lady of the land while she beamed the Roosevelt smile before the battery of cameramen for the edification of all and sundry everywhere, at home and abroad. It recalled a like picture taken on her visit to the Virgin Islands. Mrs. Roosevelt's deeds have been no less significant than her speeches, especially the admonition to the educational leaders of the Nation assembled in Washington when she stoutly condemned double standards in teachers' salaries, buildings, equipment, and educational opportunities practiced to the detriment and social welfare of the whole country, and the colored citizen more specifically.

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, addressing a group of Race educators in Washington, declared:

"The day of really working together has come. We must learn to work together regardless of race, creed, or color."

#### NO GROUP TO BE BEATEN DOWN

After telling the conference that she favored equal educational opportunities for every child in the land, she said:

"We can have no group beaten down, underprivileged, without reaction on the rest. Where the standard of education is low, the standard of living is low."

Unfortunately, Mrs. Roosevelt's address did not receive the widespread publicity it should have had. Her preachments as she uttered should be especially emphasized in the South, where black men and women have been deprived of education and training, which would have been beneficial both to them and the communities in which they live.

We congratulate Mrs. Roosevelt in her courageous stand for those principles which, if adhered to, will ultimately banish the brutalizing influences of the southern white man and enable him to recognize that the South cannot rise to its proper place economically, socially, and politically until it becomes educated beyond the distressing influences of hate, greed, and selfishness.

The colored race must be educated, to be sure, but the Nation must be educated as well to the point where it can appreciate the advantages to be obtained from a unified spiritual accord inherently applicable to all citizens alike.

The fact that President Roosevelt granted Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an hour in the White House study Sunday a fortnight ago to get the facts as only he could reveal them on the history of lynchings and mob violence in this country must be construed as a distinctly forward step.

The President's personal interest and that of the administration, was further borne out by the pressure upon Congress to pass the Wagner-Costigan Federal anti-lynching bill, favorably reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee. It is the first serious effort in this direction taken in the past six years that I have been here. Many promises have been made and such legislation had been written into certain party platforms,

has absorbed 50,000 white and colored boys, who were "hitch-hiking" over the country, to the great boon of these fine American youngsters, out of their own, likewise the general peace and safety of every community in the country, thereby has been brought a little nearer reality. Many others from large families in urban centers have added the full weight of their mighty sinews of brain and muscle to reforestation and the like, while providing at the same time \$25 a month cash relief to the folks back home. Employment, too, has come to colored recreational leaders, doctors, and nurses from the establishment throughout the country of these C.C.C. camps. There has been no color line in this service to American boys and American families. It is estimated there are a million colored men and women on work relief by the Federal Emergency Relief Commission. Positions as accountants, auditors, clerks, stenographers, cuss aides, tabulators, statisticians, technical supervisors, nurses, teachers, doctors, foremen, timekeepers, skilled and unskilled laborers have been created under this "new deal" governmental set-up to a greater degree than ever before afforded the colored citizen. Many thousands of these are scattered over the five boroughs of New York as elsewhere.

#### EXPERTS OF RACE GET OPPORTUNITY

The "little cabinet" and the much-discussed "brain trust" have had their counterpart in the administration bringing into the Government such well-known colored leaders and highly trained social experts as Eugene Kinckle Jones, Yale University graduate, and for 25 years executive secretary of the National Urban League, with headquarters in New York, as the special adviser on Negro affairs to Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Hon. Daniel C. Roper; Forester B. Washington, director Atlanta School of Social Science, as an assistant to the Honorable Harry L. Hopkins, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Relief Commission; and Earl R. Moore, M. A., University of Chicago, and research director of the Chicago

Urban League, as a member of the Research and Statistics Bureau of the Federal Emergency Relief Commission; Robert L. Vann, Special Assistant Attorney General under Attorney General Cummings; William Hastie, Harvard University, and Theophilus Mann, Illinois University, attorneys in the Department of the Secretary of the Interior, Hon. Harold L. Ickes; and Prof. H. D. Hunt, of Fort Valley, Ga., in the Farm Credit Administration; T. M. Campbell, Tuskegee, and J. B. Pierce, Hampton Institute, in the Department of Agriculture, under Secretary Henry A. Wallace; L. A. Oxley, of North Carolina, was appointed as labor arbitrator and adviser on Negro affairs in the Department of Labor by Secretary Frances Perkins.

In the 17 Southern States, with nearly 2,000,000 illiterates and a 10,000,000 population of colored citizens, over a half million colored persons were taught to read and write during the past year, according to Dr. Collier, former dean of Fisk University and assistant to Dr. Anderson, head of the adult educational program under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration; too, the school term was extended two months and the salaries of a thousand colored school teachers increased. A real frontal attack against illiteracy has been made and is continuing under the personal impetus of Mrs. Roosevelt's leadership.

In Chicago 114 colored school teachers are now employed under the "new deal" continuation summer school at an salary of \$100 per month, and an equal number of nurses are also on the job. A like opportunity is presented to every community in the United States and the islands of the sea under our jurisdiction. One hundred and twenty colored colleges of higher learning provided between 15 and 20 dollars a month per capita, during the past year from Federal funds which benefited nearly 4,000 colored students. Howard University and the Freedmen's Hospital in Washington received \$2,000,000 from the Public Works Administration.

These generous and general doses of new educational opportunities made possible along constructive

social lines in every State of the Union, for all alike, should prove an incalculable asset in the development of an enlightened and happier citizenship.

#### MANY GET CHANCES IN POST OFFICE DEPT.

In the department of Government giving permanent employment to the largest number of colored workers notable progress has been made under Postmaster General James A. Farley, both in status and working conditions.

Thousands of ex-service men and their families were benefited by the extra jobs in the post office, created by the holiday rush of the Yuletide. The New York post office has made many promotions in the past year, a policy, I understand, carried out all over the country along with the erection of many modern post office buildings.

In Pittsburgh at the Wylie avenue post office, the office of the district supervisor is capably filled by a colored postal employee, promoted under Postmaster General James A. Farley to the new rank, now, for nearly a year, it was one of the first official acts of this high official in the President's Cabinet.

Colored men share the positions as elevator operators in the Washington Post Office Building dedicated last week. A colored girl and a supervisor are assigned to the private elevator of the Post Master General in this newest of the Capital's buildings, second in size only to the great Department of Commerce Building, where colored women elevator operators serve, as in so many of the Government buildings.

It is estimated upwards of 60 colored farmers in each of the thousand and 1,500 counties of the South have been loaned an average per capita of \$200 for seed, fertilizer, livestock, and machinery for planting cotton or plowing it up under the direction of the A. A. Administrator. This runs into millions of dollars in direct financial assistance for these people from the Government.

It certainly cannot be denied that no class of our citizenry has received larger benefits in general and specific employment than the colored worker from the repeal of "prohibition," which was carried through as one of the first big objectives of the "new deal."

Finally, I may say, with pardonable pride, that my vote for all the "new deal" legislation and my unwavering and enthusiastic approval of President Roosevelt's leadership in Congress is a source of inexpressible joy to me, because it has made possible the greatest service to my constituents high and low, Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, all alike, regardless of race or color.