

THE *TRUTH* VERSUS UGLY LIES

ABOUT THE

NAACP

Because of its role as leader in the struggle to end Jim Crow and win equal rights for Negro citizens, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been singled out by white racists for bitter attack and smears. These bigots are circulating all sorts of lies about the Association, its program, methods and objectives.

The White Citizens Councils and persons who think as they do believe that all colored people are inferior and should be kept down. They realize that the NAACP is the one organization which always fights for equal rights for colored citizens. They know that the NAACP has broken down Jim Crow in many fields. They recognize that the NAACP has made it possible for Negroes to enjoy the rights which the United States Constitution guarantees to all citizens. They know that the NAACP is prepared to come to the defense of citizens who have been unjustly treated because of their race or color. They think that if the NAACP is boxed in, the fight for freedom will stop. But they are wrong. It will not.

Angered by the success of the NAACP, they are now trying to stop this good work. State courts have banned the NAACP in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi and other southern states have passed laws to cripple the NAACP.

They have told all sorts of lies about the NAACP, hoping to give it a bad name among friendly white people and curb its influence among Negroes. What these racists say about the NAACP, together with the facts in each instance, is listed below:

THE LIE

The policies, program and goals of the NAACP are inspired by Communists and their fellow travelers. The organization is dominated by left-wing elements.

[The above falsehood has been widely circulated by Attorney General Eugene Cook of Georgia and by the White Citizens Councils.]

THE TRUTH

The NAACP is strictly an American organization with the basic American goals of freedom, equality and justice for all. For years it has been as scandalously attacked by the Communist party and the party press as it is now being denounced by the White Citizens Councils. On the other hand, the work of the NAACP has been acclaimed by such distinguished Americans as J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief; Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York City; Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, United Nations under-secretary; Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt; Senator Herbert Lehman; Francis Cardinal Spellman; Judge William H. Hastie; Bishop William J. Walls; Rabbi Irving Miller; the late Philip Murray and many others. Moreover, Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Vice President Richard M. Nixon have addressed NAACP meetings. At its 47th annual convention in San Francisco, June, 1956, the Association re-affirmed its longstanding policy of excluding "the endorsers, the supporters and defenders of the Communist conspiracy from joining or participating in any way in the work of the NAACP."

THE LIE

The NAACP is run by a handful of white radicals with Negro members and officials merely acting as stooges, carrying out orders handed down by white conspirators.

THE LIE

The NAACP is an "extremist" organization which is "pushing" too hard and "moving too fast" in its efforts to end racial discrimination and segregation.

THE LIE

The NAACP is an arm of the Democratic party. Lately, they say, of the Republican party.

THE TRUTH

The NAACP is an interracial organization whose membership is open to all persons, of whatever race, who believe in its purposes and methods. Three-fourths of its Board of Directors are Negroes. Likewise, the staff, both executive and subordinate, is mostly colored. Policy is formulated at annual national conventions by elected delegates, 90 per cent of whom are Negroes.

THE TRUTH

The NAACP has always been for integration of the schools and all public services and facilities. It recognizes that this goal cannot be achieved overnight everywhere but believes that a start should be made in good faith. The Association proceeds lawfully and peacefully towards this goal. It uses the time-consuming processes of education, legal action and legislation. The NAACP does not attempt to move faster than the law allows.

THE TRUTH

The NAACP, as an organization, is non-partisan. It does not endorse any party or candidate. It seeks enactment of civil rights legislation on a bi-partisan basis.

THE LIE

The NAACP is an organization of "outsiders" stirring up trouble in the South where Negroes are content with Jim Crow schools and buses and are not interested in their citizenship rights.

THE LIE

The "ultimate goal" of the NAACP is intermarriage.

[A leading daily newspaper in Georgia caught the office of the Attorney General of that state spreading this vicious lie.]

THE LIE

The NAACP disrupted "harmonious" race relations in the South which was voluntarily improving conditions for Negroes until the Supreme Court banned segregation in public education.

THE TRUTH

Sixty per cent of the NAACP membership is located in the southern states. Eleven southern states and the District of Columbia are represented on its Board of Directors. Through lawsuits, economic protests and other means, southern Negroes have left no doubt as to their resentment against discrimination.

THE TRUTH

The NAACP neither advocates nor opposes intermarriage. It believes that marriage is a personal matter. It opposes laws prohibiting such marriages. Likewise, it would oppose any law compelling intermarriage. It is for freedom of choice in this most intimate of relationships.

THE TRUTH

Practically every advance toward equality made by Negroes in the South has been the result of NAACP action. The right to vote was restored by the NAACP. Admission to state-supported universities was gained because of NAACP court action. Also, the legal ban on Jim Crow transportation is the result of NAACP action. So long as the Negro could be forced to occupy an inferior place, race relations were "harmonious" for many white persons, but far from satisfactory for Negroes.

THE LIE

The NAACP misrepresents the aspirations of Negroes, especially with respect to segregation in the South.

THE LIE

The NAACP solicits cases to carry to the courts to break down segregation.

THE LIE

The NAACP has a "war chest" of millions of dollars — contributed to it by trade unions, foundations and wealthy white radicals—with which to carry on the fight to end racial segregation.

The NAACP has stood the test of time. Despite the angry attacks of the white supremacists, the Association continues to grow stronger and stronger. It has more than 350,000 members in 43 states, the District of Columbia and the Territory of Alaska. The churches, minority group associations and other organizations are rallying to its support. Its enemies are being exposed for their un-American acts and lies. In the end the NAACP is bound to triumph over these peddlers of race hate.

THE TRUTH

According to a Gallup public opinion survey, the results of which were published in February, 1956, the majority of Negroes in the South want to end segregation in education, transportation, and public waiting rooms.

THE TRUTH

The NAACP does not solicit any case. Victims of discrimination and segregation bring their cases to the NAACP which, on request, gives them legal assistance.

THE TRUTH

The NAACP operates on a modest annual budget of about \$600,000, 85 per cent of which comes from members who pay fees of \$2 to \$10. The money is chiefly raised by local branches through membership fees and special fund raising projects.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
COLORED PEOPLE**

20 West 40th Street

New York 18, N. Y.