

and objectives
its program

NAACP

the
story
of the

NAACP

is a story of progress in American civilization. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People began in 1909 when fifty-three Americans with a fierce devotion to democracy and humane race relations banded together in an attempt to right some of the shocking wrongs being inflicted upon a group of fellow citizens. Since that time, the Association has expanded steadily, as Americans increasingly have joined this force striving for racial justice. The NAACP has won victory after victory — accomplishing the seemingly impossible in its unflinching struggle against race hate, bigotry and violence.

NAACP

covers the country



Join Today

THE NAACP NEEDS YOU

The wide range of activities in which the NAACP engages and the notable successes it has enjoyed have earned for the Association the deep respect of its friends and the even deeper fear of its enemies. For almost a half-century, the Association has been in the forefront of the civil rights fight and has been responsible for destroying many of the barriers depriving Negro Americans of equality of opportunity.

This progress costs money. Further progress will cost more money. With the eyes of the world upon America for democratic leadership, the task ahead is gigantic. The United States must prove her sincerity to those who mistrust this country because of mistreatment of minority groups. Every vestige of race bigotry and segregation must be rapidly eliminated from American life. The NAACP needs the moral and financial support of every democratic-minded individual and group if this goal is to be achieved.

and the Association's strength lies in its membership — a quarter of a million strong in forty-five states, the District of Columbia and the Territory of Alaska. NAACP members, of all races and religions, are organized into more than a thousand branches, which in turn form thirty state conferences and several regional conferences. The national office staff covers the country, too. With headquarters in New York, the Association maintains a Washington Bureau (in which most of the legislative activity is centered) and three regional offices: in Birmingham, Dallas and San Francisco. Local and state offices are maintained by constituent NAACP units. Field workers are sent wherever they are needed. The Association is truly a *crisis* organization, constantly on the alert to combat unfair race practices wherever they occur.

N.A.A.C.P.

20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y.
or your local Branch

I wish to become a member and enclose \$.....

I enclose \$..... as a contribution.

Name.....

Address.....

City and State.....

Annual Membership \$2.00, \$3.50, \$5.00, \$10.00 & up. Youth Membership (under 17), \$.50; (17-21), \$1.00. Life Membership \$500. Memberships of \$3.50 and up include a year's subscription to the *Crisis* magazine at \$1.50.

May, 1956



THE RIGHT TO WORK IS BASIC

Man must work if he is to eat. Denying a man a decent job because of his race is denying him the basis of his existence. Largely through the efforts of NAACP branches, fair employment laws have been passed in fourteen states — but *thirty-four*

states still have refused to do anything about bias in employment. For this reason, the NAACP believes that an FEPC — to guarantee citizens an opportunity to secure jobs on the basis of merit, not color or religion — is the keystone of the federal civil rights program. The entire resources of the Association are pledged to the campaign for establishment of a Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission with full enforcement powers.

THE NEW LYNCH LAW

The mob, which in years gone by would string its victims to the nearest tree or tie a hapless Negro to the stake for a public burning, is now obsolete thanks to years of effort by the NAACP. The old style public lynching has been succeeded by bombings, floggings and killings by three or four persons rather than by a mob of thousands. Also, economic pressure, the denial of jobs and the withholding of credit from Negro homeowners, farmers and business and professional men has been used increasingly to replace the cruder and bloodier forms of intimidation and terror. The NAACP has marshalled all of its resources to meet the challenge of the new lynch law.



THE BALLOT: DEMOCRACY'S TEST

Recognizing that Negro Americans, voting in free elections, could contribute to winning the rights and privileges guaranteed to them under our Constitution, the South for many years disfranchised the Negro voter through "white primaries," the poll

tax and other subterfuges — and violence. Now, the NAACP legal staff has cleared the way for Negro voting in the South with Supreme Court victories outlawing "white primaries" and other chicanery. Under constant attack of the NAACP and others, the poll tax is now required in only five states.

The Association, too, has geared its legal, legislative and educational programs toward a vast expansion of the Negro vote and has undertaken an ambitious educational campaign to increase awareness among Negro citizens of the value of their vote, and to encourage these citizens to exercise this basic American right and duty.

On the legislative front, the Association is pressing for a federal anti-poll tax law, elimination of unfair registration requirements, and protection for Negro citizens against discrimination and intimidation in polling places.



OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

The United States Supreme Court has declared—in its historic May 17, 1954, decision — that segregated education, by impairing the ability of Negro children to learn and to function as responsible citizens, deprives them of their rights under the Fourteenth

Amendment and is, accordingly, unconstitutional. The NAACP has pledged its total resources to a community action program, supplementing legal action, designed to level the barriers in every American community where school segregation still exists. Just as in the Association's successful drive to curb segregation in state-supported graduate and professional schools, countless hours of work and dollars must go into this historic struggle to bring racial democracy to our elementary and secondary public schools.

THE END OF MILITARY JIM CROW

In August, 1954, the Department of Defense reported that "throughout the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, fully integrated units have replaced the all-Negro units which, until recent years, formed the only channel of military service for Negro enlistees and draftees." Negroes in the armed forces, the report added, are "now utilized on the basis of individual merit and proficiency in meeting the needs of the services."

This was the culmination of a long fight during which the NAACP insisted that military Jim Crow should be abolished not only as a matter of democratic principle but also for the practical reason that segregation prevented the optimum use of manpower. The Defense Department report vindicates the NAACP contention both as to morale and to the effective use of personnel.



HOUSING: ROOT OF THE EVIL

The ghetto pattern in housing is directly responsible for an evil overcrowding in which disease and crime flourish. The ghetto is a pivotal factor, too, in maintaining segregated education despite the Supreme Court ruling banning such segregation. Even in

states which have long forbidden separate schools, segregation in housing fosters Jim Crow schools and many other disadvantages which befall minority groups. Despite legal victories invalidating restrictive covenants and city residential ordinances, private builders (even though federal funds make their projects possible) still discriminate against Negro families. In addition, the hate-bomb has been widely used by bigots to maintain the "lily-white" complexion of residential areas. A major task ahead of the NAACP is the elimination of the ghetto and the securing of the right of every citizen to live in the home of his choice in accordance with his means.



THE TRAVEL NUISANCE

A ruling handed down by the Interstate Commerce Commission on November 25, 1955, directed an end to irksome Jim Crow practices in all interstate travel. The petty irritations stemming from segregation in trains and buses have long made travel in

the South for Negroes a most frustrating and harrowing experience. Segregated waiting rooms, sanitary facilities, and eating places in stations, terminals and airports have caused discomfort, inconvenience and humiliation to Negro passengers. Now this kind of discrimination has been doomed by the ICC ruling which was handed down in response to a complaint filed by the NAACP in December, 1953, against 13 railways operating in the South, a terminal and restaurant chain. The commission upheld the complaint against the railroads and the terminal, ordering an end of segregation of interstate passengers by January 10, 1956. The complaint against the restaurant was dismissed on the ground that the ICC lacked jurisdiction.

RECREATION AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

In line with its historic decision against segregation in public education, the United States Supreme Court again unanimously ruled on November 7, 1955, that racial segregation in public parks, swimming pools, golf courses and other recreational facilities is unconstitutional. In many areas of the South Negroes have long been denied access to any public recreational facilities; in others, they have been confined to meager, ill-kempt and inadequately serviced parks and play areas. Now all the public recreational areas will be available for use by persons, irrespective of race or color. Segregation in public schools, transportation and recreation is no longer legal.



EQUAL TREATMENT IN THE COURTS

Much progress has been made in securing the right of every citizen to a fair trial and equal treatment by the courts, but regrettably recent events have shown that a sheriff still can shoot handcuffed Negro prisoners and escape with impunity by claiming "self-defense," a Negro can be tried for "assault" for looking at a white girl 75 feet away, and a Negro can be put to death for a crime for which no white man pays a similar penalty. In all sections of the country a Negro accused of crime against a white person is subject to severer penalties than a white person so accused. Rarely in the South is a white person convicted of a major crime against a Negro regardless of the evidence.