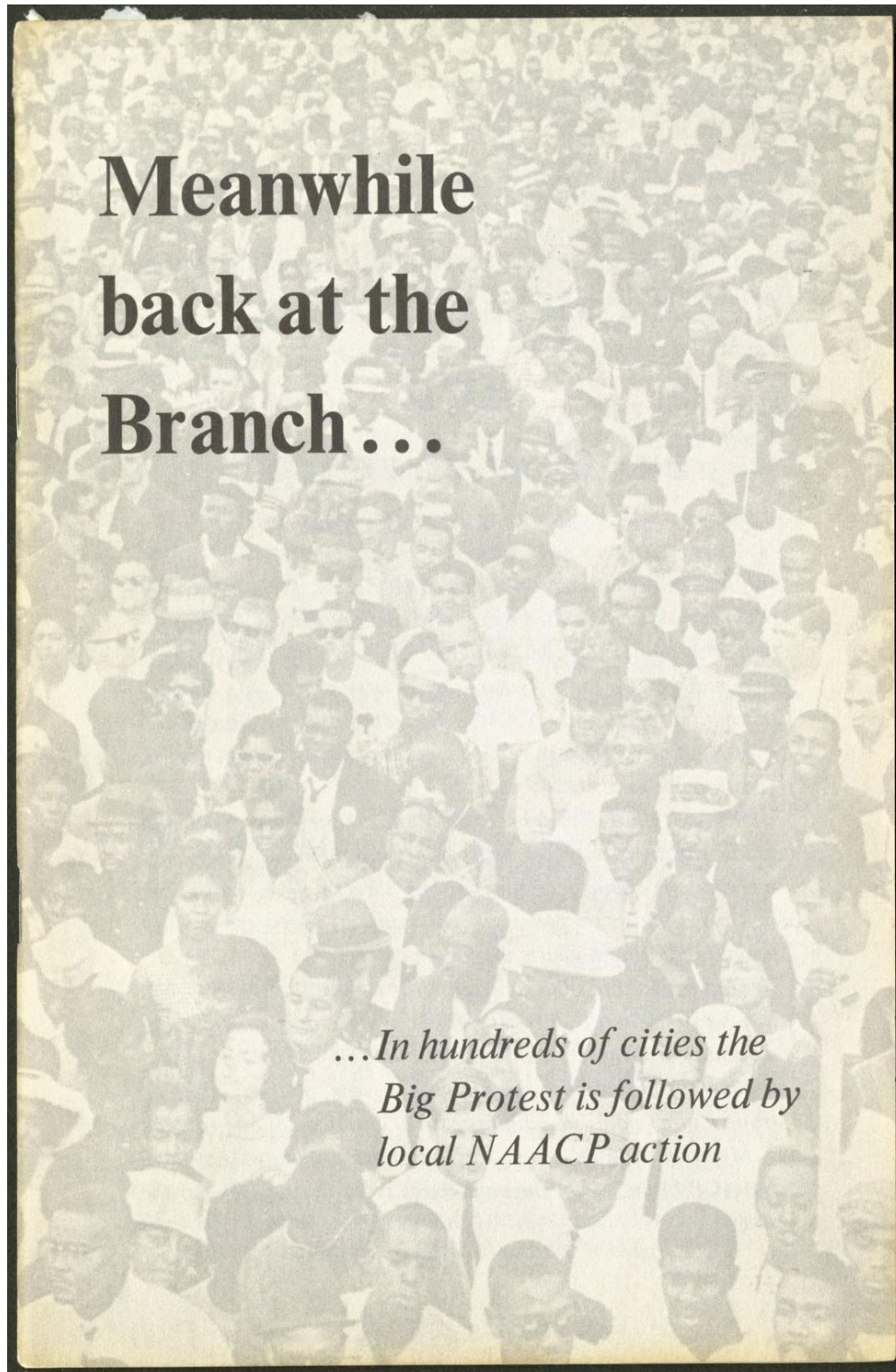


Image

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Meanwhile back at the Branch..., June 1965.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09640.161.01 p1)

## Voter Registration

The intense voter registration activities of the NAACP in 1964 continued into the new year. Branches and youth councils in areas holding off-year elections conducted get-out-the-vote campaigns, sponsored candidate interview sessions, and actively encouraged Negroes seeking public office for the first time in their respective communities.

1. The first Negro in the history of *Vallejo*, Calif., was elected to the City Council as a result of a voter registration and education drive initiated by the branch and a local citizens' committee.
2. Utilizing speakers from Negro neighborhoods, the *New England Regional NAACP Youth Conference* launched a number of voter education projects in several area cities.
3. On two successive days, March 29-30, *Mississippi* NAACP officials led a voter registration march on the Madison County Court House in Canton, in a renewed effort to get Negroes registered. The processing of applicants was without incident.
4. Failing to get *Port Norris*, N. J., township officials to open registration places in February during a branch voter enrolment campaign, the NAACP transported prospective voters to the county seat of Bridgeton, nearly 20 miles away.
5. Directed by W. C. Patton, NAACP Southern voter registration field director, branches in *Texas*, *Mississippi* and *Alabama* conducted a campaign to get poll taxes paid during the month of January, preparatory to voting in upcoming state and local elections. The *San Antonio* (Tex.) Branch was successful in securing, for the drive, the appointment of 15 NAACP members as deputy poll tax writers.
6. *Virginia* NAACP branches sponsored a state-wide voter registration and poll tax payment effort under the leadership of John M. Brooks, NAACP director of voter registration.
7. *South Carolina* NAACP staged registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns for a special election which was held in the state's Second Congressional District to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Rep. Albert W. Watson.

## Break-through and Follow-through

*While the Big Push was on at one place (Selma, Ala.) at one time (February-March, 1965) using one method (direct confrontation with authorities) and with one objective (the right to register and vote) a lot of Other Pushes were under way all over the nation, pressed by NAACP Branches and their members.*

*A Big Break-through requires Follow-through, or the break goes for nothing.*

*NAACP units in every section of the country were busy with follow-throughs on voter registration, employment, school desegregation, public accommodations, direct action, legislation, housing, the war on poverty — you name it, they were at work upon it, adults and youth alike.*

*That is the kind of organization the NAACP is. Noisy when it has to be. Smart and soft-talking when required. Busy and determined always, whether in Alabama or Alaska. And continuous, from season to season, year to year, political administration after political administration, problems after problem.*

*Meanwhile, in the spring of 1965, back at hundreds of local NAACP branches on the civil rights front the records tell the story:*



8. NAACP units in the North and West began recruiting volunteers for the Association's summer voter registration project in *Mississippi, Alabama* and *South Carolina*. As of June 1, more than 90 units had pledged to send over 350 workers.

9. In February as its first major effort, the newly reorganized *Alabama State Conference* of Branches initiated an intensive statewide voter registration campaign, under the supervision of W. C. Patton.

10. *Maryland State Conference* of Branches staged a rally on the Capitol steps in Annapolis to protest denial of voting rights to Negro citizens in some downstate counties.

11. Following enactment of an amendment to the state constitution eliminating poll tax payment as a requirement for voting in local elections and establishing a permanent registration system, *Arkansas NAACP* units launched a drive in May to register all eligible Negroes.

12. A crash campaign to enroll an additional 10,000 citizens by April 5 in time to vote in an election of city officials on April 26 was initiated by the *Charlotte, N. C.*, Branch and youth council. As a result of that drive, Fred Alexander was elected to the City Commission. Mr. Alexander is the brother of Kelly Alexander, state NAACP president and National Board member.

13. Responding to a call by the National Office, on February 19, NAACP units during the month of March in more than 100 cities staged marches on their city halls, county court houses, state capitols and Federal buildings to protest the denial of voting rights in Alabama, the deaths of Jimmy Lee Jackson, Reverend James J. Reeb and Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. A number of branches sent representatives or funds or both to Selma. Some that did included *Greenwich, Conn.*; *Alameda, Los Angeles, Monterey Peninsula* and *Santa Cruz County, Calif.*; *Shelbyville, Tenn.*; *Jamaica, N. Y.*; *St. Paul, Minn.*; and the 23 branches in Mississippi.

14. In March, NAACP attorneys argued a suit in the U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., challenging the legislative districting of the City of Richmond on the grounds that it minimizes the "potential voting effectiveness of Negroes in Richmond."

## Public Accommodations

Armed with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, NAACP branches and youth units made tests for compliance in places of public accommodations. Many hotels, motels, restaurants, recreation facilities, etc., voluntarily obeyed the new law. When resistance was encountered, the NAACP withdrew and instituted legal action as outlined in the Act.

1. After being refused service in a local all-white cafe, two members of the *Little Rock Branch* (Ark.) filed a suit against the owner.

2. Through negotiations, Little Rock and state NAACP officials succeeded in having all racial signs removed from the premises of the Arkansas Baptist Hospital, and in getting a commitment to desegregate the facility completely.

3. Efforts of the *St. Francis County NAACP* (Ark.) brought about the integration of all wards of the Forrest Memorial Hospital, except the maternity wards; a bowling alley, a movie theatre and one previously all-white restaurant.

4. Encouraged by the *Perris-Elsinore Branch* (Calif.), two Negro physicians established a medical center in Perris which is patronized by as many whites as Negroes.

5. Upon receipt of a complaint of discrimination against the Beach Comber Club in Great Bend, Kans., the *Barton County Branch* formed a testing committee.

6. More racial bars fell in Mississippi when the NAACP integrated places of public accommodations in *Greenville, Meridian, Clarksdale, Hattiesburg* and other cities. Suits were filed against owners of those establishments which continued to discriminate.

7. *Akron, Ohio*, hospitals agreed to end discriminatory practices following an investigation and negotiations with the NAACP.

8. Responding to pressure by the *Kent State University College Chapter* (Ohio), the school cancelled its contract to hold its annual Spring Rowboat Regatta at the Holiday Sands Resort which is currently involved in litigation for its discriminatory practices.



**School Desegregation**

The NAACP's battle against segregation in the public schools of the North and South continues across the nation. And, in order that all children may learn of the Negro's contribution to American culture, branches have been waging a successful campaign to have Negro History taught in the public schools.

1. *Monterey Peninsula Branch* (Calif.) purchased supplementary teacher texts on Negro History and presented them to area school administrators.
2. More than 25 bi-racial organizations rallied to the support of the *Bridgeport-Straford* NAACP (Conn.) in its fight against de facto segregation. As a result of demonstrations and other pressures by the Branch and other local groups, the City of Bridgeport restored some items cut from the education budget for 1965-66 which affected primarily Negro and Puerto Rican children.
3. Deputy superintendent of *Greenwich*, Conn., schools agreed to a request by the branch that Negro History be taught in public schools.
4. Representatives of *Riverside Branch* (Calif.) met with the Riverside City College counseling staff to assist them in meeting the needs of minority group students.
5. After several months of negotiations, *Ft. Lauderdale* NAACP (Fla.) succeeded in getting local and county school boards to halt the use of pupil assignment law and gerrymandering of school boundary lines to maintain segregation.
6. At the request of the *LaGrange Branch* (Ill.), school officials approved a pre-kindergarten class for underprivileged children; agreed to seek textbooks that more adequately explain the role of minorities in American life; and hired a Negro teacher for the first time in the history of the town.
7. Teche Area Vocational School in New Iberia, La., was ordered to desegregate as a result of a suit filed by the NAACP.
8. *New York City* metropolitan area NAACP units picketed the Board of Education building, on March 26, to protest the delay in implementing a plan to rid the city of de facto segregation.

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9. In February, the *Meadville Branch* (Pa.) began probing racial discrimination in barber shops.
10. *Shelbyville Branch* (Tenn.) formed a special committee to press for desegregation of the town's hospital.
11. *Portsmouth, Va.*, YMCA began operating on a non-segregated basis in April as result of efforts by the NAACP.
12. A bowling alley in the town of Welch and a skating rink in Kimball dropped color bars following demands of *McDowell County Branch* (W. Va.).
13. The NAACP in *Florida* and *Georgia* is seeking to have the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare cut off Federal funds to area hospitals that continue to discriminate against Negroes.
14. NAACP and NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund joined in filing the first complaints under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act against 12 hospitals in seven southern states, calling for an immediate investigation into the discriminatory practices of the federally-aided or administered institutions.
15. In a suit brought by the NAACP, a Federal District Court in February ordered the *Orangeburg* (S. C.) Regional Hospital to integrate its facilities completely.
16. Prompted by complaints of Negroes, the NAACP in March demanded that the YMCA National Council eliminate "a policy of racial exclusion" practiced by its local branches in some southern cities, or face the possibility of direct action protests.
17. In April, NAACP foiled the scheme of a *Little Rock*, Ark., American Legion post to reopen the city's swimming pools on a segregated basis.
18. NAACP in *Ft. Lauderdale*, Fla., is preparing a suit aimed at remedying the deplorable segregated hospital, jail and school facilities uncovered by an investigation.
19. The *Kentucky State Conference* conducted a mammoth, one-day blanket attack on discrimination in places of public accommodation in the City of Madisonville, on June 12, by sending interracial teams to test hotels, motels, restaurants and other public establishments.

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Meanwhile back at the Branch..., June 1965.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09640.161.01 p6-7)



the Buffalo Board of Education to end racial imbalance in the schools beginning September, 1965.

21. In a case initiated by the NAACP in September, 1962, the New York State Court of Appeals on March 18 upheld an appeal of a lower court's decision ordering the *Malverrie, L. I.*, School Board to eliminate racial imbalance in its system.

22. NAACP filed a suit in Federal District Court in April against the *Boston* School Committee requesting the court to order an end to existing racial imbalances. The NAACP action was taken after two years of fruitless negotiations, demonstrations and school boycotts.

23. The NAACP *Virginia State Conference*, in conjunction with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, took legal action against the Halifax County School Board, seeking to force the Board to desegregate the public schools. The suit, filed in May, became the 13th initiated since the beginning of 1965 by the NAACP in a massive effort to end the state's resistance to compliance with the 1954 Supreme Court decision.

24. Eleven persons, including Lloyd A. Barbee, former Wisconsin State Conference president and the only Negro member of the State Legislature, were arrested in May when they blocked school buses in a dramatic protest against the *Milwaukee* Board of Education's policy of keeping Negro children transferred to predominantly white schools in segregated, self-contained classes.

25. The *Chicago Branch* called a citywide school boycott in June to protest the re-appointment of Superintendent of Schools Benjamin C. Willis by the Board of Education. Dr. Willis has been under continuous attack by the NAACP and other groups for his adamant refusal to take steps towards eliminating de facto segregation in the school system. Although the Board of Education secured an injunction against the boycott, a series of protest demonstrations was held.

26. A suit is being prepared by the *Linden Branch* (N.J.) to force the school board to take action toward eliminating de facto segregation.

27. *La Puente-West Covina Branch* (Calif.) presented to the six school districts in its area a three-point proposal calling for

9. Branches on *Long Island* (N. Y.) launched a drive to have Negro History taught in the public schools.

10. In March, *Jones County Branch* (N. C.) filed a petition demanding immediate integration of public schools.

11. *Anne Arundel County Branch* (Md.) initiated a campaign to eliminate the practice of busing Negro children to out-of-the-way segregated schools.

12. As a result of NAACP pressure in the tri-city area of *Vauxhall, Summit* and *Springfield*, N. J., local school boards have set up summer school programs for disadvantaged children from kindergarten to 3rd grade.

13. When the *Chester, Pa.*, school board took legal action to oppose an order of the State Human Relations Commission to end de facto segregation, the NAACP filed an amicus curiae brief in support of the Commission.

14. The *Chester Branch* also opposed a school board plan to use portable classrooms in lieu of wiping out de facto segregation.

15. *Clairton Branch* (Pa.) met with school officials in January to press for elimination of de facto segregation and run-down condition of the Shaw Avenue School.

16. Dramatizing their demand for total desegregation, the eight NAACP branches in *Houston, Tex.*, staged a 90% effective, one-day school boycott on May 10.

17. *Gloucester County Youth Council* (Va.) met with school officials to urge immediate total desegregation.

18. *Mount Vernon Branch* (N. Y.) staged a series of protest demonstrations in June against the school board in a demand for elimination of de facto segregation.

19. NAACP won a significant victory in its fight against racial imbalance in northern schools on January 11, when a U. S. District Court issued a sweeping order for the *Springfield, Mass.*, School Committee "to eliminate to the fullest extent possible racial concentration in its elementary and junior high schools." The Committee is appealing the ruling which the NAACP is likewise opposing.

20. As a result of a complaint filed by the NAACP, the New York Commissioner of Education, in February, ordered



human relations in-service training for teachers; integrated teaching materials and textbooks; and fair employment treatment for minority teachers.

### Legislation

Although Congress enacted one of the most far-reaching pieces of civil rights legislation in 1964, NAACP continued to agitate for state or local statutes to eliminate discriminatory practices in areas not covered by the Federal law.

1. *Connecticut* units organized a legislative steering committee to direct state-wide lobbying activities in support of three measures pending in the General Assembly dealing with fair housing, aid to education, and the transporting of southern Negro women to work as domestics in Connecticut. NAACP leaders testified at legislative hearings, initiated letter-writing campaigns, staged marches on city halls and conducted "lobby-ins" to back up demands for state and local equal opportunity measures.

2. *Waterbury, Conn.*, Board of Aldermen unanimously approved a five-point, NAACP-sponsored, "little civil rights bill."

3. An NAACP-supported proposal was introduced into the *California* State Legislature calling for the suspension or revocation of the license of any real estate agent who "accepted or entered into any listing agreement to sell, rent, or otherwise dispose of real property, which excludes any prospective buyer, renter, tenant, or lessee by reason of such person's race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry."

4. A package of five bills, backed by *California* NAACP units, was introduced into the State Senate to streamline and speed up handling of discrimination cases by the state's Fair Employment Practices Commission.

5. *Rhode Island* branches launched a drive to have the newly-enacted state fair housing law expanded to include buildings of less than four dwelling units.

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6. Pooling their efforts, the four Maine branches were able to get a fair housing bill introduced into the State Legislature.

7. *New England Regional Conference of Branches* announced campaign to have fair housing measures enacted by all states in the area.

8. *Kansas* units, seeking passage of state civil rights laws, circulated petitions, initiated a letter-writing campaign and sent a delegate to meet with Gov. William H. Avery to solicit his support.

9. On March 3, *Maryland* NAACP branches sent delegates to Annapolis to meet with their representatives and Gov. J. Millard Tawes to emphasize the need for passage of fair housing and employment measures and the bill extending coverage of the public accommodations law pending in the Legislature.

10. *New York State Conference*, in its annual descent on the State Capitol in Albany on March 23, visited the Senate and Assembly chambers to lobby for state civil rights and reappointment legislation.

11. From January to March, the *Salt Lake City Branch* conducted a vigorous program of lobbying, demonstrations, negotiations, aimed at securing passage of four state civil rights bills dealing with housing, the establishment of a citizens' committee on civil rights, public accommodations and fair employment. The housing measure never reached the floor. The citizens' committee bill was defeated in frivolous fashion, while the accommodations act passed without difficulty. After a weakening amendment — excluding businesses owned by religious organizations, which are many in Utah — was tacked on to the employment bill, it was also passed.

12. Largely through the efforts of the State NAACP, on February 25, *Indiana* repealed its age-old "Blue Law" which prohibited interracial marriage.

13. In April, at the request of the Washington Bureau, NAACP units throughout the nation began garnering local support for the four amendments to the voting rights bill pending in Congress.

14. *Missouri* NAACP units launched a campaign to secure

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support for a public accommodations bill and a fair housing proposal pending in the State House and Senate.

### Direct Action Protests

Although many gains have been achieved through negotiations, the enlistment of public opinion, the enrolment of Negroes as voters, and the enactment of civil rights legislation, the NAACP has again found it necessary to use direct action protests to dramatize its determination to eliminate bias and bigotry from American life. Listed in this section are some additional direct action projects which were not covered under other headings.

1. In a drive to effect a selective-buying campaign against the State of Mississippi, NAACP units throughout the nation distributed thousands of copies of a "Made in Mississippi" products list.

2. *Greenwich Village-Chebea Branch* picketed the New York Stock Exchange on February 1 to urge support of the NAACP selective-buying campaign against Mississippi.

3. In agreement with the NAACP drive to impose economic sanctions against Mississippi, the O. W. Siebert Company, a 66-year-old New York City diversified investing and operating corporation, rejected a bid of the Southeast Mississippi Industrial Development Council to build additional facilities in that state. The discriminatory "treatment of Negro American citizens" in Mississippi was cited as the company's reason for the rejection, which was made public on March 11.

4. Acceding to an NAACP request that Wall Street investment banking houses refuse to purchase bonds of states which permit persecution of Negroes, the Childs Securities Corporation announced, on March 31, it would no longer buy or sell bonds issued by the State of Alabama or any of its political sub-

divisions and urged other firms to do likewise.

5. Expressing wholehearted approval of the Childs' action and the NAACP campaign, Baxter & Co., of Chicago, declared it had ceased buying and trading Mississippi bonds and was adding Alabama securities to that list.

6. Responding to a call by the National Office on February 19, NAACP branches, college chapters and youth councils staged marches on their local city halls and Federal court houses to protest the denial of voting rights and the deaths of civil rights workers in Alabama. Many units also sent representatives to participate with Alabama NAACP members in the historic Selma-to-Montgomery March on March 24.

7. To further protest recent events in Alabama, NAACP units in the North and West conducted letter-writing campaigns to the President and other Federal officials.

8. In a nationwide effort urged by the *New York State Conference* and the National Office in February, NAACP units voiced their opposition to the film industry's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the release of the notorious anti-Negro movie, "The Birth of a Nation."

9. Following three days of picketing by the *South Middlesex Branch* in near zero weather in February, management of the Brattle Street Theatre in Cambridge, Mass., discontinued the scheduled run of "Birth of a Nation."

10. After a meeting with representatives of *Greenwich, Conn.*, NAACP, the manager of a local theatre cancelled a scheduled showing of "Birth of a Nation."

11. All theatres and drive-in movies in *Dodge City, Kans.*, upon the request of the NAACP, promised not to show "Birth of a Nation."

12. *Berkshire County Branch* (Mass.) conducted a successful letter-writing campaign to theatre managers requesting them not to show the film.

13. Upon a threat of legal action and a picket demonstration of 700 persons, led by the *Oxnard-Ventura County NAACP* (Calif.), the Pleasant Valley Lions Club in April backed down on its plans to stage a minstrel show with black-face make-up.



14. The City of Bangor, Maine, experienced its first demonstration march on March 14 when the NAACP protested the conservative editorial policy of the local newspaper.

15. NAACP staged the first demonstration ever witnessed in Hamtramck, Mich., when the branch paraded, in March, to protest police brutality in Selma.

16. On March 9, University of Kansas Chancellor W. Clarke Wescoe yielded to demands of the NAACP and others to reinstate 110 students suspended for protesting racial discrimination during two days of demonstrations on campus.

17. The two Utah branches paraded for four days, in March, in front of the administration building of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City to protest the refusal of church officials to speak out in favor of civil rights measures being considered in the State Legislature.

## Employment

Branch activity seeking to increase employment opportunities for Negroes has shown some significant results. The achievements were gained through negotiations, filing complaints with local and Federal equal employment agencies, working with labor unions and, in some cases, the establishment of a referral service.

1. *Little Rock Branch* continued its program of working with labor unions in order to secure higher wages and better working conditions for Negro workers.

2. *Monterey Peninsula Branch* (Calif.) established a two-day-a-week employment placement office.

3. *Perris-Elsinore Branch* (Calif.) succeeded in getting a Negro hired as a clerk in the five-employee Perris Post Office.

4. A survey to determine the hiring, promotion and training policies of local employers was initiated by the *Vallejo Branch*

(Calif.), which also established a screening service for prospective employees.

5. Upon a request by the NAACP, the *Riverside, Calif.*, Fair Employment Practices Commission, in February, agreed to conduct a general investigation into the employment practices of the Unified School District and Riverside City College.

6. *New London Branch* (Conn.) conducted an extensive survey of Negroes regarding their employment, education and aspirations for training, and investigated several cases of discrimination in employment.

7. Following pressure by the *Waterbury Branch* (Conn.), a Negro was placed in a Manpower Development Training program.

8. *Macon Branch* (Ga.) succeeded in getting more Negroes hired as telephone company operators, grocery store clerks, department store sales persons and Coca Cola route salesmen.

9. The number of students enrolled in vocational classes offered under the Manpower Development Training Act and the regular county program rose to over 450, as the result of action by the *Macon Branch* (Ga.).

10. Following charges by the NAACP of racial discrimination in the U. S. Apprenticeship Training program in *Joliet, Ill.*, the Department of Labor launched an investigation which resulted in two craft unions dropping out.

11. *Metropolis Branch* (Ill.) is campaigning to get more Negroes hired to fill city jobs.

12. *New Albany Branch* (Ind.) is leading a direct action program for jobs and housing.

13. Employment of more Negro teachers, firemen and policemen is the goal of the *Owensboro, Ky.*, NAACP.

14. As a result of a complaint filed with the New Jersey Civil Rights Commission by the *Bergen County Branch and Youth Council*, the local Stern's Department Store hired about 100 Negro women in sales positions.

15. After failing through negotiations to get the *Curtiss-Wright Corp.* to curb its discriminatory treatment of Negroes,



*Bergen County* units filed charges with the New Jersey Civil Rights Commission.

16. *Port Norris Branch* (N. J.) aided labor unions in organizing three local plants with a high Negro employment in order to achieve job security and higher wages for the workers.

17. In February, *Westchester County*, N. Y., units participated in organizing demonstrations with a labor union against Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville, which has a predominantly Negro work force.

18. *Jamaica Branch* (N. Y.), in April, was instrumental in exposing a newspaper advertisement seeking "blue-eyed blondes" to work at the New York World's Fair.

19. In March, *San Antonio Branch* (Tex.) was successful in placing several persons in jobs previously closed to Negroes.

20. In *Altoona*, Pa., NAACP efforts were responsible for Negroes being hired by companies where none had previously been employed.

21. During the months of January and March, Negroes were hired for positions heretofore closed to them in local plants of Bethlehem Steel Co. and Firestone Tire Co., thanks to the *Pottstown*, Pa., NAACP.

22. In *Southern Chester County*, Pa., the NAACP and others were successful in obtaining a fair employment statement from several area businessmen which was published in the local newspaper.

23. *Jackson Branch* (Tenn.) is engaging in "silent" picketing of local merchants for increased job opportunities for Negroes.

24. A drive to get local plants to hire more Negroes was launched by the *Shelbyville Branch* (Tenn.).

25. NAACP in *McDowell County*, W. Va., is visiting stores and other places of employment seeking jobs for Negroes.

26. After the City of New York approved \$15 million for school construction contracts on January 16, NAACP delegates met with city and state human rights commissions ten days later to urge that action be taken to assure employment of Negro workers in the building of the new schools.

27. NAACP representatives met with New Jersey Gov.

Richard J. Hughes on January 27 to protest use of public funds for construction of state buildings on which Negro workers are not employed.

28. On January 20, *Newark Branch* participated in picket of construction site of new Rutgers University Law School to protest absence of skilled Negro workers.

29. As a result of demonstrations by the *Cleveland Branch* to secure cancellation of a \$32 million contract for construction of a new Federal office building in January, Iron and Structural Steel Workers Union agreed to admit five Negro applicants into union's apprenticeship training program. Protests resumed in March, when it was discovered that construction trades unions continued to discriminate against Negroes applying for jobs or admission to union-controlled apprenticeship training programs. Twenty-four persons were arrested on April 26.

30. Bowing to pressure initiated by the NAACP in February, Hammermill Paper Co. announced on May 12 that there will be no racial discrimination in hiring or in the use of facilities in the \$30 million plant to be established in Selma, Ala.

31. New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and New York City Mayor Robert F. Wagner were urged by the NAACP to enforce state and city anti-discrimination laws to insure employment of skilled Negro workers in the construction of \$285 million publicly-aided housing development in the Bronx.

32. In February, *South Jersey* NAACP units assisted Local 1034 of the Drug and Hospital Employees Union in its attempt to organize low-salaried, predominantly Negro employees of three Camden area hospitals.

33. With NAACP assistance, a Negro welder filed a complaint with the New York State Commission for Human Rights on March 2 charging Local 740, Millwright and Machinery Erectors Union, with forcing the man's employer to fire him.

34. A National Labor Relations Board trial examiner on February 25, in a complaint filed by the NAACP in April, 1964, ordered Local 2, Plumbers Union, to cease requiring applicants to take journeymen examinations and to permit the employer to be the sole judge of an applicant's competence.

35. As a result of "Bank-in" demonstrations and other pres-



sure brought by the NAACP, financial institutions in *Memphis*, in May, adopted "an immediate policy of non-discrimination in hiring."

36. NAACP in *Vero Beach*, Fla., winter home of the Los Angeles Dodgers, launched a drive to eliminate every vestige of discrimination in the city, directing its first attack on the limited job opportunities for Negroes.

37. In May, *Los Angeles* NAACP re-opened its three-year-old campaign for increased Negro employment in the motion picture and television industries.

38. National Biscuit Company officials in *Buffalo*, N. Y., in May, agreed to hire more Negroes following demonstrations by the NAACP.

39. Southwestern Bell Telephone Company reported, in May, it had added to its work force 160 more Negroes in 22 additional job categories in the 19-month period since the St. Louis NAACP dialed its number.

40. After two weeks of demonstrations in May protesting the discriminatory hiring policies of United Parcel Service in *Hartford*, Conn., in which 13 persons were jailed, the package delivery company agreed to demands of the NAACP-led demonstrators. The company gave in when protests spread to its outlets in other cities throughout New England and New York.

41. *Danville Branch* (Ill.) notified its City Council that legal action would be initiated unless an 84-year-old practice of segregating Negro firemen was stopped.

42. Negroes were hired for the first time on the police forces of *Helena*, Ark., and *Perris*, Calif., as a result of NAACP pressure.

43. *Meadville Branch* (Pa.) began an investigation in February of job opportunities for Negroes in the police and fire departments.

44. *Lorain Branch* (Ohio) organized a Special Training Committee to help high school graduates and others secure skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

45. *Linden Branch* (N. J.) has initiated a suit against a local

automobile dealer charging he discriminated against one of his employees.

## War on Poverty

NAACP leaders throughout the nation were urged to make every effort to secure Negro representation on local anti-poverty committees, especially at the policy-making level. Many did so. In the South as well as in the North, Negroes have been actively involved in the planning and directing of Federal, state and local boards charged with the responsibility of implementing the anti-poverty program.

1. NAACP organized a series of regional and area seminars on the implementation of the Federal anti-poverty program and Title VII, the Fair Employment Practices provision, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In attendance were representatives of religious, civic and welfare groups as well as branch leaders. Cities where the seminars were conducted included *Memphis* and *Nashville*, Tenn.; *New Orleans*, La.; *Providence*, R. I.; *Milwaukee*, Wisc.; and *St. Paul*, Minn.

2. *Bridgeport-Stratford Branch* (Conn.) met with local anti-poverty officials to impress upon them the necessity of having Negroes and Puerto Ricans involved in planning stages of program as well as in all other levels.

3. In January, *Riverside Branch* (Calif.) president was elected to serve on the Riverside County Economic Opportunity Board.

4. Working with the California Department of Employment, in connection with the President's Anti-poverty program under the Manpower Development and Training Act and the Economic Opportunity Act, the *Fresno Branch*, in January, conducted a door-to-door survey in order to secure information for use as a basis for requesting funds to establish necessary training programs to help school dropouts and adults working below their skill levels.

5. A member of the *Macon Branch* (Ga.) was named assist-



ant program director for the local anti-poverty project and four others were picked for the advisory committee.

6. Chairman of the *Danville Branch* (Ill.) Education Committee was appointed co-chairman of the city's steering committee for Community Action programs.

7. Labor and Industry chairman of the *Chicago South Side Youth Council* was named to the advisory committee for the Urban Progress Center, the city's anti-poverty agency.

8. *Joliet Branch* (Ill.) member has been appointed a member of the board of directors of the city's anti-poverty program.

9. Members of the *Black Hawk County Branch* (Waterloo, Iowa) are active participants in the newly-formed Community Action Committee for Economic Opportunity Act. Also several branch members have been appointed to the new Waterloo Human Relations Commission.

10. Representatives of *Fall River Branch* (Mass.) are active in the local city-wide anti-poverty committee. Branch is also pressing for financial assistance for its tutorial program.

11. NAACP is spearheading a drive to get a Neighborhood Youth Corps under Federal auspices in Fulton, Mo.

12. After intensive pressure from the branch in *Altoona*, Pa., NAACP representatives were appointed to the policy-making committee of the local anti-poverty group.

13. In January, *Savannah*, Ga., NAACP leaders were named to prominent positions on the city's Anti-Poverty Authority, Board of Education and Transit Authority.

14. NAACP opposed appointment of racists to direct anti-poverty programs for Savannah-Chatham County, Ga., and the State of Louisiana.

15. On May 10, President Johnson appointed Samuel C. Jackson of Topeka, Kans., an NAACP Board member, to the new Employment Opportunity Commission set up under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

16. Robert L. Carter, NAACP general counsel, was named to the New York City Council Against Poverty on May 11.

17. The NAACP and the Urban League announced on May 26 an unusual agreement to sponsor a \$386,930 federally-financed job preparation project for 1,250 youths in the *Greater*

*Cleveland*, Ohio, area. Funds for the project were allocated under the Manpower Development Act.

## Legal Defense

NAACP lawyers were called upon to defend persons subjected to harassment because of their civil rights activities as well as individuals accused of crimes where their rights were in serious danger of being violated.

1. *Brooklyn* Branch attorneys, supported by other New York City branches, the state NAACP organization and National Office, entered the case of George Whitmore, Jr., a 20-year-old Negro who was convicted of assault and rape, when it was revealed that a juror had made invidious remarks about Negroes in the panel room. A new trial was granted. Whitmore was also alleged to have "confessed" to three unsolved murders. His "confession" to two of the killings was discredited when police arrested and charged a young white narcotics addict. Trial on the remaining murder indictment ended in a hung jury.

2. Preston Cobb was sentenced to life imprisonment in Georgia following the youth's conviction for the second time for the slaying of a 70-year-old white farmer. Still seeking to obtain justice for the youth, who drew the death penalty when first tried, NAACP attorney filed a motion for a new trial.

3. U. S. Supreme Court set aside the conviction of Dr. Aaron E. Henry, Mississippi NAACP State Conference president, who had been found guilty of a morals charge by a white Mississippi jury.

4. *Florida* units rallied to the defense of Rev. J. E. Atkins, Winter Haven Branch president, charged with perjury in testimony in his own behalf in a trial where he was convicted of failing to obey police during a 1963 demonstration.

5. *Burlington Branch* (Vt.) is defending a teacher, active in civil rights, whose contract the school board refused to renew.



## Housing

In their continuing efforts to breach the iron rim of the ghetto, NAACP branches pressed for state and local fair housing legislation, strict enforcement of existing housing codes, and construction of dwelling units for low-income families.

1. *New London Branch* (Conn.) is conducting a survey to determine what happens to Negroes who are forced to move because of a redevelopment project.
2. *Danville, Ill.*, City Council adopted an NAACP-sponsored open occupancy resolution.
3. Co-sponsored by the NAACP, a seven-point public housing proposal was presented to the *Chicago Heights, Ill.*, city administration in April calling for specially-built units for the elderly and strict enforcement of housing and zoning regulations.
4. *Joliet Branch* (Ill.) has been garnering support for an urban rehabilitation program for the city, particularly as it affects the Negro community and slum landlords.
5. *Schenectady Branch* (N. Y.) is engaged in a program with Negro service and social clubs, seeking strict implementation of existing housing laws in order to rid the community of ghettos.
6. Representatives of the *Berkshire County Branch* (Mass.) met with directors of a proposed urban-renewal project to discuss ways the NAACP could help in relocating residents of the affected area.
7. *Wayne State University College Chapter* (Mich.) is preparing to take action following an investigation into discrimination in campus housing.
8. *Kansas* branches conducted a demonstration parade for state fair housing legislation in Topeka, the state capital, in March.
9. Several incidents of racial discrimination in housing and employment were investigated by the *Manchester Branch* (N.H.).
10. A discriminatory apartment house development in Woodbury, N. J., was picketed by the *Gloucester County Youth Council* in February.
11. *Morris County Branch* initiated an investigation into

complaints of bias in the renting of public housing units in Boonton, N. J.

12. College, youth and young adult councils in the *New York City* metropolitan area are conducting a joint drive to force city agencies to take action against slumlords and housing code violators.

13. *Deer Park* and *Amityville, Long Island*, branches staged a series of demonstrations in February and March to protest "down-zoning" of residential areas and the locating of a junkyard in the Negro community.

14. In January, *Akron Branch* (Ohio) wrote the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency requesting withdrawal of urban renewal funds for the city until "Negroes have equal access to the housing market"; initiated legal action to overturn a referendum vote that repealed a fair housing law; and, in cooperation with other groups, launched a "We Shall Not Be Moved" selective buying campaign to urge home dwellers in renewal areas to have no dealings with the Akron Area Board of Realtors until it called a halt to discriminatory practices.

15. *Tri-City Branch* (Springfield, Vauxhall and Summit, N. J.) began conducting an investigation of housing in its area.

16. Urban renewal and relocation plans for the predominantly Negro Smedley area, announced by the *Chester* (Pa.) Redevelopment Authority, are being subjected to an intensive study by the branch. The NAACP has also waged a vigorous, but unsuccessful, campaign against real estate operators and landlords in complaints of housing discrimination.

17. A drive to muster support for a city fair housing ordinance was initiated by the *Lorain Branch* (Ohio) with the aid of other groups.

18. A team from the *Southern Chester County Branch* (Pa.) went to Bridgeton, N. J., to investigate low-income housing.

19. *Seattle Branch* (Wash.) is cooperating with other agencies in a Fair Housing Listing Service.

20. In February, *Maryland branches* launched a selective buying campaign against ten seafood packers and slumlords in Queen Annes County in an attempt to get them to improve the dwellings and living conditions of their employees. Action fol-



lowed months of fruitless negotiations.

21. *California* units launched a fund-raising drive for the legal battle against Proposition 14, the amendment to the State Constitution which repealed the Rumford Fair Housing Law.

22. Following complaints by the NAACP, Dr. Robert C. Weaver, administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, said in May that his agency will investigate the *Tampa, Fla.*, Public Housing Authority.

23. *La Puente-West Covina Branch* (Calif.) is waging a campaign against block-busting by realtors.

## Law Enforcement and Police Brutality

NAACP branches throughout the country continued to press for equal treatment before the law for Negroes. In the South, these efforts have been extended to include white civil rights workers also.

1. NAACP protests over the shooting of 18-year-old Ollie W. Shelby of *Jackson, Mississippi*, while in the custody of authorities in January was followed by the firing of 21 Hinds County deputy sheriffs, including the chief criminal deputy, and a grand jury probe of the young Negro's death.

2. Branches in *Florida* wired state and Federal officials demanding an investigation into the police shooting of 17-year-old Tommy Wilson of Tampa and the suspension of the police chief.

3. National Office and units throughout the nation angrily denounced Judge W. Harold Cox's dismissal of felony indictments against 16 of 18 white men arrested in connection with the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

4. In February, *New York City* branches staged mass rallies to protest senseless killing of Ollie W. Shelby in Mississippi and scandalous handling of George Whitmore, Jr., case in *Brooklyn, N. Y.* Similar rallies protesting police brutality were conducted

by NAACP units in other cities also.

5. *Seattle Branch* (Wash.) joined the American Civil Liberties Union in demand for investigation of police brutality and establishment of Police Review Board. In New York City, branches are also backing demand for similar type board.

6. Following recommendation by *Manchester, N. H.*, NAACP, police department began conducting a course in human relations for policemen which is being taught by the branch vice-president.

7. *St. Louis Branch* formed a Special Committee on Police Affairs in January to explore ways of preventing racial disturbances.

## Other

### Activities

1. *Monterey Peninsula Branch* (Calif.) organized a drill team to perform at local and state affairs.

2. *Duluth Branch* (Minn.), with a membership of 100, conducted a drive to aid deprived Negroes in Mississippi that netted six tons of canned goods, several tons of furniture and \$850 in cash.

3. The three *New Hampshire* branches were instrumental in organizing a statewide Human Rights Council consisting of 14 civil rights and civic groups.

4. Dr. Aaron E. Henry and Charles Evers testified in February at hearings of U.S. Commission on Civil Rights concerning denial of voting rights and racial discrimination in the administration of justice in Mississippi.

5. As a result of complaints filed with the NAACP and with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, the Army released Donald Allen of Gilliam, Mo., in March, from active duty on orders that he be allowed to enlist in a National Guard unit near his home or be mandatorily assigned to one by the U. S. Defense Department.



(CAP) to enable residents of ghetto areas to use the resources available to help solve community problems.

2. Work camps, community clean-up campaigns, tutorial, cultural and career guidance programs and neighborhood housing surveys were started in several cities by councils and college chapters in the New England Regional Youth Conference.

3. Other units and the type of programs initiated are:

*Fall River Branch (Mass.)*—tutorial

*Berkshire County Branch (Mass.)*—tutorial, pre-school and remedial reading

*Morris County Branch (N.J.)*—tutorial, with the aid of students from Drew and Fairleigh Dickinson universities  
*Mamaroneck Youth Council (N.Y.)*—tutorial and "Big-Brother" programs

*Greenwich Village-Chelsea (N.Y.)*—tutorial at Floyd Patterson Halfway House

*Anne Arundel County Branch (Md.)*—tutorial with assistance of St. John's College students.

*St. Paul Youth Council (Minn.)*—tutorial, in cooperation with area college students

*Kent State University College Chapter (Ohio)*—tutorial  
*Greensburg-Jeanette Branch (Pa.)*—tutorial and career guidance service, with the aid of students of two local Catholic colleges.

*West Chester State College (Pa.)*—tutorial

*University of Houston College Chapter (Tex.)*—tutorial  
*Linden Branch (N.J.)*—tutorial

4. *Florence Branch (S.C.)* is conducting a survey among high school students scheduled to graduate this June and who have no plans for entering college. The branch seeks to help them find jobs or to pursue vocational training.

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6. In a March meeting with Gov. Haydon Burns and members of his cabinet, *Florida NAACP* officials presented a list of demands which included more top state jobs for Negroes, a statewide minimum wage law, a speed up of school desegregation, and a general increase of Negro participation in all levels of state and local government.

7. On a second attempt, racists destroyed the home of Will Branscomb, militant *Benton Harbor Branch (Mich.)* president on April 7.

8. On April 13, Lawrence W. Bradford, Jr., *New York (Harlem) Youth Council* president, was appointed a U.S. Senate page by Sen. Jacob Javits (R., N.Y.). Young Bradford was recommended for the post by Mrs. Emma Bowen, branch youth advisor.

9. *Detroit Branch* grossed over \$100,000 at its \$100 per couple Freedom Fund dinner on April 25. Attorney General Edward Brooke of Massachusetts was the principal speaker.

10. With Carl Rowan, director, United States Information Agency, the *Chicago Branch* raised \$45,000 at its Freedom Fund dinner in May.

11. At the request of the *La Puente-West Covina Branch (Calif.)*, the mayor of West Covina appointed a Negro to the city's Human Relations Commission.

Historically, the NAACP's fight for equality and justice for the Negro—by its very nature—has always contained an uplifting element. Branches, college chapters and youth councils in 1965, established community action programs with the purpose of broadening the horizons of Negro youth and adults.

1. In February, NAACP Youth and College Division announced an ambitious summer Community Action Project

## Community Action

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Meanwhile back at the Branch..., June 1965

## NAACP at SELMA

Charles Evers, Mississippi state director for NAACP, was in Selma with the demonstrators before the historic march on Montgomery was announced and Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP southeastern regional director, was among NAACP members and officers present when the Selma march actually got under way, marching to the first stop.

In Montgomery, at the climax of the march on March 25, Executive Director Roy Wilkins was among those who came from over the country to join the march for the final five miles to the steps of the Alabama state capitol. He also addressed the rally. About 1,500 NAACP branch members and officers from over the country took part in the final rally, with sizeable delegations from Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia, California, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts, Iowa, Kansas, Arizona, New Jersey and New York, as well as delegates from most of the newly-organized NAACP branches in Alabama.

In response to a request for emergency financial aid directly from Dr. King's headquarters, the NAACP contributed \$5,000.00 to help with the expenses of the march.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
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