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Mational Association

FOR THE

Advancement of Colored People

Mims, Fla. October S. 1944

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WEST PALM BEACH REV. E. J. JACKSON Officers and Members Lake County Branch, NAACP

Dear Co-workers :

Lest month I sent your branch an official notice of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Florida State Conference, which will be held in Ocala, Oct. 13 - 15. Since the National Office had failed to send me the names and addresses of your branch officers, I attempted to get this notice to you through Mr. Lott, principal of the Mt. Dora School. I think Rev. F. H. Johnson had told me that Mr. Lett had been quite active in helping you to get started in Lake County.

In order to make ours that you got a notice, however, I am writing you again in care of the Leesburg Frincipal.

Conformee theme: Unrestricted Suffrage
Headquarters --- Covenant Daptist Church, 600 W. Broadway
Voting delegates --- 3 for first 50 members, and 1 for each
additional 50 members.

Branch registration -- Under 200 members \$ 6.00 200 members, or over 10.00

Registration for delegates -- \$1.00 each Lodging --- \$1.00 per night Neals ---- Reasonable rates at unles.

Opening session --- Friday, Oct. 13, 8:30 P. M. Speaker for mass meeting, Sunday, Oct. 15, 2:30 P. M.

Miss Ella J. Baker, Director of Branches Flatform guests at Sunday mass meeting -- Branch secretaries

I shall be glad to hear from you before Friday, if possible, as I would like to know the names of your delegates. However, if the time is too short, just get your delegates and meet us in Ocala.

Sincerely yours.

Harry T. Moore

NATIONAL OFFICERS

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ADITOR, THE CRISIS

THURGOOD MARSHALL SPECIAL COUNSEL

ELLA J. BAKER DIRECTOR OF BRANCHES

Date Nov. 15, 1944



Mims, Fla. Branch Harry T. Moore

of Colored People acknowledges with appreciation receipt of \$ 25.00 for Expense of E. Baker The National Association for the Advancement

HEADQUARTERS: 69 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK

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PRESIDENT
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HARRY MOORE:

-WINNS FLOH

"" FIO

WE PLAN TO HAVE A MEETING OF OUR PROSPECTIVE NAACP ORGANIZING MONDAY NIGHT FEB 19TH 1945 AT 830PM CAMPBELL STREET HIGH SCHOOL WE ANTICIPATE YOUR PRESENCE: *H P CHRISTIAN.



RELEASED TO BELL M. Conell
BY Mills Thilly seems

JON Jouce dale Case

FILE-NO: -601-5

DATE Marels 1015,1945

REPORT BY REF Cron S. Librartine

IMPORTANCE OF THE CASE:

A whole Negro community is being terrorized by a sheriff who is trying to bring back slavery to Fort Hauderdale, Florida: In September, 1943; Sheriff Walter Clark ordered that any persons found idle on the streets were subject to abrest. Since this decree was issued, over 49 residents, all Negroes, have been arrested and fined from \$25 to \$35 each without trial.

The manner in which the Sheriff has been enforcing this decree is without precedent in Florida law, and sets up a pattern of enforced labor and pechage which is quickly repeating itself in Sepring Florida. And the Houston Informer reports similar mass arrests of 200 Negroes in Texas.

FACTS IN THE CASE:

During February and March: 1944; more than 49 Negro workers in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, were arrested on charges of vagrancy and fined from \$20 to \$35 each <u>without a trial.</u> The Workers Defense League sent a Special Investigator who rushed back the following report:

"On February 9, 1944, eight men and six women were arrested by Chief Deputy Sheriff Robert H. Clark at the farm of Dewey Hawkins."

Mayor of Dakland Park, a suburb of Fort Lauderdale. for refusing to pick beans at the wages offered. They were charged with vagrancy and fined from \$20 to \$35 by the Sheriff without a trial.

"On Friday, March 24, 1944, at about 11 a.m., seven men were picked up in the Negro district of Fort Lauderdale by Deputy Sheriff Wittkamp and City Policeman Smiley and Lodged in the county jail, charged with vagrancy. Two of the seven men worked mights as in longshoremen and were off duty at the time of the arrest. Each of the longshoremen was fined \$35 by the Sheriff without a trial.

"On Saturday, March 25, 1944, about twenty men were arrested in the

"On Saturday, March 25, 1944, about twenty men were arrested in the Negro district of Fort Lauderdale by Chief Deputy Sheriff Robert:
H. Clark. They were taken to the county jail and charged with a vagrancy. At least two of the men arrested in this high-handed round-up, Willie Williams and Horace Dudley, are members of the International Longshoremen's Association (AFL) and were regularly employed (but off duty) at the time of arrest. Another of the men arrested was Fleming Hankerson, a farm helper on his day off who had a bank account of \$150. Willie Williams paid a fine of \$19.85, while the other two paid fines of \$35 each, all imposed by the Sheriff. None of the three had appeared in court or had been given a trial, although one was given a receipt for 'court costs'.

These were just a few of the mass arrests following the enforced labor decree issued by Sheriff Clark in September 1943, which made persons found idle on the street subject to arrest and fine or imprisonment.

MORE FACTS IN THE CASE:

Under Florida law, Section 2865, Chapter XXV, First Division, Title IV, the Sheriff is allowed 100% of every fine he collects up to \$5000 a year; 60% of the next \$3000 in fines, and 30% of the next \$2000 in fines. In addition, the Sheriff gets income from sales from unpaid debts, etc. His income from these fines and fees may not exceed \$7500 a year, but as local residents put it: "A sheriff's got to do a powerful lot of arresting to make his salary down here."

On August 15, 1944, the Workers Defense League sent Governor Holland and Senator Pepper the results of its investigation, and urged them to act

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IMICORITUROR OF THE CARE:

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in the interests of justice. Governor Holland, after having County Prosecuting Attorney Miller. an associate of Sheriff Clark's. Investigate, insisted that no evidence of illegal activity had been found to justify taking executive action. According to the Governor, "the court records show that in each case there was a conviction and the fine was fixed and imposed by the County Judge." The Governor did not say anything about the fact that although fines were collected in February, they were not deposited until August (in three payments) after the investigation had already begun. The Governor's statement, directly contrary to the sworn affidavits and admitted facts, compelled the WDL to renew its plea for Federal action.

U. S. GOVERNMENT ACTION:

As a result of Workers Defense League insistence, the Department of Justice entered the case and on January 10, 1945, forty-two persons were subposensed to appear before a Federal Grand Jury in Miami on January 30 and 31, 1945. Rev. Aron S. Gilmartin, National Chairman of the WDL, who had flown down to Florida, was in Miami and Fort Lauderdale while the Grand Jury heard the evidence on these cases. Two Federal prosecutors were sent by the Department of Justice from Washington to assist in the presentation of this case, which was considered one of the clearest cases of peonage and involuntary servitude the Department of Justice ever had. And still a Southern Grand Jury failed to indict!

PRESENT STATUS OF THE CASE:

The Workers Defense League has asked the Department of Justice to submit the evidence again before another Grand Jury. Victor Rotnem, Chief of the Civil Liberties Section of the Department of Justice, has invited the WDL to a conference to plan a new course of action.

Local people are forming the Florida Free Labor Committee of the Workers Defense League to combat the return of slavery to the South. Contributions are beginning to come in from all parts of the country to put an end; once and for all, to this attempt to legalize slavery and peonage by decree.

Despite the failure of the Grand Jury to indict, the Negroes are not discouraged. They say that the WDL is "... the first organization ever to try to do something for us." They are encouraged by the fact that the WDL is continuing the fight to protect the rights guaranteed them as citizens of the United States.

Set me add a paramal work to from This is first one case representative of the important work that the Will is doing to protect human higher Please show the tre one can two feel that democracy work that the Will is doing to protect human higher from people who feel that democracy work that the tengue we can get californal happens from people who feel that the that the transport is their world of life you know that the deque needs some money to continue out fight a fact that is the transport with the pertant your life to the transport with the pertant of himse of home. I know that the personal thanks for your contribution because I know that whatever your as I accept my personal thanks for your contribution because I know that when your ask sending all that for the spake in the best of Succeeding On Somial you are sending all that for the spake in the best of Succeeding Prisonal

LESTER EARRIS Attorney-et-Lev. It North Orange Ave.. Orlende, Florida

May 25, 1945

To: Reviewing Authority, Judge Advocate, AAFTAC, Orlando Air Base, Orlando, Florida

> re: Court Martial of Ryt. James McOusen. Asn-241,96941, Orlands Air Base. Mey 25,1945

Sirst

I wish to call your aftertion to the monomental Liunder committed by the Court Mertial Egard in Liuding Mousean guilty committed by the Court Mertial Egard in Liuding Mousean guilty of the Attack, as charged, May 20, 1945, apon the Johnson Woman. In the Attack of periods defense of althir He and four other witheast they are the inclosed the their sensy time of the incident he the attack of thereof for at their sensy time of the incident he was an Attack of Attack every was lepying a famous in another section of town seven blocks every was lepying a famous in another section of town seven blocks every the decompanion by Liux friends - All Johns and all hones; — for their no matter with her week force the Wides Advance twice to the their no matter with her week force the Wides Advance twice to the charge in which her week force the Wides Advance to the calculation sections of the Witnesses for the alike were never seen by the decimal two of the Witnesses for the alike year never seen by the decimal course for the Witnesses for the alike year never seen by the decimal

It the same time, I call your attention to the fact that neither Charles and her besten or several to have Modusen neither Charles he committed the sessuit, IF EE COMMITTED HE ASSAULT, upon Senian Green. Why all the interval of time leading to upon Senian Green. Why all the interval of time leading to upon Senian Green. Why all the interval of time leading to upon Senian Green. Why all the interval of time leading to upon Senian Green. Why all the interval of time leading to upon Senian Green.

At the hearing, the doctor agreed with me that it was posmible that Medicen was insure at time of attack. He changed the statement later- but lust how are you going to determine the apeter's real attitude and feeling on the matter.

I repeat: the charge of assault on the Johnson girl was not proved by the Government. The finding should be reversed.

Sincerely.

Legtor Harris

Copy to: Sen. C. Papper. Washington, D. C. Wer Department

It wer reversible error when the Court ruled that I coul Mote L. pot erose exectes Bulah Grass and Charley Smith on CHENTELLINE INTERINAL A PASORS AND THE STRY HALL, COLON The same was another to exemple him on the metter. Fig. lew Books are replace with the right to drops examine Falls personality and camedr. In my opinion laith wes NOT FRESENT AT THE INCIDENT OF BULLET GREEN APPLICE.

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Florida Delegation, United States Congress, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

Negro citizens of Florida are deeply concerned about the fate of four pieces of legislation now pending in Congress. We have reference to the bill to create a strong permanent FEPC, anti-lynching legislation, anti-Jim Crow Travel Bill, (H.R. 1925), and anti-poll tax legislation.

In 1941 the late President Roosevelt by Executive Order created the present FEPC to serve during this emergency. Not only has this Committee done much to eliminate gross discrimination in the employment of war workers, but it has helped to relieve the manpower shortage by inducing employers to use workers because of their ability to do the job, and not because of their creed or color. Now that total victory is in sight, we feel that a permanent FEPC should be created to protect workers from that racial discrimination in employment that is almost sure to come with the return to normal conditions.

Although lynching is not as common now as it was 25 years ago, decent Americans cannot be satisfied until this blot is removed from the pages of America's history. Experience has proven that state authorities either cannot, or will not, take effective action against lynchers under existing laws. When the lynching of a Negro High School boy in Suwannee County was reported to Gov. Holland, he practically admitted that he was powerless to move effectively against the lynchers. And when we consider the fact that lynch mobs do not even respect the uniform of the United States Army, it becomes more evident that a strong Federal law is necessary to curb this evil.

It is hardly necessary to mention the inconveniences and humiliations suffered by Negroes traveling in the South under our jim-crow transportation system. They are evident on every hand. Nogroes of the South are not worried about what some call "social equality", but we do desire equal accommodations for traveling. Since these are not being provided under our present dual system, we solicit your support for H. R. 1925.

Although passage of the Anti-Poll Tax Bill will not affect Florida voters, we feel that this bill should be passed for the benefit of voters in those states where this restriction still exists.

If America is to take the lead in developing a true democracy in the post war world, she must be able to teach it by precept and example, rather than by mere words. We therefore ask your support for this liberal legislation.

Respectfully yours,

Harry T. (Moore

HTM/

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on Public Buildings And Grounds

July 26, 1945.

Mr. Hary T. Moore Mims, Florida.

Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to the Florida Delegation has been received, regarding the FEPC legislation, anti-lynching bill, anti-Jim Crow Travel bill and anti-poll tax legislation.

Although I am not in favor of any of these bills I am glad to have this expression of your views.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES O. ANDREWS

BER

 	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS
:		FLORIDA STATE-TEACHERS ASSN.
		Place X to the left of name of person for whom you vote
		PRESIDENT vote for one. Davis, Edward D
		VICE PRESIDENT vote for one pearsell, Mrs. Chora M.
-		EXECUTIVE SECRETARY vote for one Griffin, N. W. Williams, J. L.
		TREASURER yote for one Porter, Cilbert L. Rooks, Milton P.
		SECRETARY TREASURER vote for one Hogan Miss Anne L. Moore, Harry T Raines, W. M
		SECRETARY OF RESEARCH vote for one Griffin, Ben D.
		DISTRICT V. PRESIDENT vote for one Ransom, A. J. District # 1 Sewell, G. A. Write in name District # 2
. •		Scott, J. I. E. District # 3
		Harris, C. W. District # 4
		Ely, J. A. District # 5
		Pettis, Miss E. L. Dist. $\frac{\pi}{\pi}$ 6.
	. <u> _ </u>	Write in name
		Write in name

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REV. K. S. JOHNSON. TREASURER 60! CYPRESS AVE., SANFORD FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE

Mational Association

FOR THE

Advancement of Colored People

Mims, Florida June 26, 1945

Dear Co-workers :

Your attention is called to two rape cases in which legal action has been recommended by Attorneys S. D. McGill and L. E. Thomas, members of our State Conference Legal Committee.

The first is the case of Joseph Palmer, St. Augustine, who has been given a sentence of 15 years on a charge of attempted rape. Atterney McGill has examined the record of this case, and his report expresses the opinion that Palmer's conviction was unconstitutional. McGill offers to reopen this case for a fee of \$300. Palmer's mother, who is said to be a poor weman, feels that she can raise \$50 of this amount.

The second is the case of William H. Anderson, Ft. Leuderdale, who has been given a death sentence on a charge of rape. Attorney Thomas is of the opinion that Anderson is not guilty of rape, but that the relations between him and the white weman were of a voluntary nature. Thomas has agreed to go into this case for a fee of \$500, and he thinks that he has a fair chance to save Anderson from the chair: Ft. Lauderdale citizens already are raising funds to help finance this case, which will be carried through in the name of the NAMCP.

These cases were explained to a group of Conference officers and Branch presidents who were in Orlando June 20th to attend a meeting of the Fifth District Voters' League. Upon the recommendation of this group, we are asking each Branch in the state to contribute at least \$12 to help finance these cases.

Please make your contribution as early as possible. Make money order to K. S. Johnson, Sanford. Mail the order to my address, so that I can check and give you credit for same. Let us give these two men a fair chance to secure justice.

Sincerely yours.

Herry T. Moore, President

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EDITOR, THE CRISIS

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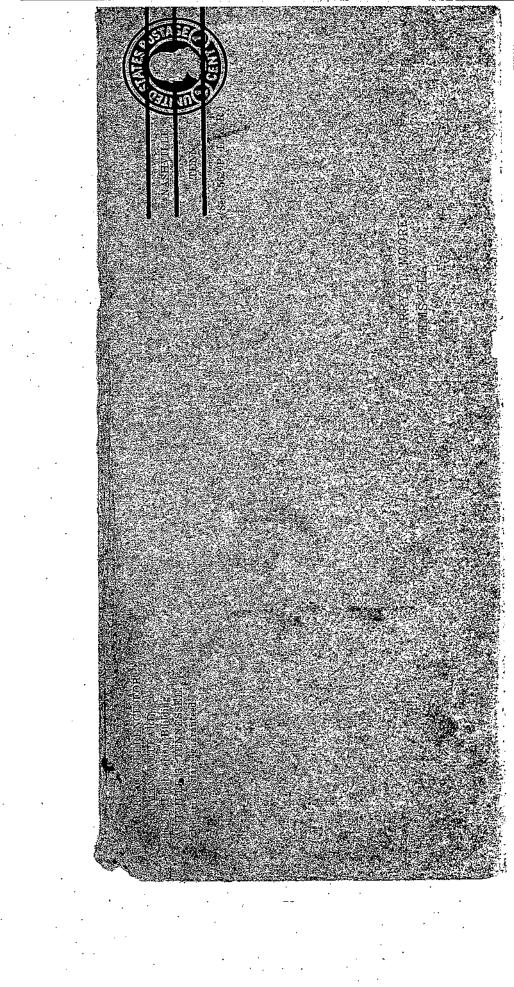
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SOUTHERN CONGERENCE for HUMAN WIELEARE

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NASHVULE 3, TENNESSEE

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Dear Prienc:

BORONEY BREGIOENT

DANK PLEBAHAM PATRIDENT CLARK H. FOREMAN

VICE BRESIDENTS

MEAUL'S KERNA

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ROSCOE DUNIEE

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James Dominal

The SOUTHERN CO.

Advocates:

- 1. Mobilizing every Southern resource, including total man-power for the winning of the war. Vigilance against homegrown forms of reaction and fascism.
- Abolition of the poll tax and all other restrictions on the freedom of the ballot.
- 3. Abolition of railroad rate and all other discrimination against the South.
- 4. The right of labor to organize and the practice of collective bargaining as an expression of democracy in our economic life.
- 5. Abolition of all discrimination on account of race, creed, or color, at the ballot box, on the job, and before the courts of justice. A permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee to realize the basic democratic concept of equal economic opportunity for all:
- 6. Extension of Federal aid to Southern farmers—retention and strengthening of the Farm Security Administration, its rehabilitation program, tenant purchase, soil conservation, and cheap credit for the redemption of the tenant and sharecropper and to give the small farmer a better living.
- 7 Federal Aid to give equal educational opportunities to all.
- 8. A minimum American standard of living for all, through extensive Federal programs for public health, housing and Social Security.



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The*SOUTHERN* CONFERENCE för Human Welfare

- **★** The Southern Conference for Human Weltare was organized in 1938 by about 1,500 Southerners as a response to the publication of the President's report on economic conditions in the South.
- ★ Seeks to unite for common action all persons of good will and progressive minds in and out of the labor movement, both white and colored, who are concerned with improving the social, economic, and cultural standards of the South.
- ★ Uses the methods of investigation, education, and legisla-
- 🖈 Has a program both constructive and practical
- ★ Works' for: ! Total Victory, Full Employment. Complete Democracy, Permanent Peace,

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TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

Labor Is First Enseter Targot

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n Second of the most slop (Inis out he to be edicient of the edition)

He south! Christian America has been the scenter of this activity. But in the nation as a whole the most powerful of the Working of the most powerful of the Working of the Manufacturers at Association of Manufacturers at Association of Manufacturers at (NAM) which since 1905 has been a sequence of the Manufacturers at the bostoning the American public minds with the best manced and the most far reaching auth labor spropagands of all time.

Representing \$500 billions of con-

norate wealth, and dominated by grant firms, the NAM carries maits propaganda through its 'Naminal Industrial Information Committee' (NIIC), and special Committees on Agriculture, Education Church, Labor, and Women.

Inteple of Strong exitizion from antional leaders witheseffelds the NEIC is finding it possible to obtain unsuspecting local sponsoriship for its flonteness. (Women groups in Alanta and Richmond groups in Alanta and Richmond groups in Alanta and Richmond work falsen in Church and Richmond

application the Christian American 1911 as a peces tunder the so-called Anti-Violence as surkes a lays all that speces are to breaking a shor amon is the are mile the rest to get o charge that amon is the are mile the rest to get occasion of the sale members or pickets have threatened for the continues and item videos against the amon and the rest sale sentences and leavy since against the amon do the rest sale ficely to say that working a sainst the amon do the rest sale ficely to say that working in a union shows like hing in a democracy those who are unwilling to share the responsibilities are not entitled to those who are unwilling to share the responsibilities are not entitled to share the bench and they are free to get out. Besides being in constant with the deral laws protecting the tights of workers the amondment should deny the employer and employee their Constitutional freedom to would deny the employer and employee their Constitutional freedom to

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	January April	Jameary Jameary	January 8	January January		The legislatures of eight Southern states are convening early in 1945, and the people in those states had better be prepared to fight
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to a meeting of the State Conference Board of Directors, held recently in Orlando,

- te tallowing points were amphasizeds

 1. That each Dranch try to have at least one active youth council. County

 branches may have more than one council a council in each of the larger communities in the county, lou need 25 members, ages 12-24, to start a youth councils Members under 21 pay 50g per year; those 21 - 24 pay \$1, rer year. Please write me for necessary literature and additional lighted mation.
 - That each Branch and Touth Council payets per year for each member on its roll. Send this to New York with your regular reports, but state that it la for the State Conference: The National Office will match this amount and return same to Conference treasurer.
 - 3. That each Branch send \$2.00 per month to the State Conference. Make order to Rev. R. S. Jennsen, Sanford, but mail it to Miss C. B. McLin. 335 N. Jacksta St., St. Petersburg.
 - 4. That each Branch and Touth Council send news to the Centerence secretary, so that it can be published in the monthly News Letter.
 - That the verious Branches will help to erganize county units of the Pro-Progressive Voters League". When such a county unit is organized, please send names and addresses of officers to Mr. Earl E. Broughton, State President, 2912 - 26th Street, Tampa,
- Since it has seens equatful that a national officer will be able to visit florida in the near future, we recommend the following persons for possible use, in case you desire speakers for some of your mass mestings;
- L. Edward D. Devis President of Marion County Branch 502 M. Broadway, Coals
- 2. Milton P. Rocks President of Clearwater Branch 1135 Pine St., Clearwater
- B. Rev. M. C. Strachan Bresident of Tampa Branch 1521 Lamar St., Tampa
- 4. Rev. C. T. McHardy President of Martin County Branch Swart
- 5 Rev. E. 2 Jackson Presiding Elder of Pole Seach District 520 1162 St. Pala Basil
- 6 Rev R. H. Johnson Editor of Estenite Magazine Box 509, Orlando
- 7. Rev. R. A. Cronwell Vice President of Gen. Baptist State Convention -521 A. Alcaniz St., Pensacola
- 8. F. A. Dunn L President of Finellus County Voters League Box 1227, Sta. A e St. Petersburg
- 9. Mrs. Mary W. Blocker President of Duval County Teachers Assn. 1550 Jefferson Jacksenville.
- 10. Gilbert L. Porter Treasurer of State Teachers Assn. Lincoln High School, Tallahassee
- IL. C. W. Harris Secretary of West Velusia County Branch Chishelm High School.
- H. T. Christian President of Daytena Beach Branch Box 748 Daytona Beach L. C. Jenkins - Box 301, Tallahasson
- caference officers also are available for this drive. In each sase we suggest hat you communicate with the speaker desired in regards to transportation expenses ete.

Harry T. Moore, President Florida State Conference, NAAGP

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SWATE TAX FROM FIGHTUA BRANCIES (Vanuery-June, 1946, Televisive)

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	\$ 125; 125.	THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE	# 126.96

Total remittance to Conference Treas. \$ 252.35

Note: The National Office is remitting 5¢ per member wherever the Branch has paid the Branch has paid the Branch has paid

Each branch and Youth Louncil is paked to pay by per year for each member on its rolls as provided in Article I. Section 6: of the Constitution. Send this to New York along with your regular membership remorts. The National Office will also pay by per member and remit the total amount to our Conference treasury.