

N.A.A.C.P. - M.O.W.M.

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

Walter White Is On the Beam—Randolph Has Missed The Bus As Race Spokesman

WALTER WHITE and the NAACP have got the ball. They're in the lead again. They are full of confidence and rightly so, because they pulled off a good show all by themselves. A year ago it was different. Phil Randolph stole the show—but completely. He dominated every meeting with the possible exception of the Willkie meeting, and there he

received a tremendous ovation. I don't think the name of Philip Randolph was men-



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year building up its organization, getting good publicity, and gaining new members. The March on Washington, on the other hand, has not, as far as I can see, strengthened itself organizationally or articulated a program which lends itself to local support. I'm not one to raise a lot of bogey fears about Randolph's passive resistance program—I'd like to see it tried. The only thing is that he's had a year to try it out and has done nothing. That's why the NAACP is in the lead—Randolph lost the ball by default.

MOWN WILL MEET IN CHICAGO

I'm anxious to see what's going to happen in Chicago when the March on Washington has its national convention. Unless they've got some tricks up their sleeves—unless they come up with some plan of action which can be implemented by rank and file organizations in local communities, I'm afraid they won't have much chance.

THERE is another point. It seems to me, though this has been disputed, that the NAACP is still pretty much a middle-class organization. If that is the case, it may be that Randolph's appeal is greater in the working class and lower middle-class than is that of the NAACP. Randolph may still have a following that the association has not tapped.

NAACP AND LABOR MAY GET TOGETHER

But to further confuse the situation, the NAACP is making overtures, clumsy though they may be, toward organized labor and especially the CIO unions. In the mass meeting, R. J. Thomas, pres-

ident of the United Automobile Workers, used the meeting as a sounding board from which to articulate his position and the position of the national officials of the UAW on the Packard strike and the race situation in general. The message written by Philip Murray and read by Raymond Walsh was a restatement of the position of the CIO on the Negro question. It has always been my belief that any mass movement of Negroes would inevitably have to team up, in some fashion, with the liberal-labor movement. In spite of its middle-class orientation, which I still think exists, it seems that the NAACP is making more headway in working with labor than is the more nationalistic and sectarian March on Washington.

LAST YEAR I thought the association had been taken in and that Randolph was going to engulf them in a great mass movement. I reported in this column that the tail was actually wagging the dog. I don't know who tricked who or whether there was any tricking done—as a matter of fact, I don't think so. It just goes to show that it is pretty hard to buck an organized movement even though one is a popular figure, unless he has money and organizational ability behind him.

NO CHANGES IN PRESS RELATIONS

When it comes to a vigorous organization to speak for Negroes throughout the country, as far as I can see, Randolph has missed the bus and Walter White and the association are definitely on the beam.

P. S.: Press relations were just as lousy this convention as they have been in the past.

The important thing was that the association found out they had put over a big meeting with Randolph. They were elated it should have been. In spite of the fact that it was a convention they called together, there were well over 700 enthusiastic

RANDOLPH LOST THE BALL

In their statement to the NAACP the association articulated a pretty courageous, straightforward platform without any hokus about marching any place. At the last mass meeting held in a stadium, they packed in 20,000 people at from 25 to 50 cents per person. That's better than they did at Willkie and no charge for admission.

COURSE the reasons for this success are pretty apparent. The NAACP has been working throughout the