

**"TO UNITE... REGARDLESS"**



**International Union, United Automobile,  
Aircraft and Agricultural Implement  
Workers of America (UAW-CIO)**

## FOREWORD

A million men and women in the UAW-CIO, representing every race and creed and color, every nation on this earth, are daily proving the infinite superiority of this union's creed over the empty race theories of the Nazi-Fascist governments. Part of that creed is this: "to unite in one organization, regardless of religion, race, creed, color, political affiliation or nationality."

We are in this war to win. We know that winning this war is the one biggest job facing the labor movements of the world. We know that winning requires that we stand together, shoulder to shoulder, men of all races and tongues, just as by standing together we built this union of ours in the face of opposition which sought to break our union by pitting race against race, creed against creed.

And we know further that winning this war demands of us every resource at our command, including the skills and brains and hands of men and women regardless of the color of their skin, just as those skills and brains and hands regardless of color, won the battles which built the UAW-CIO.

"James Pierson" is the pseudonym of a young brother in the union who came into my office one day to recount his experience at the plant. Some day he will be given full credit for this work, but for the present he has the knowledge that his thoughts and ideas on this deeply important question have been given expression in this little pamphlet.

R. J. THOMAS,  
President, UAW-CIO.

Acknowledgment is made to the *Detroit Tribune*, *The Chicago Defender* and *The Michigan Chronicle* for photographs in this booklet.

## To Unite . . . Regardless

My name is James Pierson, and I'm a member of our Union at the Powers Local. Until a few weeks ago I guess I was like most of the white guys in the shop, more or less indifferent on the subject of the Negro people and their rights as citizens of the United States. Born in a little town in Wisconsin, I was 14 before I'd even seen a colored man. That was when I went to Milwaukee once with my Dad. After that I used to talk about Negroes some with people, but all I heard was that they were mostly a shiftless, lazy, unclean group of people doing the drudgery of the world. I took these uncomplimentary comments for granted. It never occurred to me to inquire into the subject. Until, like I say, a few weeks ago something happened at the shop.

Word was sent down into the plant one Friday from the front office that on Monday six Negro girls were reporting for work on the drill presses. The story we were told was that the Company hadn't wanted to hire them, but some committee in Washington, the Fair Employment Practices Committee, was forcing the boss to put them to work.

"It's that man Roosevelt again," they said.

Nobody seemed to mind the news. It didn't seem to matter one way or the other to most of us. The drill presses were standing idle on our shift, and workers were needed. That was that. But during lunch hour I began to notice something happening.

Three of the foremen and six or seven of the workers were going around talking to people. One of them came to me and began saying it was a terrible thing to bring these Negroes—only they used an uglier word—into the shop.

"If they start bringing 'em in here, pretty soon there won't be jobs for white people," he said. "They're dirty and diseased. Give 'em an inch and they want a mile. Why, before you know it, they'll be thinking they're as good as you are."

Some of the things he said you couldn't exactly print. Pretty soon I found myself agreeing with him, and ready to go along with any suggestion anybody had for preventing this "effort of the ——— to take over the place." Quickly, spread by these merchants of hate, there grew up in the department strong sentiment for a protest strike on Monday if the Company went through with its plans.

Monday the shop was like an armed camp. Scarcely anybody got out his work. The very air was loaded with tenseness and suspicion. Two or three times the foreman would go by, muttering something about "You know what you're to do when those ——— come in here."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT MEETING WITH THE F. E. P. C.



EXECUTIVE ORDER 8802

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE  
IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

..... I do hereby reaffirm the policy of the United States that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or Government because of race, creed, color, or national origin, and I do hereby declare that it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in furtherance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin .....

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE WHITE HOUSE  
JUNE 25, 1941

*\*Excerpt from Executive Order 8802*



## **Prejudice From Ignorance**

About 10 o'clock in came Mr. Rudnic from the personnel office with the six girls. Even though my anti-Negro prejudices had been whipped to a pitch, I couldn't have failed to be ashamed at what followed.

Until that moment it had never occurred to me that a human being could sink so low as the white men in the shop did then. Everyone stopped work. Catcalls, boos, angry shouts and vile names filled the air. Somebody threw an apple core, and then came a barrage of banana peels, garbage, oily waste and other refuse. The girls stood it for about 15 minutes before two of them broke down in tears. Then four of the white women, ignoring the derisive jeers that followed them, had the decency to go over to the six girls and try to console them. We learned later that the two Negro girls who wept had husbands in the Army.

In less than two hours after this "hate strike" started, there was a man from the International at the shop, an Army colonel and a representative of the U. S. Employment Service. They talked turkey. I'll never forget that meeting. It showed me that our Union really stands for uniting all workers "regardless of race, creed, color" and so on as the International constitution says.

They laid it right on the line.

Negroes were dying that very minute alongside white Americans on the battlefield. "Bullets don't discriminate," said the man from the International, "and neither does the UAW-CIO. Either these girls work unmolested here, or every man and woman who interferes with their right to work forfeits the protection of the Union."

## **Sabotage Caused by Disunity**

The colonel didn't say much. He seemed to feel that it was the union's problem. All he said was that Hitler would probably laugh himself silly if he could see how white American workers were refusing to work with Negroes. "This kind of thing is right up Hitler's alley," said the colonel. And then he went on to say that the FBI had traced similar "hate strikes" in other plants straight to the door of Hitler's hidden agents in this country.

"What's more," he added, "the United States Army is interested in production. We need workers, and we need them bad. Those idle drill presses are helping our enemy. Our position is just this: either work peacefully with these girls, or ring your cards out and quit."

Nobody asked for his time. We went back to our jobs, and the girls went to work on the drill presses. The situation was uncomfortable for a few of us for a day or two, but now we're getting

along well. The girls are in the union and one of them, a pretty good artist, is making posters for the blood donor campaign.

I might have forgotten the whole thing if I hadn't come across an item buried away in the back of the paper a day or two later. It was a brief item from the Office of War Information which said that in proportion to the total population, there were more Negroes than whites in the armed services: 10.6 per cent of the Negro people in uniform, 9 per cent of white Americans.

Those figures pulled me up short, and it occurred to me that the "Negro problem" would disappear if more white workers knew more about the colored people. Hence this little booklet. I set out to find what I could about the Negro, and this is what I learned.

### **Negro Has a Good Record in Defending America**

The very first man to die for this country in the War of the Revolution was Crispus Attucks, a Negro, who was the first to fall before a Redcoat's bullet in the Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770! They gave him a proper hero's burial from historic Faneuil Hall, "cradle of liberty," and today on Boston Common stands a statue in his memory.

At Bunker Hill two black men, Peter Salem and Solomon Poor, distinguished themselves under fire. Peter Salem is credited with the death of Major Pitcairn, the British commander, while Solomon Poor's reckless bravery in the face of the British charge caused his colonel and other officers to petition the Massachusetts legislature to give him recognition as "a Brave and Gallant Soldier."



CONSTRUCTION BATTALION OF NEGRO SEA-BEES IN RECENT MANOEUVRES.  
*Official U. S. Navy Photo released by O. W. I.*



JUDGE WILLIAM H. HASTIE BEING DECORATED BY WILL ROGERS, JR.,  
with 1943 SPINGARN MEDAL

Three headlong attacks by the King's men were withstood by Negro troops in the Battle of Long Island to save the colonial army from capture, while at Point Bridge in 1771 a Negro detachment sacrificed themselves to the last man to prevent the destruction of a force under General Green and the capture of the General.

Bancroft's account of the Battle of Monmouth says, "of the revolutionary patriots who on that day periled life for their country, more than 700 black Americans fought side by side with the white." Negro troops under General Green fought so hard and well that General Lafayette felt compelled publicly to praise them.

The same kind of devotion to this country has been exhibited by soldiers and sailors of the Negro race in every war America has fought.

Commodore Perry spoke with high praise of their "bravery and conduct in the Battle of the Lakes." General Andrew Jackson, following the Battle of New Orleans, took occasion to acknowledge the fighting valor of two Negro regiments who served under him in the following words:

"To the Men of Color—Soldiers! From the shores of Mobile I collected you to arms. I invited you to share in the perils and to divide the glory with your countrymen. I expected much of you . . . but you surpass my hopes. The President of the United States shall be informed of your conduct on the present occasion, and the voice Representatives of the American nation shall applaud your valor, as your General now praises your ardor."

In the War Between the States, approximately 200,000 Negro soldiers took part in the fighting, the majority of them wearing the blue of the Union forces.

Four regiments of Negro troops fought with distinction at El Caney, San Juan Hill and Guasimas in the Spanish-American War, and brought from Teddy Roosevelt the statement that "the colored troops did as well as any soldiers could possibly do."

There were 400,000 Negro soldiers in World War I, of whom 200,000 saw service in France. Two of them were the first American fighting men to receive the Croix de Guerre from the French Republic. Later, four entire Negro regiments were awarded the Croix de Guerre, one of these regiments commanded by Negro officers. Sixty Negro officers won the award.

Speaking of the Negro people's record in World War I, General John J. Pershing said: "The only regret expressed by colored troops is that they are not given more dangerous work to do. I cannot commend too highly the spirit shown among colored combat troops, who exhibit a fine capacity for quick training, and eagerness for the most dangerous work."

Added to this war record, it should be pointed out that during World War I not a single Negro was so much as accused of disloyalty, although numerous persons were convicted of offenses against their country.

### **Courage Is Not the Property of One Race**

In the war now raging, Negroes are again proving their devotion to our country's cause through their reckless bravery and heroism on the battlefield. Recently, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, awarded Dorie Miller,



YOUNG HERO DORIE MILLER ADDRESSES BLUEJACKET GRADUATES.  
Official U. S. Navy Photo

23, Negro bluejacket from Waco, Texas, the Navy Cross for heroism at Pearl Harbor. The citation, accompanying the award, told how Miller carried his wounded captain to safety while their ship was being savagely attacked by Jap bombers and Zeroes, and then manned a machine gun until bombed and burned, bringing down four Jap planes. That was the first time Miller, a mess attendant, had ever fired a machine gun.

Charles Jackson French, a Negro mess attendant, has been cited by Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., for his daring attempt to save a group of his shipmates on the USS. Gregory from shelling by Japanese naval forces following the sinking of that ship. French's citation reads:

"For meritorious conduct in action while serving on board a destroyer transport which was badly damaged during the engagement with Japanese forces in the British Solomon Islands on September 5, 1942. After the engagement, a group of about fifteen men were adrift on a raft which was being deliberately shelled by Japanese naval forces. French tied a line to himself and swam for more than two hours without rest, thus attempting to tow the raft. His conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service."

Elvin Bell, 20 year old Negro, who was recently awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, was spoken of thusly in his citation:

"For distinguished heroism while serving aboard the USS. Lexington during the battle of the Coral Sea on May 8, 1942. Voluntarily joining a repair party fighting fire in an area frequented by violent explosions of gasoline vapor and ammunition, Bell, although emerging in an exhausted condition, unhesitatingly entered the most dangerous section of the stricken carrier and assisted in removing injured personnel who had been trapped below decks. His courageous initiative and utter disregard for his own safety were in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service."

Stanley Johnston, a war correspondent aboard the stricken carrier, cabled back to America an eyewitness account of such a rescue soon after the loss of the USS. Lexington was announced. Johnson's account declared:

"It was Commander Mort Seligman's task to direct the rescue. I heard him call on the men around him: 'There are three men in Frame So-and-So. That's below the fire. To reach them, one of you must go around the fire and through passages.'





GRADUATION EXERCISES FOR NEGRO W.A.C.S.

"A young colored mess attendant stepped forward. I could not see his face for he was wearing a smoke helmet. He saluted and quietly said: 'I'll go, Sir.'

"'Sure you know how to reach them?' the Commander asked.

"'Yes, Sir. I know the way.'

"'Do you realize that you might never make it, might never come back?'

"'Yes, Sir. I do. But I would like to try just the same.'

"'Right, then. On your way. And good luck to you. We'll be waiting for you.'

"He went. Through long passageways and down several flights of steel steps deep into the vast hull. But he was sure of his way. This fine colored lad did come back. And what's more—he brought the three men with him."

There are literally scores of cases of such undaunted heroism on the part of our Negro brothers in the Armed Services. It makes me shudder to think that we, the white workers, could ever possibly indulge in such uncivilized practices as "hate-strikes" against our Negro brothers in the face of the valiant support they are giving the American cause in the war.

So much for what I learned of the fighting qualities and loyalty of the Negro people. I learned some things about their thinking qualities, too, and the struggle they've had to overcome the handicaps deliberately placed in their path by the senseless, undemocratic policies of the southern states where most of the Negro people were reared.

Most of us have accepted the off-hand judgment that the Negro people are ignorant and lazy, as a group. That just isn't so. But we've had precious little chance, either to find out otherwise for ourselves, or to know why it is that many, many Negroes aren't equipped by training to hold better jobs, to go through high school and college, and so on. Usually the only view we get of the Negro is through the movies and radio, which rarely show the Negro as anything but a happy-go-lucky clown. And very few of us know the facts about the education system of the South. Here are a few figures, startling in their meaning:

### Is This Equal Opportunity?

Current Expenditures, Per Child Enrolled

12 Southern States, 1939-40

<i>State</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Negro</i>
Alabama .....	\$38.77	\$11.67
Arkansas .....	26.84	10.63
Florida .....	56.67	22.43
Georgia .....	43.38	12.47
Louisiana .....	65.96	15.46
Maryland .....	72.49	55.28
Mississippi* .....	25.33	5.14
North Carolina .....	41.19	24.05
Oklahoma .....	49.75	51.52
South Carolina .....	47.34	11.39
Texas .....	61.00	29.00
Virginia* .....	30.87	17.27

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\* Figures for Mississippi and Virginia are not fairly comparable to other states shown, for they include only per pupil costs for instruction, whereas the others include upkeep of buildings, supplies, school bus transportation, etc. Actually the ratio is considerably less favorable to the Negro child than the figures show, and in Mississippi is about 8 to 1.

In spite of these handicaps, and others even worse—such as the poll tax system in most of these same states, the whole fabric of “Jim Crow” practices which prevail not only in the South but in varying degrees in the North as well—the Negro has proved again and again that he can deliver the goods in any field. The facts show not only that the charge, “all Negroes are ignorant and shiftless” is not true, but that the really ignorant people are the whites who repeat the charge.

Take the U. S. government figures on Negro occupations—and these are from the 1930 census, 13 years ago:

## **In Spite of Discrimination, Negroes Have Accomplished These Things:**

Negroes conducted 70,000 businesses in 200 lines, including 25,000 retail stores; 1500 factories making 55 products; 23 banks capitalized at \$2 millions; 44 insurance companies with 1,600,000 policyholders and \$300 millions of business in force; 300 newspapers and magazines.

The census of 1930 listed: 1200 Negro lawyers, 3800 physicians, 1700 dentists, 5000 trained nurses, 4,000 actors, 10,000 musicians, 56,000 teachers.

"Who's Who in America" lists 100 Negroes who achieved exceptional distinction in various professional fields. There are more than 200 Negroes with Ph. D. degrees and about the same number in Phi Beta Kappa, highest honorary scholastic honor open to undergraduates in the land.

When the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1865, Negroes owned 12,000 homes. By 1930 this had jumped to 700,000. In 1865 they owned and operated 20,000 farms, and in 1930 the figure was 882,850. When slavery was ended, the total wealth of the Negro people was \$20 millions; by 1930 the figure was \$2 billions.

### **Contributions to Our Art and Science**

Behind these cold statistics lie the achievements of countless sung and unsung leaders of the Negro people:

Dr. Daniel H. Williams, a Chicago surgeon, was the first man in history successfully to operate on the human heart.

Ernest E. Just was one of the foremost marine biologists in the world.

Dr. George Washington Carver, born a slave, is credited with having done more in his laboratory at Tuskegee Institute to advance the southern people—white as well as Negro—than any other person.

Need anyone be reminded of the enormous contributions to the whole national culture in the field of music from Marian Anderson, Dorothy Maynor, Paul Robeson and Roland Hayes, to name but four of hundreds of great musical artists? There is Henry O. Tanner, whose paintings hang in the Luxembourg in Paris—or did before the invasion by the Nazi "superior race"—purchased by the French government. There is King G. Canna of Chicago whose work won first place among 900 exhibitors at the Wanamaker Exhibit in Philadelphia. In literature the names of the Negroes James Weldon Johnson, Countee Cullen, Paul Laurence Dunbar, W. E. B. Dubois, Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Phyllis Wheatley are bright stars indeed.



PAUL ROBESON, FAMOUS  
BARITONE, SINGS AT  
FORD RALLY.

DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON  
CARVER  
FAMOUS NEGRO SCIENTIST, WHO  
MADE STUDIES VALUABLE TO ALL  
RACES DURING HIS LIFE TIME.



But all these things are but an introduction to the question that I'm really interested in as a union man and worker. Where do the Negro people fit into the labor movement and the world of workers? Are they "scabs and strikebreakers" as some say, or are they working to build a solid labor structure which can withstand the onslaught of all the forces now ganging up on democracy?

### **Leaders in Responsible Positions**

There are some splendid examples of Negro leadership in the labor unions, including our own, where Shelton Tappes was elected recording secretary of Ford Local 600, "biggest local union in the world," in an election where 50,000 ballots were cast—a vast majority of them by white workers. In scores of UAW-CIO locals Negro workers, men and women, are serving as officers, chairmen of important standing committees, stewards and committeemen. In addition, we have International representatives like Walter Hardin and Oscar Noble, standing out like beacons of leadership for the thousands of Negro people in our union.

Other unions, too, are lead by capable Negro workers—A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, AFL; Willard Townsend of the United Transport Workers, CIO are the presidents of two strong, outstanding unions. The National Maritime Union, the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America and many others have elected Negro members to high national office through the democratic processes of progressive labor action.

### **Negroes in Unions**

In addition to these leaders are the millions of Negro workers who have worked side by side with their white brothers in this land building the bridges and the railroads, the factories and the great cities, plowing the soil, grinding the grain, keeping the trains and ships in motion to build this country of ours. Can there be any doubt that the Negro worker and the white worker have a common stake?

I've heard my white brothers in the union describe Negro workers as anti-union, but that statement just won't hold water. When you look at the facts you see that wherever a Negro worker has seemed hostile to the union, it has been because white workers have made him so—by such incidents as the one I described at the beginning of this little booklet, for instance. It would take a saint indeed to be friendly in the face of that kind of treatment. Yet the fact is that once white workers give the Negro workers an even break, the Negroes will work as hard as his white brother in building the union and keeping it strong.





NEGRO AND WHITE WORKERS UNITED TO ORGANIZE FORD'S — ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT VICTORIES IN LABOR'S HISTORY.

## ATTENTION

### All American Citizens

#### Please Listen

An American Citizen, one of our own Michigan born. A man who has made every effort to do that which is right. A true American, both in heart and action, is in trouble.

If we fight as true blooded and with the spirit of all law abiding Americans, we will help a "brother in trouble."

A good idea to follow; Mr. Henry Ford is that brother. He has put up a good fight. Let's not let him down now. He is an American, of Michigan and is one of our own showing no prejudice toward none.

This so called "Black List" is idea and did not originate here, he Americans believe in "Live and let go" to stand by and see Mr. Hen listed in our own U. S. A.?

"They shall not win."

Like all

Law Abiding American Citizens  
our motto is to

**"Preserve Democracy  
Not To Destroy It"**

We are the wives of satisfied Ford Employees. Our husbands having been employed at the Ford Motor Co., for 20 years and like the majority of the Ford Workers, have never had any misunderstanding and they are ready and willing to stand up and fight to keep the Union out of the Ford Factory.

To you my Loyal Colored Friends, Henry Ford is your best friend, showing prejudice towards none.

Can this be said about any plant that is controlled by the Union? No.

If the Union has no respect for the Laws of the United States, why you think they have for you.

Perhaps just a Tool to accomplish they seek. This includes all the work

## Attention!

## Think First

Calling all Law Abiding American Citizens

All Colored Men stand by, there can be no labor trouble unless you make it.

Calling Gov. Van Wagner to send the Pipe-Piper, the rats are intimidating the constitution of the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

Now to our colored men, let's stay on our jobs and keep the home fire burning, Mr. Henry Ford will furnish the fuel.

**What will the Union give you?**

**STOP!**

What is the Union doing with your money? The Union-heads are eating while you are in the streets with your bills unpaid.

**STOP!**

**Don't let them crucify you**

"Forgive them Father they know not what they do."

These leaflets, used in the Ford strike, illustrate an important fact: Company management will use any device to split the union. These were prepared by trumped-up organizations for the express purpose of inciting negro workers to violence against white workers.

## Bosses Encourage Race Hate

Time and time again we white workers have been used as the dupes of crafty bosses against Negro workers. Not to "protect the whites from contact with these ———." No, indeed, in every case it has been to divide white workers from black in order to bust the union, or keep the union from getting started.

Those very dividing tactics broke the steel strike in 1919, and prompted William Z. Foster, then a member of the National Committee for Organizing Iron and Steel Workers, to warn organized labor as follows:

"The need for action looking towards better relations between whites and blacks in the industrial field should be instantly patent; for there can be no doubt that the employing class, taking advantage of the bitter animosities of the two groups, is deliberately trying to turn the Negroes into a race of strikebreakers, with whom to hold the white workers in check . . . Should they succeed to any degree it would make our industrial disputes take on more and more the character of race wars, a consummation that would be highly injurious to the white workers and eventually ruinous to the blacks."

With few exceptions, up to that time and long afterward, the AFL's traditional attitude toward Negroes had been one of perpetuating Jim Crowism, of fostering the very hostility against which Foster had warned. Most unions barred Negroes from membership, and in those which did not actually bar them, the Negroes were treated in a manner which did not inspire confidence in the union.

A single example tells the story. In 1901, during one of the struggles with U. S. Steel, workers in the Butler Street plant of the Carnegie Corporation, Negroes and whites, went out on strike. Later, three of the Negro strikers, together with a white officer of their local, applied for work at another union plant not affected by the walkout. The Superintendent of this plant promised them work if the white employees would work with them. But the white men, union brothers of the Negroes, refused. The pleas of the local union officer who accompanied the colored workers were in vain. This experience so exasperated the three Negroes that they returned to the struck plant, reported their experience to the other Negro strikers, and all the Negroes, in protest, returned to their jobs and ended the strike.

The famous Inter-Church Report on the 1919 strike tells how Big Steel pitted the Negroes against the whites to break the strike and set the union back 15 years:

"Negro workers were imported and shifted from plant to plant. In Gary the Negroes were marched ostentatiously through the streets. In Youngstown and near Pittsburgh they were smuggled into the plants at night.

"The n——s did it,' was a not uncommon remark among company officers. Besides the comparatively small bands of avowed strikebreakers, shifted from plant to plant, it is evident that the great numbers of Negroes who flowed into the Chicago and Pittsburgh plants were conscious of strike-breaking. For this attitude, the steel strikers rightly blamed organized labor. For in the past the majority of AFL unions had been white unions only. Their constitutions often so provided. Through many an experience, Negroes came to believe the only way they could break into unionized industry was through strike-breaking. . . . at Youngstown, for instance, one lone Negro machinist striker, who stuck to the end, was never admitted to the machinists' local."

The 15-year set-back that anti-Negro attitude cost the steel workers was a heavy price to pay for race prejudice!

### **UAW Stands for Unity**

Now that I've thought the question through, I can see quite clearly why our own union, the UAW-CIO, must be opposed, unalterably, to discrimination of any kind, whether it be for race, color, creed or national origin. If we hadn't clung sincerely to those principles of unity we would never have organized the Ford Motor Company. During that drive and the strikes that brought it to a close, every race-dividing trick in the book was pulled out in an effort to break the solidarity of the workers.

### **Workers Not Taken In by Trickery**

Negroes were told that if they joined the union, white workers would take their jobs. Trumped-up organizations, phoney as a glass eye on a dead man, began to circulate inflammatory literature aimed at making the Negroes anti-union and ready to commit violence against white workers.

At the time of the strike there remained a few workers still confused, or actually taken in by the Ford trickery. Care was taken by the company to see that the few Negroes who failed to understand the issues, and continued to scab, were in the forefront of all the pictures released to the press—thus they conveyed the impression to the rest of the labor movement that the Negro people were united in opposing the union.



CAPTAIN MULZAC—OFFICERS AND CREW OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.  
*Acme Photo.*





NEGRO AIR CADETS MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR EFFORT.

The plan was to make it appear that there was violent, bloody conflict between the races. Exaggerated pictures showing Negroes with clubs and knives at Gate 4 were plainly aimed at sowing the seeds of race riot.

Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of Ford workers, white and Negro, realized the necessity of standing together. Determined that the day was coming when forces which were the enemies of all labor would no longer be able to break the labor movement's back by pitting one group against the other, they won that battle. They learned, as one brother put it on the second anniversary of the Ford strike, that "prejudice is a vagrant opinion without visible means of support."

### **Success Through Standing Together**

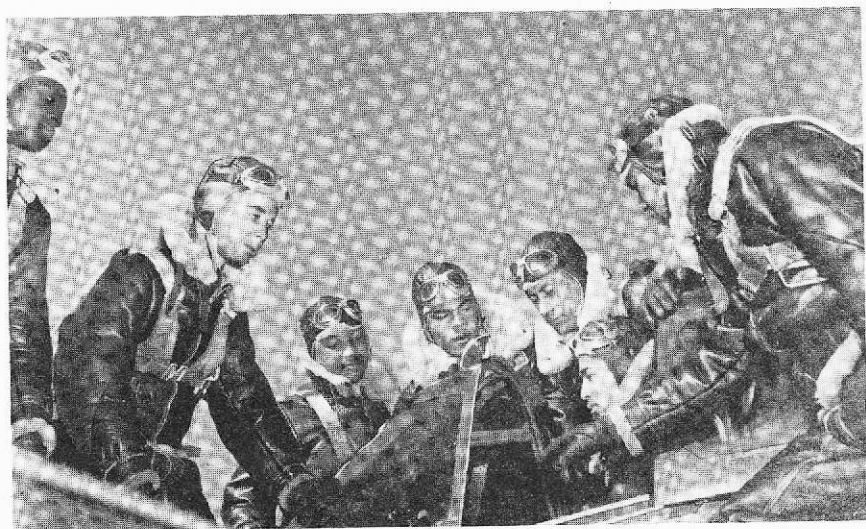
Because 13,000 Negro workers stood shoulder to shoulder with their white brothers in that struggle, Ford workers through their union have won over \$50 million in wage increases. Translate those dollars into decent diets, decent shelter, decent health and the

happiness of the families of thousands of Negro and white Ford workers' families, and you get some understanding of the solid results which come from unity.

Without those colored brothers standing together with the rest of us in that strike, those benefits would never have been won. So, brother, if you can't see the value of unity because it's the decent thing, translate that value into paychecks, and you'll see that it's the intelligent thing.

In the weeks that have passed, since the incident in my shop sent me searching for the facts on this "Negro question," I can truthfully state that I've put away forever the baseless race prejudice which made me a party to that disgraceful episode. Not many days ago I was appointed to the Inter-racial Committee of my local union, and I'm having a wonderful time. Incidentally, we don't have a "race problem" now at the Powers shop. A good many more Negroes have come into the shop, and we're getting along swell. Even the company, which has seen for itself that whites and Negroes can and do work together amicably, has come around and is playing ball with the union on this question.

One of the first six colored girls, about whom we struck that shameful day, is now a steward. She's a Wayne University graduate, and she's putting everything she has into building our union. She was elected unanimously by her department, which includes 273 white and 38 colored workers.



TUSKEGEE GRADUATES OF THE UNITED STATES AIR CORPS.

*Photo, U. S. Army Air Corps.*

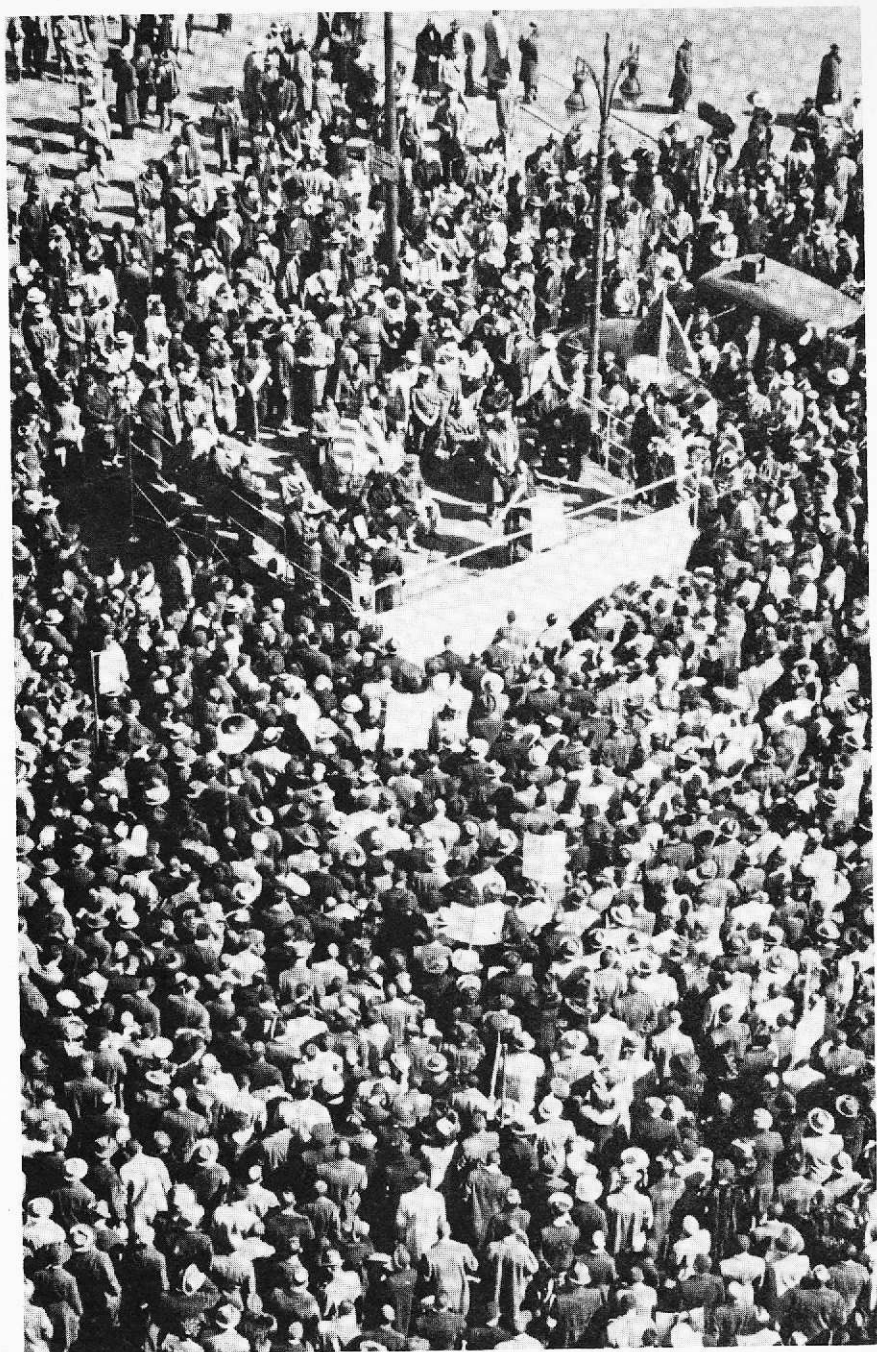
On Sunday, April 11, 1943, I paraded with thousands of Negro and white workers down Detroit's John R Street to Cadillac Square in a demonstration of the fact that "discriminatory practices cannot be maintained if America is to hold out to the world hope of freedom."

Following some wonderful speeches, I witnessed the drawing up and presentation of the Cadillac Charter, a program for full democracy for the Negro people. Its overwhelming adoption gave evidence of the dire need for its fulfillment. At dusk, as I made my way homeward, the thoughts which ran through my mind made my heart bleed for the Negro people.

I am determined that whether on the fighting fronts or the home front, a lasting, permanent and prosperous peace can come only when men have cast aside their foolish prejudices and, in the spirit of true brotherhood, work together to win this war to make possible the century of the common man.

It is to this end I pledge myself. No longer will I see my fellow worker as a "n—r," "wop" "hunkie" or other opprobrious name, but as a brother. I can repeat with sincerity the closing lines of a prayer I recently heard a Negro brother give:

"O! Almighty God, I beseech Thee,  
With reverence in heart and speech,  
To show men that to love one another  
Is the same law your Son came to teach."



RALLY IN CADILLAC SQUARE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, WHERE THE CADILLAC CHARTER WAS ADOPTED.

# The Cadillac Charter

## Preamble

*WE, PEOPLE OF ALL RACES, residents of the City of Detroit, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, citizens of the United States of America, declare ourselves wholeheartedly behind the effort of the government to prosecute the war to an ultimate victory. Believing that full participation of all citizens is fair, just and necessary for victory and an enduring peace, we affirm our adherence to these principles:*

### ARTICLE I

That discrimination against persons, as forbidden by the Constitution of the United States, be abolished by the Bureaus and Departments of the Administrative agencies of the Government.

### ARTICLE II

That discrimination and segregation in public housing and the Armed forces be abolished.

### ARTICLE III

That the policies of all governmental agencies be strictly in accordance with the Constitutional provisions and amendments forbidding discrimination against any persons or racial groups.

### ARTICLE IV

That the disfranchisement of citizens

by the denial of the ballot through the poll tax, and other devices, be abolished.

### ARTICLE V

That all industry participating in the war effort treat all labor alike, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, or national origin, in hiring, upgrading and training of men and women, fully observing Executive Order 8802.

### ARTICLE VI

That all citizens be secure from mob violence, lynching, police brutality and physical violence.

### ARTICLE VII

That the right of life, liberty and religious freedom cannot be denied any citizen if we are to preserve human rights and justice in our land.

We believe that discriminatory practices cannot be maintained if America is to hold out to the world hope of freedom, and do hereby pronounce and ratify these Articles of Democracy in public assembly at Cadillac Square, in the month of April, 1943, in Detroit, Michigan.

These copies prepared for distribution by the Inter-Racial Committee of the United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, CIO, and the Labor Committee of the Detroit Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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