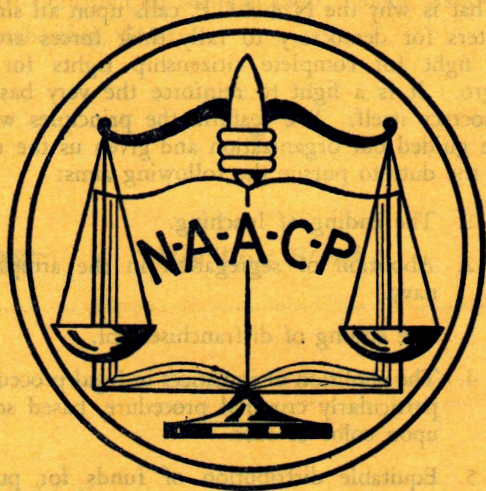


# THE ACID TEST OF DEMOCRACY



**T**HE acid test of democracy in the United States is America's treatment of 13,000,000 Negroes who are still fighting for the full measure of justice which our Constitution guarantees to all citizens of our country.

Full citizenship rights for the Negro is the rock upon which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an interracial organization, was established in 1909. The association has 350 branches, and 122 college and youth groups in 44 states.

Despite the fact that the rapidly gathering world crisis makes our country look to our defense forces in order to keep democracy from being undermined here, no single factor contributes more to the weakening of this defense than the Presidential edict which segregates the Negro in all branches of the United States Army and Navy.

**THE ORGANIZED STRENGTH OF**

# For 31 Years the N

Although billions of dollars are spent by our Government in defense industries, Negro citizens are denied jobs in these industrial plants and refused an opportunity to become skilled workers through the national defense training program.

That is why the N.A.A.C.P. calls upon all sincere fighters for democracy to rally their forces around this fight for complete citizenship rights for the Negro. It is a fight to reinforce the very base of democracy itself. We reaffirm the principles which have guided our organization and given us the right and the duty to pursue the following aims:

1. The ending of lynching.
2. Abolition of segregation in the army and navy.
3. The ending of disfranchisement.
4. The abolition of injustices in legal procedure, particularly criminal procedure, based solely upon color or race.
5. Equitable distribution of funds for public education.
6. Abolition of segregation, discrimination, insult and humiliation based on race or color.
7. Equality of opportunity to work in all fields, with equal pay for equal work.
8. Abolition of discrimination against Negroes in the right of collective bargaining through membership in organized labor unions.

## Milestones

The N.A.A.C.P. has won 15 out of 16 cases brought before the United States Supreme Court:

1915—Oklahoma—

Statute disfranchising Negroes through grandfather clause declared unconstitutional.

1917—Kentucky—

City residential segregation ordinance declared unconstitutional.

**ALL WHO ARE OPPRESSED**

# A. A. C. P. Has Fought

1923—Arkansas—

Mob-dominated court trial held not due process of law.

1927—Texas—

White primary law barring Negroes from Democratic primary held unconstitutional.

1932—Texas—

Enabling act barring Negroes from Democratic primary held unconstitutional.

1935—Oklahoma—

Excluding Negroes from jury panel where the victim is a Negro declared unconstitutional.

1937—Kentucky—

Excluding Negroes from a jury where victim is a Negro again declared unconstitutional.

Mississippi—

Securing of confession from victims charged with crimes by "substituting the rack and torture chamber for the witness chair," declared unconstitutional.

1938—Missouri—

Exclusion of Negroes from state-owned schools while failing to provide them equal accommodations in segregated schools declared a denial of equal rights, under the 14th amendment to the Constitution.

1939—Oklahoma—

State registration law discrimination against Negroes to prevent their voting, held invalid.

1940—Florida—

Decision of state court in death sentence of four Negroes, reversed because confessions were forced through torture.

Alabama—

Conviction of Dave Canty on murder charge reversed because confession was forced through torture.

Texas—

Bob White death sentence reversed because confession was obtained through torture.

**CAN WIN FULL DEMOCRACY**

# nt for Negro Rights

In addition to the above cases the N.A.A.C.P. won a victory in the Melvin Alston case when the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, on June 18, 1940, enjoined the Norfolk, Virginia schoolboard from paying Negro teachers less than white teachers because of color. The Schoolboard's appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court was denied, thus affirming the N.A.A.C.P.'s victory in the lower court.

All these cases were fought and won by the N.A.A.C.P., together with scores of other cases won by individual branches.

## The Fight Continues

1. Since 1919 the N.A.A.C.P. has fought for the passage of a Federal anti-lynching bill.
2. The association was the first national organization to fight for the right of Negroes to sit on juries.
3. The organization is a member of the Joint National Scottsboro Committee which seeks to free the remaining defendants in this world famous case.
4. It launched and continues to fight to abolish the lily-white primary system of the South. It also fights to abolish the poll-tax laws of the Southern states.
5. It wages battle against discrimination against Negroes in education as this evil operates through segregated schools, prejudiced textbooks, inequalities in salaries paid to Negro and white teachers in southern and border states, the unequal expenditure of federal monies for Negro and white students in the South, the denial of higher education to Negroes in state operated universities.
6. It is fighting to abolish discrimination against Negroes in the state and federal civil service, in the administration of relief, in Government work projects, in the operation of social security, and wage-and-hour laws, and in the ranks of organized labor wherever constitutional bars are set up to exclude Negroes in trade unions.

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# YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE YOUR DESIRE TO FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY BY TAKING OUT A MEMBERSHIP NOW.

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