

MEMORANDUM TO ALL NAACP BRANCHES

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 31, is just as important as the state conference. Please make plans to attend, especially branch presidents, (or a member representative) secretary and treasurer. Valuable information will be projected and our program for the year outlined. You are urged to attend in order that the year of 1960 will be bigger and better than 1959.

FEDERAL GRAND JURY BILOXI, MISS.

The Federal Grand Jury at Biloxi, Mississippi heard witnesses including the F.B.I. on the kidnap-lynching of Mack C. Parker, Poplarville, Mississippi. Their refusal to indict any of the alleged 23 men named in the F.B.I. report will in the main help the cause of the Negro in that it fully dramatizes the unmitigated miscarriage of injustice heaped upon Negro citizens. The following is my telegram to the U.S. Attorney General William P. Rogers of Washington, D.C.: "The case of Mack C. Parker of Pearl River County, Poplarville, Mississippi kidnaped from his cell and lynched was more than Mississippi on trial. Failure of the Grand Jury to indict any of the persons alleged to have been named by the F.B.I. is an indictment against Mississippi and a black mark against the Federal Government of the U.S. Our so-called democratic way of life has been most glaringly mirrored around the world. This makes our so-called justice before the law and under the law as indicated by the constitution of the U.S. a sham and mocking before the uncommitted nations of the world. This points up the need for an anti-lynching bill with enforcement powers. The failure of powers that be to safe guard the rights of Negroes in Mississippi jeopardizes the rights of all citizens. No foreign aid or good will ambassador can overshadow the miscarriage of justice suffered by Negroes in this nation and especially in Mississippi. God is not dead. The debt of abominable sin must be paid". This telegram was released to the press the same day in Jackson, Mississippi.

CASE OF C.R. DARDEN VS. CITY

I have been informed that my case will be tried Wednesday morning, January 27th. We have taken the position that the blame should be placed where the blame belongs. No white man can make any intelligent Negro have another arrested if the Negro does not want to do so in his heart, especially when an arrest is based on trumped up charges aimed at crippling the NAACP. We cannot truthfully say that a principal of a school had to do what he did as he took it upon himself to call the law although pictures were not even taken on the campus of the school. Secondly, if pictures had been taken on campus, I am a tax payer and I took my own sons (Chas. Jr., and John Darden) pictures. This is purely a case of "Uncle Tom" or "Prof. Thomas" selling out his own race to satisfy himself and other bigots. This case has at least proved to Meridian and the nation the calibre man who has the highest position of any Negro in the city of Meridian.

METHODISTS KEEP SEGREGATED UNITS

Several months ago I wrote Bishop King of New Orleans, Louisiana relative to his position in the Negroes' struggle for freedom, justice and equality. To date I have received no reply.

The announcement of the commission to continue the racially segregated control jurisdiction made the biggest headline on the front page of the Pittsburgh Courier newspaper. It is ironic that our religious concept can follow the same line that

the various organizations follow who advocate continued violence, continued segregated schools, churches, denial of job opportunities and a miscarriage of justice in the courts. These are the sins of segregation which lead to lynching, and other atrocities because of segregation in religion.

Here are excerpts from Rev. Edward J. Odom, Jr., NAACP church secretary, who said that people "want to believe that the 'house of God' is a place where individual merit counts at least as much in baseball or the theatre."

The text of Mr. Odom's statement follows:

It is with deep concern and regret that we note press accounts of the report of the study commission of the Methodist Church favoring racially segregated jurisdictions within the denomination.

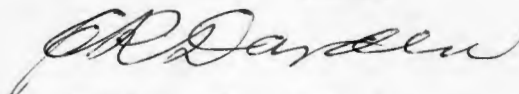
During this period of creative change in the relations between the races our Association has felt that the church has a constructive task to perform by setting a positive example of equality, democracy and brotherhood within its own ranks.

Segregationists will seize upon and distort this report as a substantiation of their claim that desegregation in American life is impractical and that democracy may be preached but not lived. We are equally concerned about the reasons given for the study commission's report. There are those who will doubt that such a report reflects a true concern for Negro leadership. We still want to believe that the "house of God" is a place where individual merit counts at least as much as in baseball or the theatre.

We retain the hope that the forthcoming general conference of the church will rise to the moral stature which is required of prophetic religion in this hour and eliminate official recognition of barriers based upon color.

Again we appeal to every branch chartered in the state of Mississippi to attend the January 31st meeting. We must move forward with confidence and determination that all men must be free.

MISSISSIPPI STATE CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES
NAACP



C.R. Darden, President