

Negroes

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ANS'D.....
CARL W. BEAR & A. M. CATES, Jr.

512 Masonic Temple Building
Birmingham, Alabama
December 10, 1942

Honorable Chauncey Sparks
Governor-Elect of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Sir:

The enclosed resolution, signed by a number of leading Negro citizens of Birmingham, will acquaint you with a number of the immediate problems facing Negroes in their desire to more effectively serve the nation's war effort in the field of production.

We are hopeful that you will use your influence and high office to correct this unhappy picture of job-training discrimination which is so greatly out of harmony with the need for skilled workers for our State's war industries.

We would appreciate a reply from you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully yours,

W. H. Hollins

W. H. Hollins, Chairman,

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON
JOBS AND TRAINING

WHH/leb
Encl.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Thousands of Negro men and women now un-employed or employed on non-essential jobs are able and eager to obtain training to qualify themselves for skilled and semi-skilled work in the vital war industries, and,

Whereas, On November 9th, the heads of four major war agencies (Paul V. McNutt, Chairman, War Manpower Commission; Donald M. Nelson, Chairman, War Production Board; Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy; and Robert P. Patterson, Acting Secretary of War) jointly issued a statement urging war contractors abide by President Roosevelt's Executive Order 8802 and cease practices of discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, or national origin in the hiring of war workers, and,

Whereas, the need for skilled workers will be greatly increased with the opening of the Bethel-McCone-Parsons Airplane Modification Plant which will employ 17,000 men and women, and,

Whereas, the federal government through the United States Department of Education in cooperation with the state and local Boards of Education and Vocational Education has provided unlimited funds for the establishment of programs of training to instruct men and women in the skills necessary for production jobs in war industries, and,

Whereas, Only a token opportunity has been extended to Negroes to acquire this training, only 606 Negroes having been trained in the whole state as over against some 6000 white workers, and in Birmingham only 100 Negroes have been given training for skilled jobs in but four trades while 4,000 white men and women have been trained in a dozen different skills, and,

Whereas, Mr. E.R. Plowden, State Director of Vocational Education has announced that even the existion opportunities for training Negroes is to be soon discontinued, and,

Therefore, be it resolved

That, we the undersigned citizens urge upon the city, state, and national training authorities to continue the training of Negro workers in those courses now offered and to take immediate steps to increase and equalize the opportunities for Negro men and women to receive training for skilled work in war production industries, and

Be it further resolved, that,

We urge local industrialists to fully cooperate with the Vocational Training Authorities, the local USES, and the War Man Power Commission in a program to hire trained Negro defense workers and speed the up-grading of Negro skilled workers, to meet the manpower needs of the area and as a solution to the employment problem of Negroes who constitute 38% of the population of our City.

<i>Arthur D. Long, Atty</i>	<i>H.D. Coke, Pres Dir, B.T.W. Inv. Co.</i>
<i>W.H. Hollins</i>	<i>Real Estate + Insurance Broker</i>
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<i>W. H. Hollins</i>	<i>W. H. Hollins</i>
<i>W. H. Hollins</i>	<i>Supreme Chancellor, I.O.P.</i>
<i>Rev. J. C. Perry, St. Mark's Episcopal Ch.</i>	<i>W. H. Hollins</i>
<i>Ernest G. Jackson, Ed. World</i>	<i>D. F. Thompson, 16th St. Baptist Church</i>
<i>Family Society, S.B.P.E.W.</i>	<i>W. H. Hollins</i>
<i>W. H. Hollins</i>	<i>Shawridge Funeral Home</i>
<i>W. H. Hollins</i>	<i>Smith and Jones</i>

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON JOBS AND TRAINING

Mr. James Kelly, Exalted Ruler
Jones Valley Lodge, IBPOEW

Dr. James E. Jackson, Jr.
Southern Negro Youth Congress

President W.A. Bell
Miles Memorial College

Mr. C.J. Greene, Manager
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Rev. D.F. Thompson, Pastor
16th St. Baptist Church

Mr. H.D. Coke, Publicity Director,
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Rev. W.L. Cash, Pastor
First Congregational Church

Mr. Moton Grey, Commander
Birmingham Chapter, American Legion

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Rev. G. Howard Levant, Pastor
First Baptist Church, Pratt City

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