



# INTERRACIAL QUARTERLY

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INTERRACIAL JUSTICE

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## REPORT OF CONGRESS

Prior to the National Congress in Philadelphia each National Commission of the NFCCS was requested to be presented to the Congress for adoption. These resolutions were to represent the ideas of Catholic students on topics particularly interesting to them.

This was an opportunity for members of the Federation to take a definite stand on racial discrimination in Catholic colleges. It was time for Catholic students to make it known that they were ready to give more than lip service to the Christian and American doctrine of the equality of all men. It was time to state that they did not wish to see qualified students denied the education they were receiving, merely because of race or color.

Thus the National Commission on Interracial Justice brought to Philadelphia a resolution recommending that a standard policy of non-discrimination - that is, because of race or color - be adopted by Catholic colleges. The resolution received the support of the delegates present, and will be part of the Federation's policy for the coming year. Now let us, as individuals and as a group, prove that we mean what we say - that among Catholic college students racial discrimination is non-existent.

In connection with the passage of this resolution a controversy was raised over the omission of the word "creed", usually associated with the ideas of race and color. This word had been deliberately omitted because it had no place in the resolution. Our Government has always recognized the right of denominational schools to select students in accordance with the religious beliefs of the institutions. The addition of the word "creed" here would seem to imply that Catholic college students wish to deny this right to Catholic education. Those supporting the motion to amend did not intend to deny denominational schools of their rights; however, their motion might have been interpreted as such. This limited thinking may be attributed to physical and mental stress; but if the Federation is to be respected for intelligent, mature views, we must be careful not to allow the excitement and rush of Congresses to cloud our thoughts on such vital matters.

## News From Siena Heights

The Interracial Discussion Group at Siena meets once a week. This semester they have appointed a group of reporters who cover the radio, newspapers and magazines for current developments. Their contributions are supplemented by anything the other members have found. The first twenty minutes of each discussion period are devoted to current events. The second half is devoted to one topic determined at the preceding meeting.

Once each semester they have an Interracial assembly. Their last assembly was given over to the presentation of "Color Added" a set of slides made in their Studio Angelico.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

Baltimore-Washington:  
Chairman: John Bannon, Catholic U.  
A very active year culminated

## Results of the Questionnaire

The answers to the Questionnaire which was sent out to fifty-six colleges were very satisfactory. The questions were these:

- 1) Do you accept Negro Students?
- 2) Will you in the future?
- 3) If you do, what has been your experience with this group?

Fifty-one colleges replied that they do and will continue to accept Negroes.

The comments on experience with Negro students included statements such as the following:

"Accepted on same basis as white students."

"Outstanding scholars and leaders."

"Negro is exceptional student, and mingles very well.."

"Majority of student body is indifferent to the situation."

"If all students were like our one Negro the college would be 100% better."

"A credit to the school."

Of the five colleges which do not accept Negroes, three find it impractical because of State Laws, or objections by faculty or parents.

### "MARCH OF QUARTERS" INITIATED

The "March of Quarters", begun this year in conjunction with the observance of Interracial Week, brought results from colleges in five Regions of the NFCCS. The amount raised will be used toward scholarships for students of minority races.

Students in the newly formed Los Angeles Region established a scholarship to be awarded this Fall to a student from a Catholic High School in Los Angeles. The faculty and students of the colleges in the Fort Wayne Region raised \$300.00 to be used for the education of a Negro student at St. Joseph's College in Collegeville, Indiana.

In the Detroit Region a total of \$37.60 was contributed by Siena Heights College, representing a quarter from every member of the student body. Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia sent a check for \$100.00 to the National Commission. In the New York Region, students from College of New Rochelle, Caldwell College, and Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart contributed a total of \$156.75. This money will all be sent to Catholic Scholarships for Negroes Inc., which, despite its short existence, has already awarded scholarships to several Negro students.

in the formation of several colleges into this regional commission on April 17, 1948. A few of its more notable contributions towards Interracial Justice, greatly assisted by cooperation with outside organizations, were volunteer work, speakers programs and the admission of Negro students to schools which formerly excluded them. These activities were made fruitful by such prayer as monthly Masses and the daily recitation of an office at Catholic University.

### California:

Chairman: Marianne DeCoursey, Mt. St. Mary's.

With an intercollegiate forum as the high point of their Interracial year of prayer, study and action, the four member colleges of our far Western region also organized special programs for Interracial Week, contributed to the March of Quarters, and won prizes in the national contests.

### Central Midwest:

Chairman: Dan Meyer, St. Benedict's. With a group of five colleges, with local commissions, the Central Midwest Region was able to do much this year in spreading prayer, in research and discussion, and in such activities as concerts, speakers, catechetical work, and a racist-attitude survey in Salina, Kansas. During Interracial Week these activities were intensified and supplemented by lectures and by more publicity, through editorials, exhibits and discussions, both within the college and in outside schools and organizations.

### Detroit:

Chairman: Bill Broderick, Univ. of Detroit

The National Program of prayer, study and action was carried out in the three member colleges with local commissions of this region with special stress on the study of minority groups. Prayer and participation in the National Contests and in the March of Quarters, as well as exhibits and special programs, marked their observance of Interracial Week.

### Fort Wayne:

Chairman: Margaret Ann Davey, Aquinas College

The colleges in the Fort Wayne Region have worked on a Negro scholarship, and, while combatting prejudice within the colleges, at the same time have carried their activity off the campus to children and those in need. Besides collectingscholarship money during Interracial Week, these colleges also increased their prayer, discussions and activities to call the attention of their student body to Interracial Justice.

Although the idea of a contribution of a quarter from every Catholic College student in the country was far from realized, the project has been initiated and will be more fully developed in the future.

#### PANEL AT NATIONAL CONGRESS

At the National Congress in Philadelphia, Miss Peggy Brown, Chairman of the Interracial Commission, gave her report for the year to a panel made up of regional and local chairmen from all over the United States. She commended them for the work that they had done throughout the year. The panel adopted a resolution to promote the development of a Christian attitude in the minds of Catholic college students towards persons of minority groups through a program of prayer, study and action, calculated to break down ignorant prejudice. The panel also passed on the resolution to be presented to the whole Congress, which recommended a policy of non-discrimination in regard to the race or colour of students applying for admission to Catholic colleges.

Then Miss Brown introduced the new chairman of the Commission, Miss Clare McGowan, who outlined the plan for next year. It is hoped that Speakers' Bureaus can be established in many regions to spread the Church's teaching on the interracial question in many more colleges, parochial schools and Newman Clubs. Some colleges are interested in the question of restrictive property covenants, and others in the question of discrimination in labour unions. All colleges are encouraged to study and act in the field that most interests their students. The National Commission at Manhattanville will be glad to help in the project of any college by supplying information and publicity.

It was suggested at the panel that Interracial Week be more widely publicized next year, and that material entered in the contests be made available for utilization during the Week.

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THE INTERRACIAL QUARTERLY WISHES TO THANK ALL THE INTERRACIAL COMMISSIONS FOR THEIR STEADY COOPERATION AND SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IT IS HOPED THAT THE SUMMER WILL ONLY SERVE TO RENEW THE ENTHUSIASTIC SPIRIT SHOWN IN THE PAST. VACATION MAY PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION FOR THE COMING YEAR WHEN ONCE AGAIN WE TAKE UP COMBINED ACTIVITIES IN "DOING THE TRUTH IN CHARITY."

#### New Orleans:

Chairman (Provisional): Eldon Bonnet, Loyola U.

We are very glad to welcome the newest Regional Commission to be formed, that of New Orleans. This does not mean, however, that it is the smallest, for it already consists of four affiliated colleges and universities.

#### New York:

Chairman: Peggy Brown, Manhattanville.

The colleges of the New York Region had for their main project this year the formation of a speakers' bureau. Other activities have been: work with outside organizations, letters to Congressmen, radio broadcasts, and an Intercultural Concert. Interracial Week was marked by programs in the local campuses, as well as by participation in the National Contests and the March of Quarters.

Philadelphia: Temporary Regional Commission Chestnut Hill College. Due to their difficulty in organizing, the colleges of the Philadelphia Region have not been able to participate in many activities as a Regional Commission. However, besides speakers' and discussion groups during the year, Interracial Week was observed by lectures and by participation in the National Contests and Scholarship Drive. A Regional Commission is now in process of formation.

#### St. Paul:

Chairman: Barbara Power, St. Scholastica.

Letters in favour of the Anti-Lynching Bill and discussion club meetings were included in the work of this region. Interracial Justice was especially publicized during Interracial Week, which also gave an incentive to further research and lectures.

#### Wisconsin:

Chairman: Norman Van Groll, Marquette.

The program of the colleges affiliated in this region has been marked by such activities as a monthly Communion Breakfast, lectures, and sporting and social events with a Negro school. Interracial Week was observed by forums and special research, as well as by such publicity measures as exhibits and movies. A complete program for next year has already been presented by the Wisconsin Region, and includes both purposes and the proposed means of carrying them out.