

# The PEOPLE'S TOWN HALL

## EDITORIALS

### The People Win!

Tuesday's primary elections exploded like a bombshell among the enemies of the people in our State and nation. This is truly a people's victory, one which immeasurably strengthens the progressive Roosevelt-Truman ticket in the fall elections.

The triumph of Adam Clayton Powell jr and Vito Marcantonio in all three primaries—Democratic, Republican and American Labor Party—is by far the most salutary development of the entire campaign. Their election to congress this fall is now virtually assured. Even more important is the fact that they will go to Washington not as representatives of this or that "party," but in their true character as representatives of all the people.

These victories are all the more significant in view of the intensive campaigns of character-assassination and confusion waged against both Powell and Marcantonio by all the Deweyites, Roosevelt-haters and profascists in our midst. These victories were made possible by the unbreakable unity of Negro, labor and other progressive citizens in our City. They strikingly symbolize that growing coalition of people's forces around President Roosevelt which will yet bring freedom and security to all the people of our land.

We are proud of the people of New York, and especially the people of our own Harlem. We, the people, have again demonstrated our high degree of political maturity. We have again proved our unity. We have again distinguished unerringly between our enemies and our friends.

May our nation as a whole measure up next November to the high standard we have set this week in the primary elections of New York City!

### Rotten Politics

We have refrained until after the primary elections to comment upon the gutter tactics used by the political opponents of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

● They circulated an anonymous leaflet with the ridiculous charge that Mr. Powell is "ashamed of his race."

● They distributed a sacrilegious leaflet (also anonymous) with a cartoon of Christ in opposition to Rev. Powell's candidacy, and another cartoon of Christ driving the money-changers out of the temple, which they deliberately distorted to read "Christ Driving the Politicians Out of the Church." (For an honest and authoritative interpretation of the role of religion in politics, read Rev. Ben Richardson's article—"Christ and Politics"—in next week's PV.)

● They hurled the false charge of "communism" at Mr. Powell (forgetting, apparently, that the people of Harlem have long since learned that red-baiting is the last desperate resort of their unscrupulous enemies in attacks upon the Negro's friend.)

● They slandered Mr. Powell from the speakers' platform and in the weekly press, seeking to mislead the people with a whole series of calumnies and personal attacks.

This is rotten politics, and it speaks volumes about the character of the forces supporting the Republican candidate for Congress from the 22nd District.

In sharp contrast, Adam Clayton Powell's primary campaign was conducted on a high plane of honesty in public discussion. Not once did he make a personal—or any other kind of—attack against his opponent. His campaign manager and speakers had written instructions to refrain from any such tactics whatever.

Moreover, this newspaper, of which Mr. Powell is Editor-in-Chief, restricted its news and editorial columns to arguments FOR the Powell-for-Congress campaign, not once printing an argument AGAINST his opponent. Indeed, in our issue of June 17, we devoted our honor box, "Front," to a picture and commendatory write-up on Mrs. Sarah Pelham Speaks, characterizing her as "a creditable representative of the New Negro Woman."

The real issues involved in this campaign are fundamental to the welfare of the Negro people and the entire nation. Whatever hopes we have for a post-war world of peace, economic security and democratic freedom depend largely upon whether we send representatives to Congress who will support President Roosevelt's program for the progressive reconstruction of our country and the world.

This is serious business, and it must not be conducted on the level of an alley brawl. Let there be common decency and intelligent public discussion of real issues in the general elections campaign which still lies ahead.



### Meet Miss Lena Scott

We are proud to announce the addition of Miss Lena Scott to PV's staff in the capacity of roving reporter. Her initial dispatch appears on page 2.

We must also confess a certain anxiety over the difficulties in which this charming, but somewhat flippant, young lady is likely to involve our newspaper. She is free to go where she will, interview whom she will, and report what she will. Her closest associate, artist Carl Weiss, warns that most anything might emerge from this assignment. But we shall see.

By the way, any similarity between the name of our new employee and those of two charming and famous young Americans is by no means coincidental.

### Suggestions to Mr. Dewey

We Negroes, who have had considerable experience with southern disfranchisement, can appreciate the skill and speed with which the Republican candidate for President is proceeding to deprive New York citizens of the right to vote.

Three weeks ago, Gov. Dewey refused New York soldiers and sailors overseas their right to use the simple federal war ballot, with the result that approximately 800,000 of them will be unable to vote for president and congressmen on November 7.

Last week, Gov. Dewey denied 42,000 New York Merchant Seamen, USO and Red Cross workers abroad—all struggling to defeat our fascist enemies—their right to use even the State absentee voters' ballots in the coming elections.

These effective first steps pretty well take care of New Yorkers abroad. But what about the millions here at home?

Recognizing the serious problem faced by our Governor, who cannot hope to get elected President if the people are allowed to vote, we respectfully suggest the following next steps to guarantee that the fall elections shall be conducted in the only manner consistent with Mr. Dewey's presidential aspirations.

- Deny absentee voters' ballots to New Yorkers who have left the State to work in war plants elsewhere.
- Require all voters to present \$100 war bonds at the polls.
- Arm the anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, anti-labor and anti-FDR "Christian Fronters" and put them in charge of the polls.
- Gerrymander New York City out of the State.

These suggestions will be recognized as strictly modern, wartime adaptations of devices which Mr. Dewey's poll-tax allies have long found effective in the South. Surely, the Governor's clever Attorney General can figure out some "constitutional" manner by which they can be used to combat the distressing eagerness of New York citizens to vote.

### Letters

#### ON THE UPBEAT

Dear Sir: We, over here, are always glad whenever the mailman delivers to us our favorite Negro newspaper—PV—for it is truly the new paper for the new Negro. Our advice to our friends in America is to ask for the Voice at their favorite newsstands and not to be on the "downbeat."  
—PVT. JIMMY WILLIAMS, 6977th Ordinance, Co., APO 230, c/o Postmaster, N.Y.

#### PRaise FROM FRANCE

Dear Sir: I've been subscribing to your paper since January and I must thank you for the way in which the paper has been reaching me—first in England and now in France. Obtaining the paper is quite a consolation, for I'm able to keep up with the events taking place in my home state. Keep up the good work. You are doing well.—Cpl. ALEX BRAITHWAITE, 597 Ord. Am. Co., APO 230, c/o Postmaster, N.Y.

#### PRAYS FOR ROOSEVELT

Editor: With all signs pointing to an early end to the war, we can but pray that President Roosevelt is re-elected to lead us through the coming days of critical readjustment and reconstruction. Anything can happen—racial riots, lack of jobs, disunity of the nation's leaders and what-not. We are mindful of the do-nothing policy of the Republican administrations following the close of the first world war, when they sat back and folded their arms and blinded their eyes and said, "Let nature take its course."  
If there ever was a time when we need a man of vision, and mainly, of action, it will be following this war. Traditions must be flown to the winds if they stand in the way of post-war peace and progress. What is a tradition, what is a constitution, what is a law, if it does not work toward the betterment of man? The Republican party is bound by time-worn and outmoded traditions that stand in the way of progress.—MARY JONES.

#### SEND YOUR WIRE NOW!

Dear Sir: You have probably heard that the only Negro WAC band has recently been inactivated. This band was organized last September, has made excellent progress since that time and from all indications, was fast developing into an organization of which the race could have been justly proud. For some reason the Army has seen fit to discontinue this unit.  
We are asking organizations and individuals all over the country to send wires of protest to the President immediately and we would appreciate your joining in the fight to reorganize and authorize our band. Please send this information on to as many people as possible—WAC BAND No. 2, Ft. Des Moines, Iowa.

### "Scope" Editor Liberal

By TED ZITEL

IT WAS MARK TWAIN who said: "Everybody grumbles about the weather, but no one does anything about it!" That's the way liberals acted about the anti-labor, anti-Negro READERS DIGEST. Finally, along came one man who did something about it. That man is Leverett S. Gleason, editor of the new national digest magazine, READERS SCOPE. With only two issues on the stands, READERS SCOPE is already showing signs of nudging the DIGEST from its throne.

When the first issue was brought to our attention, we were naturally curious to know more about the man who edits a publication which won spontaneous support from the general public, as well as labor and minority groups. So down to SCOPE's mured offices we went to corner Lev Gleason and learn the following vital statistics.

#### QUITE A CAREER

Gleason is a tall New Englander, a veteran of both World Wars, a fast-thinker who has been a stockbroker, a Broadway restaurateur, a comic book publisher, as well as the publisher of three fast-selling paper-covered books: "The Incredible Tito," by Howard Fast; "When and How the War Will End," by Johannes Steel; and "Sabotage," by Michael Sayers and Albert Kahn.

"That's an exciting career you've had," we told him. "Did you always want to be a publisher, or did it sneak up on you?"

Gleason lit a cigarette, smiled, and leaned back in his comfortable swivel chair. "I think I've always wanted to get into this business. As a matter of fact, many years ago, I worked for a stock exchange firm editing its monthly paper to the clients. I was very unhappy. A fellow employee of mine shared my dislike and together we planned to leave. One day we took the decisive step—I into the publishing business and he to Hollywood where he is now known as Walter Pidgeon."

#### ABOLITIONIST BACKGROUND

When I tried to place Gleason's almost indistinct broad "A," he broke down and confessed he was a Bostonian—but of democratic tradition, he hastened to add.  
"My maternal grandfather and the person for whom I was named, Leverett G. E. Stone, devoted much of his fortune, as well as his energies,



LEVERETT S. GLEASON

to the abolitionist movement in the border states, Kentucky and Ohio.

"Dr. Aaron Gleason, a surgeon in the United States Army during the Civil War, retired to New Hampshire where for many years after the war he devoted much of his practise to the free treatment of Negro veterans. So, you see, my family has a real American tradition, and I hope to be carrying it on in the 20th Century. Those of us who are fighting jimcrow and other minority discriminations today are the abolitionists of our time."

#### WIN-THE-WAR MAG

As one looks over the contents of the first two issues of SCOPE it becomes apparent that Gleason is publishing a sincere, win-the-war magazine. Its first issue (July) contained an explosive prediction which came true even before the magazine had a chance to reach the stands—that Martin Dies would vanish from the political scene. It is the opinion of many people that Dies feared the storm that would break around his head when Albert Kahn's expose, "I Accuse Martin Dies," came out in

the July issue. So, he vanished. This issue also contained exciting articles by Johannes Steel, William L. Shirer, Pierre Cot and Franz Weiskopf.

The second issue contained an article by Henrietta Buckmaster which the PEOPLE'S VOICE brought to the attention of its readers: "The Fifty-Fourth," the story of the famous Negro Regiment during the Civil War FOR NATIONAL UNITY

Also in that issue it condensed "The Races of Mankind," the controversial pamphlet that blasts phon-white supremacy. And, as a special feature it included an inspirational piece written especially for SCOPE by Howard Fast, author of "Citizen Tom Paine," called: "The Dead Will Not Sleep." So brilliant was this prose that swanky Lord G-Taylor devoted a complete window display to it and the International Latex Corporation of America purchased half pages in eight of our leading newspapers throughout the country to reprint it. Radio Commentator William S. Gailmor read it over the air on his program (WHN at 9 pm) and it brought a storm of requests for copies.

Chocked full of vital, provocative articles, SCOPE is must reading for all thinking people. And, with a man like Lev Gleason at the helm, we know it will continue to be just that.

When asked if he had a message for the readers of PEOPLE'S VOICE, he said: "SCOPE is a magazine dedicated first and foremost to the winning of the war and the winning of the peace. For that purpose we are dedicating ourselves to the cementing of national unity. SCOPE salutes THE PEOPLE'S VOICE as another ally in the fight against those who would divide us."

## Solid South Cracking

AUSTIN, Tex.—(Special to PV)—Fighting to gain control over the party's state organization for the next two years, supporters of the pro-Roosevelt wing of the divided state Democratic party last week named 10 Negro delegates to the Harris County convention.

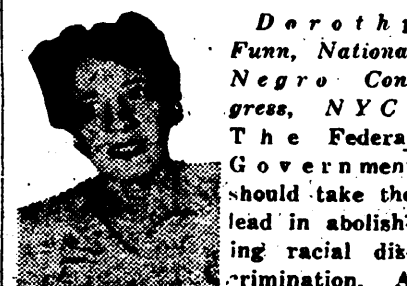
This unprecedented action followed by a few days the unrestricted voting of Negro citizens in the Texas Democratic primary elections.

The Texas pro-FDR Democratic organization was formed to combat the threatened "Electoral College steal" by which anti-Roosevelt Democrats hope to have Presidential electors cast their ballot against Roosevelt, even though the citizens of Texas vote overwhelmingly for FDR this fall.

### The People:

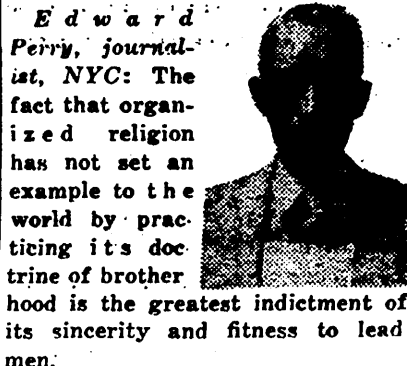
#### QUESTION

Edited by Llewellyn Ransom  
The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America in its official statement on race discrimination said "... we must not, like our enemies commit the sin of racial contempt and domination based upon the theories of a master race..." Do you think it is the responsibility of organized religion to take the lead in abolishing racial segregation?

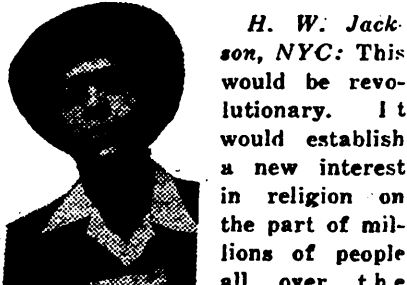


Dorothy Funn, National Negro Congress, NYC: The Federal Government should take the lead in abolishing racial discrimination.

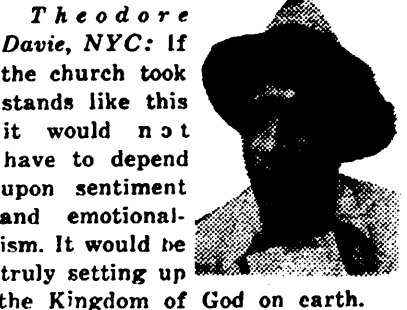
A strong and uncompromising stand by the United States Government, including passage of laws against discrimination and segregation in our nation, can assure rooting out this disease from all of our American institutions.



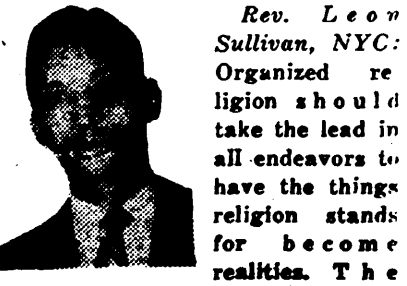
Edward Peiry, journalist, NYC: The fact that organized religion has not set an example to the world by practicing its doctrine of brotherhood is the greatest indictment of its sincerity and fitness to lead men.



H. W. Jackson, NYC: This would be revolutionary. It would establish a new interest in religion on the part of millions of people all over the world. It would gain respect from all, even the non-religious.



Theodore Davis, NYC: If the church took stands like this it would not have to depend upon sentiment and emotionalism. It would be truly setting up the Kingdom of God on earth.



Rev. Leon Sullivan, NYC: Organized religion should take the lead in all endeavors to have the things religion stands for become realities. The Kingdom of God can never come to pass as long as men hate. The church is shouting in the midst of a tempestuous whirlwind.