

SEVENTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

WASHINGTON

August 18, 1942

JAMES DOUGLAS BROWN, CLERK

Mr. Charles G. Gomillion, President
Tuskegee Civic Association
Tuskegee, Alabama

Dear Sir:

I have your telegram with reference to the Anti-Poll Tax Bill and am glad to have this expression of your views, though I can not agree with them.

Our government was established as a republic with clearly defined powers retained by the people of the states. This principle of local self-government is one of the most vital bulwarks of liberty, for government from afar is inconsistent with individual freedom and too remote from the people.

To preserve the principle of local self-government, our constitution provided that each state should determine who should vote. Only the time, place, and manner of holding elections for national offices are subject to regulation by the federal government. In my opinion the Anti-Poll Tax Bill is an invasion of the right of state and local self-government which is protected by the constitution.

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The merits or demerits of the poll tax are not of great enough importance to justify an abandonment of the principle of local self-government. Therefore, abandonment of the poll tax is a matter that must be left to the decision of the states.

Sincerely yours,

Henry B. Steagall

Tuskegee Civic Association
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
August 20, 1942

Honorable Henry B. Steagall, Chairman
Committee on Banking and Currency
House of Representatives
Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

I thank you for your letter of August 18 in which you set forth your attitude toward the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, but regret very much that your views and attitude do not agree with those of the members of our Association. Believing that the abolition of the Poll Tax as a requisite for voting will strengthen the democratic process, we must continue our efforts to have the law repealed.

Respectfully yours,

Charles G. Gomillion
President

Violin Solo: "African Dance No. 4" S. Coleridge Taylor
Mr. Jack Montgomery

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

November 17, 1941 "Economics for the Negro Masses"
January 12, 1942 "The Role of Negro Youth in the Present Social Order"
February 9, 1942 "The Role of the Negro Church in the Community"
March 9, 1942 "Dramatics in the Negro Community"

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON LODGE
762
I. B. P. O. E. of W.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

November 28, 1942

Mr. Chas. G. Gomillion,
Box 31,
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Dear Sir:

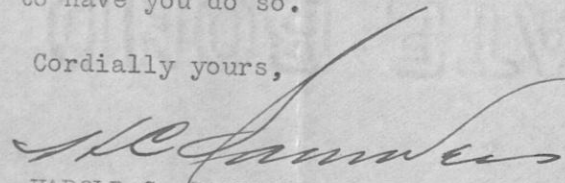
The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Lodge of the I. B. P. Order of Elks will observe ELKS MEMORIAL DAY on Sunday, December 6th.

A public program will be rendered at Washington Chapel A. M. E. Church, in Greenwood, at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The principal address on this occasion will be delivered by Honorable James E. Kelley, of Birmingham, the Grand Secretary of the Improved, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World.

We extend invitation to you, and through you to the several organizations which you represent, to attend these Memorial exercises; and where you find it practical to convey this announcement verbally to the individuals concerned, we should be pleased to have you do so.

Cordially yours,


HAROLD C. SAUNDERS, E. R.

Attest:


LARRY ROBINSON, Secretary.

Tuskegee Civic Association
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
November 1, 1942

Dear Member:

You are requested to participate in the observance of American Education Week in the auditorium of the High School Building, Sunday afternoon, November 8, at 3:00 o'clock. Principal participants on the program will include some of Tuskegee Institute's most outstanding students, among whom will be Elisabeth Alford, member of the Institute Council on Campus Life, SNYC delegate to the recent NAACP Student Conference, and writer of verse; William Dobson, President of the Junior Class, and former member of the Sunday School Council; Lafayette Frederick, Editor of the Campus Digest; Theodore Gipson, President of the Junior-Senior Sunday School Class, and President of the Sunday School Council; Gwendolyn Gomillion, valedictorian of her high school graduating class, winner of the AKA Scholarship prize, the American Legion Scholarship Medal, and first prize in the Trinity Oratorical Contest; Lovette Washington, President of the Tuskegee Institute Council of the SNYC, former member of the Sunday School Council, student member of the National Executive Council of the YWCA, and frequent delegate to youth conferences; and Rose Williamson, keen student and analyst of civic life in the Tuskegee Community.

The meeting should be of special interest to students of education, public school teachers, parents, and community leaders. Invite some one to accompany you.

Sincerely yours,



Charles G. Gomillion
President

Tuskegee Civic Association
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
November 1, 1942

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Sincerely yours,



Charles G. Gomillion
President

November 13, 1942

The cabinet of the Tuskegee Civic Association met on the above date in the High School Building of the Tuskegee Institute campus.

The President stated that the meeting had been called for the following purposes:

1. Criticisms of program of 1942
2. Program for 1943 -- Suggestions
3. Dr. Patterson's suggestion about mass protest of discriminatory practices against Negroes.
4. Consider the value of printing for distribution, a revised copy of the constitution of the Civic Association.

Some of the questions raised concerning the program of 1942 were the following: (1) Was program too academic? (2) Would outside speakers have added anything to the program? (3) Was adequate publicity given the program? (4) Isn't there a relationship between the social action program of the Civic association and the formal programs presented monthly?

There were suggestions concerning (1) the possibility of wider participation on the part of the members by having groups to be responsible for each monthly program; (2) a social evening for the members of the organization. (3) Visual aids as a part of the program.

Social Action

1. Continued stimulation of Registration
2. Get a school for Civic education started
3. That anything of a discriminatory nature be attacked

4. Agitate to get Negro representation on every Local War Board in this community etc.
5. Lending support to other organizations that initiate action for the welfare of the community.
6. Continue to try to get a cross section of membership for the organization. (Rosenwald Heights. Rockerfeller Hill, etc)

Commerical Association

The question was asked as to whether or not the Civic Association would be interested in stimulating interest in Negro Business? It was the feeling of the group that the Civic Association was interested in the welfare of the entire community and since the Commerical Association was not active, that this body should assume the responsibility for seeing that this part of community life should not be overlooked.

Constitution

It was decided that prehaps there would be little value to be derived from printing and distributing the revised constitution.

Song Books

Association not in position to make purchase at this time.

Dr. Patterson's Suggestion

It was decided that a committee should be appointed to work out the details of this protest. It was felt that it should be limited to Tuskegee for the present

T. Rupert Broady
Assistant Secretary

Box 31
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
December 26, 1942

Dr. Eric G. Roberts
Veterans Administration
Tuskegee, Alabama

Dear Brother Roberts:

Enclosed herewith is a letter which was received recently. You may be interested in the contents, although you are already familiar with the decision of the War Department regarding the case.

With the hope that you and Mrs. Roberts are enjoying the Christmas season, I am

Faternally yours,

Charles G. Goullion


Tuskegee Civic Association
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
November 1, 1942

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