How Shall we Vote?

A Symposium

I AM FOR HOOVER

Because-

IIS life exemplifies the great Amerlican opportunity thrown open to every boy. Here was a farmer lad of humble parentage who by force of character, unflagging determination and devotion to ideals became one of the world's great leaders. Because-

His experience in ministering to war sufferers and flood sufferers have revealed his broad sympathies for all mankind.

Because-

In the one instance in which he had an opportunity to serve the people of our group he did it without hesitation and without pressure. When he took charge of the Mississippi Flood Relief Committee he stated to a group of colored men that race and color did not enter into the relief program. That record for the Mississippi Flood Relief actionary Democrats and the Lily ically. work will stand in the minds of mil- white Republicans are fighting the lions of colored people as a testimonial battle of the Republican candidate. It Civil of Herbert Hoover's willingness to ad- is the liberal Democrat in the South minister any high office without dis- to whom the Negro must look for fair

SMITH

cause of tolerance and fair play in new conditions. If they make intelli- chief reason for voting for Thomas is America. The moral tone of the whole gent use of their suffrage in their new that he is a Socialist. Many men unnation would be better for such a tri- homes, there will never arise in the derstand many things under Socialism, umph; and every American who suffers North the problem that still confronts but I understand an attempt to refrom the effects of religious bigotry and the South. In the great cities and in- arrange work and industry, wages and racial hatreds would be a beneficiary. dustrial centers of the North, we must income, on a basis of reason, need and The Negro could not be denied par- make common cause politically with desert, rather than leaving them to ticipation in these benefits, for the the workers with whom we are identi- chance and the rule of the strong, as quickened ethical perceptions of the fied industrially and economically. The is the case today over so large a part nation—of which such a victory would great majority of these workers realize of the world. I do not pretend to know be a definite indication—would make that their interests will be best served as to just how this can be accomplished such exclusion impossible. The col- by the election of Governor Smith and but I insist that we must try to do it

also that it would be a serious blow to we are to survive industrially and ecotion to use his suffrage for the adance- welfare of the working people. ment of his own cause. For the cause As long as the Negro vote is the of tolerance and fair play is essentially property of one political party, he can his cause. I earnestly hope and firmly not use it to his own advantage. He believe that at this election colored can use it to his own advantage only voters in overwhelming numbers will if he divides it. In the coming elecbe found in the ranks of those Amerition, colored voters should give their cans who are resolved to banish for- suffrage to Governor Smith if for no ever from this Nation religious bigotry other reason than to establish the fact

crimination and with even-handed jus- play. This election affords the Negro

the cause of his race if such a victory nomically in the North, we must have should be achieved without his having the good will of the working classes. made a substantial contribution to it. We can do much to gain this good will For the first time since his enfranchise- by helping to elect Governor Smith, the ment, the colored voter is confronted candidate for President, whose elecwith an opportunity at a national elec- "tion will best serve the interest and

and racial hatred. that they are politically independent. Incalculable good will come to the The ballot is the most potent weapon Negro in this country if he does, by we have in our fight for the recognigiving his suffrage to the Democratic tion of our constitutional rights. We candidate for President, prove he is must use this weapon. If we prove conscious of his duty and obligation as at this election that we are conscious an American citizen. Even in the of the power of our ballot and regard South, where he feels most keenly the it as our own property and not the human lives were to be saved and effects of racial prejudice, he will bene- property of the Republican party, we whether they be black or white the full fit. There the liberal Democrats are shall not only earn the respect of the resources of their organization would leading the fight for Governor Smith, Nation, but we shall place ourselves in be thrown into the breach to help. The while on the other hand Bourbon Re- a position of strategic advantage polit-

> FERDINAND Q. MORTON, Service Commissioner, New York City

THOMAS

voter in the North an opportunity AM going to vote for Norman never before enjoyed by him to help I Thomas. I am going to vote for In his speech of acceptance he em- his brother in the South. It is ob- the Socialist Ticket. I vote for phasized the great need in America for vious that if we in the North and West Thomas because he is a fine upstanding equal opportunity for every one, and if help to elect the Democratic candidate man who has not been afraid to chamhe is elected President it is my candid, for President, the liberal Democrats pion the unpopular cause, and laying frank, and deliberate opinion that he in the South must inevitably, as a re- aside a clear opportunity to be well-towill be the President of all of the peo- sult of such action on our part, feel do and respectable, he has taken the ple and will give the full prestige of his more kindly toward the Negro there. more difficult road of working for the high office to that program of "equal The intelligent colored American emancipation of the laboring classes. opportunity" for every American citi- realizes that the Negro problem, so- He recognizes the Negro as a part of called, is no longer a national political the laboring class, and while he has JOHN R. HAWKINS, Chairman, issue. He knows that colored people not said much, distinctly and clearly, Republican Colored Voters Division. in this country must fight out their about the colored races and their tredestiny in the localities where they live. mendous significance for industrial Nearly half of the colored people in democracy, he has said something, and the United States now reside north of that is more than either Smith or THE election of Governor Smith the Mason Dixon Line. There they Hoover, Hughes or Harding. Cox or I would be a fine victory for the are confronted by new problems and Wilson ever did. But after all, the ored voter realizes this. He realizes they are supporting his candidacy. If (Will you please turn to page 386)

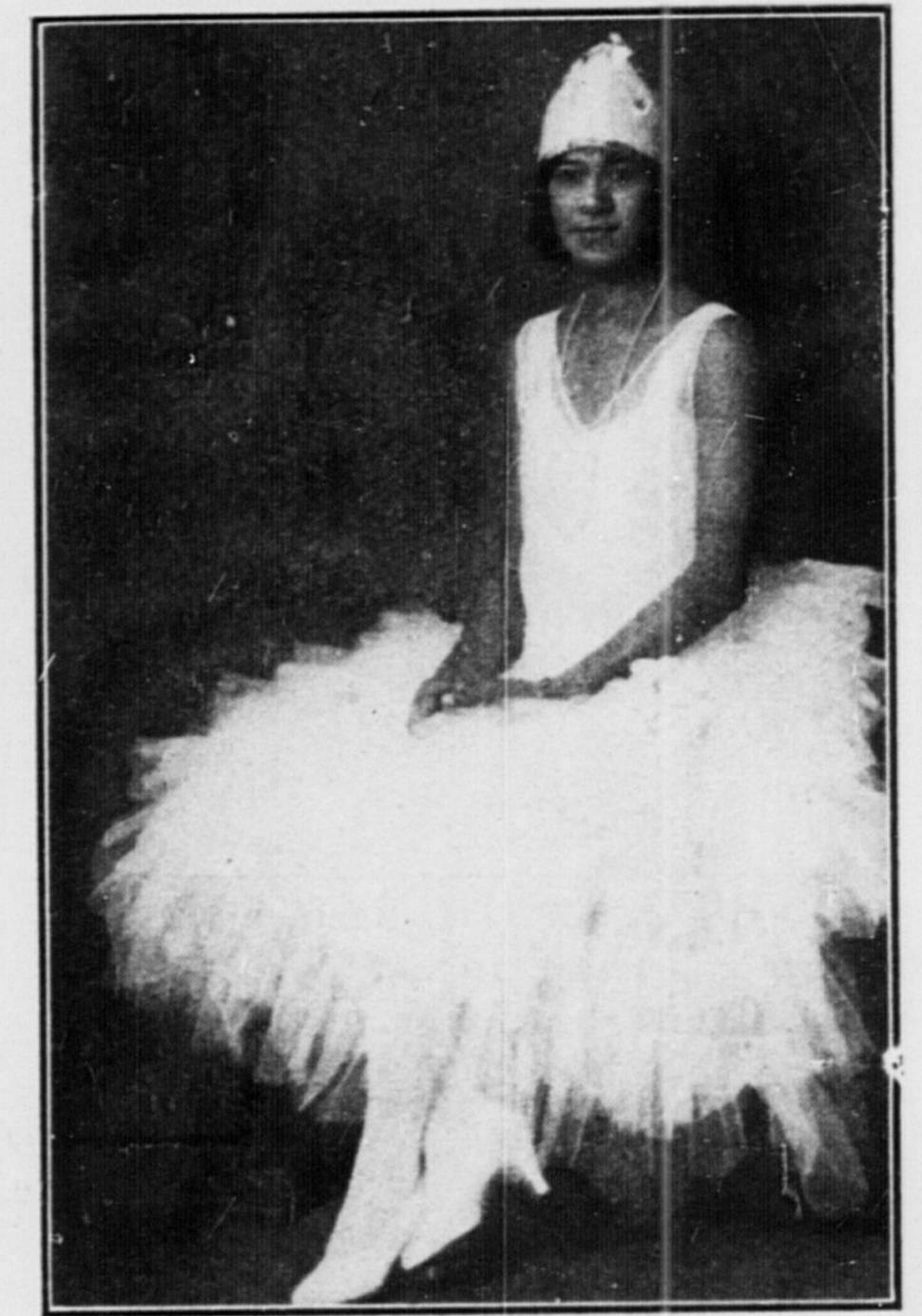
THE N.A.A.C.P. BATTLE FRONT

COLOR DISCRIMINATION IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

OR many years there has been protest and complaint about the treatment of colored Americans in the Civil Service at Washington, D. C. It has always, however, been difficult to make these charges definite. First, because the discrimination itself is indefinite and changes from administration to administration, and from year to year. Secondly, because it is hard to get reliable testimony. Those clerks who are already discriminated against are not anxious to invite further discrimination or even dismissal by making public complaint.

There has always been more or less color discrimination in Government Service. Before Emancipation there were no Negro employees except messengers and laborers. During Reconstruction when Negroes began to enter the Civil Service, they were by common consent or express order, segregated in parts of rooms or in rooms by themselves. Appointments in the Civil Service, even after reformed methods and examinations came in, were difficult to obtain by colored applicants.

Then, as the political influence of Negroes increased and trained colored applicants appeared, a larger number were appointed and it was more difficult to maintain racial discrimination. During the administrations of Cleveland, Harrison and McKinley race discrimination in government depart- A gations made by the National Asments was at a minimum. The ad- sociation for the Advancement of Colvent of the Wilson Administration ored People, give the following situain 1913 marked a determined ef- tion, which seems to be as near an apfort to put Negro Civil Service Ser- proximation of the truth as it is posvants "in their places". It is rumored sible to get. that the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson As to general color discrimination, started the effort when she discovered there are the following facts:



"Miss California" Miss Rosalind De Priest, \$511

that white and Negro clerks were eating together in some instances. After the Wilson Administration, in some cases, the Republicans increased the segregation, and in other cases they gave it up. The large number of clerks employed during the war brought in new color contacts and

A T present, two separate investi-

(1) Applicants for Civil Service positions are required to furnish a photograph. There are many reasons for this but there can be little doubt that the chief consequence is to enable the appointing power to weed out colored applicants. This has been openly acknowledged in many cases, and especially in such cases as those where the applicants did not look "colored" in their photographs.

(2) There is much unfair treatment in matters of rating and promotion. As, for instance, in the Washington City Post Office, white carriers get preferred routes and Negro clerks are never assigned to window duty or promoted beyond the grade of Special Clerk. They are never made Foremen or Assistant Foremen. In the Bureau of Engraving and Printing no colored woman has ever been appointed to the clerical staff, although there is no question but what they could do the work. There are probably other cases of this

Specific cases of open discrimination are not as widespread or as flagrant as they have been in the past or as many people have been led to believe. There is apparently no discrimination in the Departments of Agriculture, Department of Labor, or the State Department. There seems to be little, if any, in the War Department, and although there used to be a whole segregated wing of colored clerks in the Census Bureau, this has been abolished, and no segregation is apparent there today.

In some of these cases there is no segregation because there are either no colored clerks at all or very few. On the other hand, there are cases where white and colored clerks in appreciable (Will you please turn to page 387)



California N. A. A. C. P. Popularity Contest Miss Reverdia Woods Miss Dorothy Patton Miss Juanita Ellsworth Miss Yolanda Colomb Miss Velma White \$341