Edward H. Morris	Grand United Order of Odd Fellows.
W. H. Miller	Grand Secretary, Scottish Rite Masons.
Ruth Logan Roberts	Alpha Kappa Alpha.
Emmett J. Scott	Secretary-Treasurer, Howard University.
C. R. Taylor.	Secretary, Phi Beta Sigma.
Maggie L. Walker	Secretary-Treasurer, Independent Order of St. Luke.
Sadie Warren	Owner, New York Amsterdam News.
J. Finley Wilson	Grand Exalter Ruler, Independent Benevolent and
	Protective Order of Elks of the World.
J. C. Woods	President, National Baptist Convention, Uninc.

On February 12 Secretary of War John W. Weeks wrote the N. A. A. C. P. as follows:

"Mr. James Weldon Johnson, Secretary,

"National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Dear Sir:

"The petition presented by you to the President in behalf of the socalled Houston Rioters has been referred to the War Department for consideration.

"A few days ago I appointed a board of officers, consisting of one officer of The Adjutant General's Department and one officer of The Judge Advocate General's Department, to visit the United States penitentiaries at Atlanta, Georgia, and Leavenworth, Kansas, and the disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Fort Jay, New York, for the purpose of considering the cases of all military prisoners confined in the penitentiaries, and of all prisoners now in confinement in the disciplinary barracks mentioned above serving sentences of confinement of five years or more.

"The board of officers mentioned above is made up of the two officers of the War Department who handle matters pertaining to prisoners, and special attention will be given by the board to those cases in which sentences appear to be in excess of those adjudged by civil courts for like offenses. When this board shall have concluded its work, a similar board will be appointed for a like investigation at the United States Penitentiary, McNeil Island, Washington, and the United States Disciplinary Barracks, Alcatraz, California.

"The investigation by the board will include the sentence of the prisoners in whose behalf your petition was submitted.

"Sincerely yours,

"JOHN W. WEEKS, "Secretary of War."

The long and intensive campaign bore fruit when the War Department, after a thorough investigation, reduced the sentences of each of the men. The men were interviewed separately by the Investigating Board which went to Leavenworth, and it was on the report of this Board that the War Department's action was taken. The prison record of each man was taken into consider-

Reductions of varying lengths were given which, in view of the fact that all prisoners are eligible for parole at the expiration of one-third of their sentences, made eighteen men eligible for immediate parole, sixteen others within a year, sixteen in 1927, and the remaining four in 1928. A letter from Secretary of War Weeks to the Association's Secretary, under date of May 13, reads:

In harmony with the understanding with you, I am furnishing you the following information relative to the so-called Houston rioters:

Of the fifty-four of these men who were in confinement in the penitentiary when the board of officers visited that institution, thirty were serving life sentences. As the result of the recommendations of the board of officers, made after a most careful and exhaustive investigation and consideration of each case on its individual merits, ten of the thirty men under life sentences have received reductions in their sentences that will make them eligible for release on home parole during the calendar year 1925; and the remaining twenty have received reductions from life to thirty years, which will make sixteen of them eligible for home parole in 1927, and four of them eligible for home parole in 1928.

In passing upon these cases great weight was laid upon the evidence presented at the trial and the conduct in confinement of the prisoners concerned; and the investigation showed that the men whose sentences were reduced to thirty years were the more deeply involved in the affair, and had the poorer records of conduct in confinement. Of the other twenty-four prisoners involved in the Houston riot, serving sentences of less than life at the time of the investigation of the board, eighteen are eligible for parole during the calendar year 1924, and six will be eligible for home parole in 1925.

As this recent investigation has resulted in reductions in sentences in every case of the so-called Houston rioters, with the exception of six who are eligible for parole not later than August, 1924, and as the latest date under the modified sentences on which any prisoner will become eligible for home parole is August, 1928, it is considered that the War Department has been most liberal in its treatment of the prisoners.

Under a rule of the War Department governing the subject, the case of every military prisoner is considered for clemency at least once each year; and neither the recent investigation by the board of officers, nor any action taken upon its recommendation, will preclude the consideration annually of the case of each one of the prisoners involved.

Very truly yours, (Signed) JOHN W. WEEKS, Secretary of War.

Finally, one more man received a reduction which was not included in the letter from the Secretary of War. William J. Hudson was not at Leavenworth when the examining board made its