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EDITORIALS

ROCHESTER AS I SEE IT

by J. WALTER JONES, B. S.

This article appeared in the first issue of the Rochester Voice on October 1934 and caused a great sensation at this time. The author of this article, J. Walter Jones, while living in Rochester supported the candidacy of Judge Jacob Gitelman. Today Mr. Jones is a leading politician in New York City.

A few years ago I made a short visit to Rochester; the city impressed me to the extent that I made a return trip. This time I paid more attention to the social, economic and political condition of my race, rather than the beauty spots of the city.

I am still somewhat a stranger (though I have lived long enough in this city to become a Rochesterian). After mingling with the people of my race and scrutinizing people of the white race, I find that they live in a whirlpool of prejudice, checked in the state statute laws and covered with religious policies. These two elements protect the race relations of the city of Rochester from national ridicule.

With all fairness to the citizens of Rochester, regardless of race, creed or color, I cannot place the burden of fault upon any particular group's shoulders, but I must add that the Rochester Negro is far behind other cities in social, economic and political progress. These conditions, I firmly believe, must be changed through the efforts of the Negro citizens of the city. It is also my belief that three-fourths of our struggles will be eliminated through such metamorphosis.

Social adjustment is one of the first steps toward the betterment of our standard of living. A plan must be formulated that will lift the race to a social standard; this plan is a simple one: Our women must be taken out of the fields of domestic employment and encouraged to devote themselves to domestic home life. By this we will create better homes, strengthen the moral and cultural background for our children. With the burden of gainful employment placed entirely upon the shoulders of our male folk, it will give the race an opportunity to reach a higher standard of education which is the foundation of social progress.

I do not mean that I am in favor of pushing women from the fields of gainful employment, but I wish to make it clear that if our home life is given the attention by our women folk, our social opportunities will be one hundred per cent improved.

Economic developments should be the next point considered. In my experience with the Negro in other states and cities, I find that they fare best where they are as economically independent as can be possibly permitted. We, in Rochester, are far from being economically independent. I find two reasons for this: First, we are not concentrated—that is we live in broken groups, apart from each other. I do not believe in segregated communities but we mass economic wealth by being closely connected with each other. For instance, there is a Hart Store on a corner that exists off its volume of Negro trade and yet the Negroes are not strong enough in the district to force the grocer to employ Negroes. Our barbershops are scattered over the city in one and two chairs when there could be one large shop, centrally located in a Negro locality, that would give every competent barber in Rochester a job and at the same time, yield each one a substantial differential gain. Second: If our churches would look for their support from the surplus of their congregations' income, rather than dapping around in the restaurant business, they would realize more

continued on page 3

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ROCHESTER AS I SEE IT Continued from page 2

than one-half of their present assets. The restaurant business is a legitimate business and should be conducted by competent people. It would give employment to a number of persons, rather than the donation of services and food stuffs to the church that does nothing for the economic support of families.

The political advantages are related to the social and economic progress of the race. If we live in concentrated districts, our vote demands recognition; political prestige can only be realized from a machine that can control the movements of the political power house. Concentrated districts of Negroes, when social conditions are at par or above, raise the value of Negro business as well as Negro owned real estate. All of these elements make a complete atom of political advantages.

We as Negro citizens of Rochester, must throw our wholehearted co-operation behind these elements to realize any change in our general standard of living in this city. I firmly believe, that if we concentrate ourselves in one ward and its districts, coupled with giving our wholehearted support to the Monroe County Democrats (who are interested in the betterment of the Rochester Negro) we will run to place in the race of progress.

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**FRANK HORTON
COMMITTEE ORGANIZED**

The first meeting of the new Citizen's Committee for re-election of Congressman Frank Horton was held at the home of Mrs. Caroline Werner Gannett. Mrs. Gannett and Mr. Gaylord C. Whitaker have been elected co-chairmen by the executive committee formed two months ago.

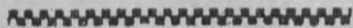
Plans were announced this evening for the September 30th opening of Headquarters for the committee at 67 East Ave. (the corner of East and Chestnut). The telephone number at that location will be HA 6-8390. Headquarters will serve as the central location for all volunteer activities and as a general information bureau for all voters. In addition, a schedule of special events including luncheons, fashion shows, special guest appearances, TV interviews and perhaps a fish fry will be announced.

Working under the co-chairmen, Mrs. Gannett and Mr. Whitaker, are the following members of the executive committee: Mrs. Kenneth Power, Mrs. Grover Lloyd, Mrs. Gaylord C. Whitaker, Mrs. Daniel G. Kennedy, Mrs. Daniel J. Meagher, Mrs. Mark Ellingson, Mrs. Saul S. Frankel, Mr. Peter French, Mr. Wayne M. Harris, Mr. William C. Wygant, Mr. E. Robert Anderson, Mr. William B. Power, Mr. John A. Tomlinson, Rev. Arthur L. Whitaker, Mr. Carl L. Stevenson, Dr. Matthew E. Fairbank.



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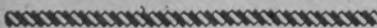
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The right to full enjoyment of all public facilities and prerogatives is an inherent right of all American citizens, sanctioned by our laws and by the highest principles of our democratic society. It must, therefore, be granted and enforced not only by constituted authorities, but by the daily acts of all Rochester citizens.

We, therefore, pledge ourselves, that by our personal acts and through our respective organizations -- from pulpits and pews, labor halls, classrooms, business institutions and offices of government -- we will do everything within our power which will establish these principles as the way of life in Rochester.

In our daily lives, we pledge ourselves to work vigorously to demonstrate that Rochester wants no race-inspired violence, but rather, that Rochester is determined to be a city of decency and democracy, where all citizens, regardless of race, creed, or color, may walk with heads high, in peace and dignity, with complete security, no matter where they work, play, live, pray, or go. This is our firm and fervent belief and our open declaration of action. We invite all Rochesterians to join with us in making these principles a firm controlling force in the life of our city.

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BABATUNDE OLATUNJI THE ARTIST

Babatunde Olatunji was born in Ajido, educated and raised in Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa. As a boy he sang in a choir and played drums in the African Methodist Church in Nigeria. He later attended Lagos Baptist Academy, worked in the Labor Dept. from 1947-49, came to the United States in 1950 on a rotary scholarship he won to Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga.

While at Morehouse, Olatunji was president of the student body, a member of YMCA and varsity track team. He worked intermittently at construction, tobacco picker and at other odd jobs to help defray expenses and pay for his studies. He has never learned to read or write music, but constant practice and exposure to other drummers at major festivals in his homeland developed his excellent natural talent.

So famous did he become as a drummer that 1958 found him appearing with a 66 piece symphony in Radio City Music Hall, N.Y.C., for a period of 7 weeks. He was featured soloist in a composition called "African Drum Fantasy".

The Olatunji story continues to be a fabulous one. He has worked with UNICEF; appeared on local and national radio and television networks for UNESCO on "Voice of AMERICA"; composed music and choreographed a scene in award winning "A Raisin in the Sun"; recorded a Columbia album entitled "Drums of Passion" and was consultant for the 1960 edition of Ballet L'Africaine.

Olatunji is married to the former Amy Bush, a graduate of Talledega College and Syracuse University. They have two children, Kwame and Folashade.

For the past eight years he has maintained and trained a composite group of Americans of African descent and Africans performing authentic African dances, songs. Olatunji is working for a doctor of philosophy degree in Public Administration at N.Y. University, plans a career in the Diplomatic Corps.



SENATOR KENNETH B. KEATING

Ken's candidacy and urge the voters to return him to the Senate so that he can continue his distinguished representation of our state.

I will support Senator Keating and his position on the important issues involved in this campaign. For nearly twenty years, Ken Keating has served our state fully and faithfully. As the Congressman from this district for 12 years, he responsibly represented us and our interests. And, for the past six years, Senator Keating has become a man of truly national prominence, working for the preservation of peace and protecting the rights of our entire state.

Ken's is a distinguished record. Because of its merit, his candidacy deserves solid support.

There is no one better qualified in experience, ability, and concern for the people of his native state. I know the voters realize this and will return Ken to the Senate with an overwhelming margin of victory.

SENATOR KEATING NOMINATION
The action of the New York State Republican Committee in nominating Senator Kenneth Keating for re-election to the United States Senate was wisely decided and well served. I enthusiastically endorse

I intend to concentrate a part of my campaign on Senator Keating's re-election, as well as putting my record before the people.

Rep. Frank Horton

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