A Salute

CITIZEN, FLEMING B. SHORTS—WE SALUTE THEE. It was Sir Francis Bacon who said, "If we succeed in making one good and true friend during one's life time, while passing this way, this is indeed a great accomplishment." We realize how long and how well you have served the citizens of this great and thriving metropolis. We are also cognizant and aware of the special services that you have rendered to the inquiring public as well as to the weary traveler-representative of that vast number of world travelers, men and women, who have sojourned for a time within our midst. Yes, we truly believe that your friends are legion and justly so, for you have served your fellowman faithfully and well.

February is the month of his birth also. The gallant rise of this man from slavery to distinction, wrote a novel and intriguing page in the history of the black man in America.

According to the autobiography of Frederick Douglass, February is the month of his birth also. The gallant rise of this man from slavery to distinction, wrote a novel and intriguing page in the history of the black man in America.

And February, for the past quarter of a century has been recognized as Brotherhood Month, containing Negro History Week and Race Relations (Continued on Page 2)
**The Negro's Attitude in Politics**

There are some questions which it seems to me, need no discussion, because the truths in them are self-evident; and yet, so perverse is the human understanding, that unanimity upon any subject of common interest is rare in social ethics, and by social ethics, I mean the philosophy of organized government in all of its multifarious life.

How intricate and perplexing these questions are; even the uninstructed intuitively understand, although they cannot explain them. Many while the ignorant and learned alike wrangle and oft fight over the means to reach ends upon which there is no disagreement.

Thus, a therefore, no phase of the Afro-American problem upon the proper solution of which there is not a substantial agreement among the members of the race. The processes by which the solution shall be resorted are the bases of the disagreements and discussions, which often defeat the common wish and aim.

"What should be the Negro's attitude in politics?" is a sophomoric, rather than a practical question. What he should do at a given crisis is answered by what he has done ever since the right to vote was conferred upon him by the adoption of the war amendments to the Federal Constitution.

NEITHER THREATS, fire, rope nor bullet has been powerful enough to swerve him from pursuing the course made mandatory by his self interests. He may have pursued this course by the intricate processes of reasoning employed by educated men, or of intuition employed by the unintellect. The fact remains that his attitude has been one of sympathy toward those who were unmistakably sympathetic and friendly towards him and as unmistakably antagonistic and troublesome to those who were antagonistic to him. With him as with the rest of mankind, "self-preservation is the first law of nature."

And, why not? the bunker's attitude in politics is governed by the policy that serves his selfish interests best; the publisher's attitude is the same. The same role of conduct governs all men in their social and civil relations to the state.

In a republic, government by party is the fundamental basis of it. There must be parties or there can be government; this is true equally of democracies and monarchies. The primary is the basis of party government. His selfish interests, of whatever sort, makes it necessary for every citizen who wishes to conserve those interests, to belong to some one party. As with the rest of mankind, "self-preservation is the first law of nature."

What his attitude in politics should be now will be what

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The resulting list, compiled from the records of the U.S. Patent Office, shows that more than 400 patents had been granted to Negro inventors; but it was not until 1936, that a definite attempt was made to obtain information regarding the race of patentees.

In 1900, the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition mailed out letters to hundreds of patentees throughout the country — to large manufacturing establishments, to the various newspaper editors by colored men and to prominent members of Congress requesting that they furnish the names, titles of inventions, dates of grants, and the number of as many colored inventors as they knew or knew of.

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Negroes and Politics

In January of 1961, the following letter was mailed to City Mgr. Humblin and copies were also mailed to the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle newspaper.

My letter of June 14, 1946, was a courteous request and was given to the Rev. Duford, Prime Jr., however no action has been taken with regard to this letter. This letter becomes more interesting now because the Negro Relations Committee has invited the president of the Rochester Real Estate Board, Mr. Verne Holmes, to help us against Negroes seeking to rent or purchase housing in the Rochester area. The editor contacted Mr. James Gent, a few days ago.

Sincerely yours,

The Honourable Mr. Mayor

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Letters Celebre

(Continued from Page 3)

For a number of years, I have engaged in selling property, mostly property and at various periods I have been a member salesman of the Rochester Real Estate Board and have also served in the field of property management for the Monroe County Savings Bank from 1938 to 1947. On January 1st of this year, I resigned from the Rochester Real Estate Board. I have fought all types of discrimination in this community for the past 25 years. I have found that housing problems portrays the most despicable and un-American attitude found anywhere in these United States. It has also found that a Negro salesman or business-man must never disturb the "status quo," and I have found that most minority groups pay only lip service to the much-vaunted spirit of "liberation" which exists here in Rochester. On the subject of buying and selling private property, mainly homes, through a reasonable home talk tactfully, emanating mainly from the general direction of your Rehabilitation Commission.

Your Rehabilitation Commission claims that their work has been outstanding in every way and that under Section 101 of the Government Manual (which states that persons in the immediate area can purchase homes without a down payment, provided that "they qualify") many families have been relocated. They state further that possibly 60 or 70 homes have been purchased through the Federal Government in cooperation with the State of New York and the municipality. What they failed to state, however, is that scores of home owners in this particular area will never again during their lifetime—baring a miracle—a be in position to purchase another home. This presents a pathetic picture which we think in terms of those people having worked all their lives in order to purchase and maintain a dwelling place. Briefly, we will give a few examples. Let us suppose that Mr. Jones purchased an 8-room single house, assessed (by 1917 valuations)—and we must remember that these valuations have been permitted to remain unchanged and he has been quite aged homes) at $2,500. The purchase price of the house was $10,500 and the buyer has made a down payment of $1,500. Causes the Rehabilitation Commission to buy the house and home for $3,500. The assumption is that the first mortgage must be satisfied, and there are back taxes which must be brought up to date—all this out of the $3,500 which he has received. In the last analysis, this home owner can't pay the money left to buy his house anywhere, His problem is further complicated by the fact that he is hedged in by various restrictions as to his ability to "qualify" under Section 101; these being his age, his lack of sufficient funds for a down payment, and his inability to obtain a mortgage. The instrument of the affair is that the poor man takes his few hundred dollars and through the efforts of the Rehabilitation Commission he is moved into one of the ramshackle houses in the area. The Commission has failed to mention these problems and what is being done in these cases.

And now, Sir, I must be a bit personal—but I should add that what I am saying I will admit it, these conditions which I set down here apply as well to every Negro broker and salesman in the City of Rochester. As I mentioned previously, I have resigned from the Real Estate Board—but I have retained my Real Property License. And these are my reasons for resigning:

I am tired of asking at shady deals and of being asked to sell through a third party; I am tired of being asked to show houses at night; I am tired of trying to sell houses that are priced three and four thousand dollars above their true value; I am tired of selling falsehoods to people about where they can and cannot buy; I am tired of selling old homes and not being able to sell new houses to the people with whom I am identified; I am tired of holding a deceitful smile in the neighborhoods to which I take my clients; I am tired of telling my debtors that I will have money to pay my just debts and conferring with the Credit Bureau on a frequency of once a week. I am tired of supporting American prejudice that is rampant here in Rochester in this necessary field.

In closing, I challenge you and your committee, the present interested citizens, volunteer social workers and philanthropists, etc. in this matter of forming committees. I challenge you to form a committee to do something about these very pressing problems—these are the facts of the case. I have enough faith left to serve on such a committee if any of you possess enough faith in the "American Dream" to form such a one.

I am sending copies of this communication to the daily papers not with a feeling of animosity, but with a desire to acquaint the public with a situation that has cropped up in particular community of which the taxpayers of this city and county have an integral part.

Respectfully yours, Howard W. Coles

Editor's note: Be sure to read ... concluding letters from the TU and D & C—plus the Real Estate Code... in our next issue.

Out-of-Town Trips A Specialty

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Time Calls Taken.

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Negro Inventor

(Con't from Page 3)

W. B. Purvis of Philadelphia has 18 patents relating to paper-bag machinery. F. J. Ferrell, born in Philadelphia, has 10 patents on valves adapted for a variety of uses. The former was the first Negro to be admitted to the bar in Washington D. C., and the latter is a member of the South Carolina General Assembly and serves on agricultural machinery.

Negroes assisted Eli Whit¬

nington's invention. One Negro worked along with George W. Murray. He has 16 patents relating to paper bag machinery. American industry will gain much when more Negro youth have the opportunity to serve in engineering and American factories.

AND CLOSELY allied with the subjects of Negroes and inventions is the field of discoveries in which the leader was George Washington Carver. Though as a baby, this man was so frail that his master felt he would never survive long enough to become a useful slave, he lived to an old age. He discovered from the peanuts and soybean the starch that made from the red clay of Alabama. He is a living reminder of what has been accomplished which was not known.--to the unique gift of Negroes to contribute something new in this area.

Baden Progress

Thirty of the 33 former Baden-Ormond families who have received no property under no-down payment mortgages re¬

ceived homes last week.

This is one of several en¬
couraging features of the Ba¬

den-Ormond project, Russell Traunstein, assistant executive director of the Rochester Rehabilitation Commission, said today in a progress report.

Other points:

About 50 other families have bought property in various kinds of financing.

In all, about 240 families have been relocated with the assistance of the commissioner's staff.

About 240 more families have moved, or are in the process of moving, without city assistance, usually from dwellings that had not yet been acquired by the city.

This is where trouble crops up for the Rehabilitation Commission. It has to trace those who are buying property under the law on slum clearance is aimed at discouraging families from moving into a new home when they have the old one.

In 12 cases, families have moved on their own from Baden-Ormond to substantial housing elsewhere in Rochester. The city can only sug¬

Based on the information provided, here are some key points regarding the relocation of families from the Baden-Ormond neighborhood:

- Thirty of the 33 former Baden-Ormond families who had been relocated under no-down payment mortgages received homes last week.
- This is one of several encouraging features of the Baden-Ormond project, as noted by Russell Traunstein, assistant executive director of the Rochester Rehabilitation Commission.
- About 50 other families have purchased property in various kinds of financing, while another 240 families have moved or are in the process of moving to new homes, without city assistance.
- The city faces challenges in tracing those who have moved to new homes when they could have received assistance.
- In 12 cases, families have moved to higher-quality housing on their own.