

The National Urban League grew out of the Committee on Urban Conditions among Negroes, which was formed in 1910 by a young Negro graduate student in social work at Columbia University, George Edmund Haynes, and Mrs. William H. Baldwin, Jr., a white woman who had been active in the League for the Protection of Colored Women. The League's objectives were the improvement of the industrial and living conditions of city Negroes, with special reference to the broadening of occupational opportunities. Interracial in composition, its sponsors included Julius Rosenwald, Roger Baldwin, Booker T. Washington, L. Hollingsworth Wood, Kelly Miller and the Negro journalist Fred R. Moore. The first chairman of its board was Edwin R. A. Seligman of Columbia University, and its executive officers were Haynes and Eugene Kinkle Jones, a Cornell graduate who had specialized in economics and sociology. He became its executive secretary in 1914.

With headquarters in New York, the Urban League soon had branches in major cities across the country.

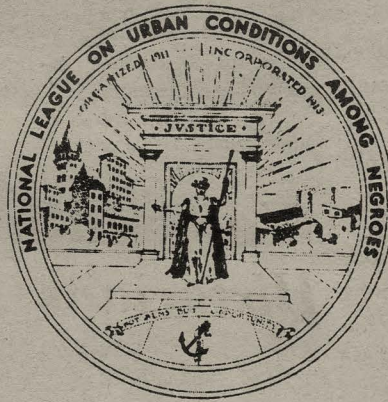
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE Founded 1910

The sociologist Charles S. Johnson became in 1921 its director of research and investigation. In 1923 he founded the League's magazine *Opportunity, A Journal of Negro Life*, whose motto was "Not Alms, but Opportunity." The Urban League sought to overcome discrimination in employment and, by counsel and persuasion, to induce industries employing no Negroes to give them opportunities for work and industrial training. It sought to have those plants and foundries which used Negroes only in jobs of unskilled labor to upgrade them according to ability. It sought to ease the difficulties of adjustment between white employers and black employees. It developed a program and set up fellowships for the training of young social workers. Some of the most distinguished personalities in that field gained their training and early experience through the Urban League. The annual conferences of the National Urban League became significant gatherings for social workers of both races from all over America.



WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR.

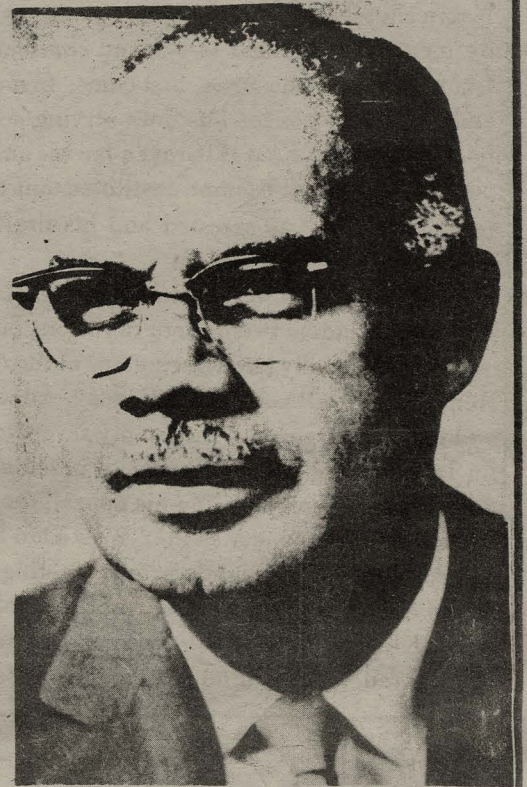
"Which way America....."



The seal of the National Urban League, whose slogans are "Jobs at All Levels," "Vocational Guidance," "Better Housing," "Better Health," "Education and Good Citizenship."



EUGENE KINKLE JONES



LESTER GRANGER

A Salute to Black History Month

Seattle Urban League

JEROME PAGE
Executive Director



BOOKER TALIAFERRO
WASHINGTON
1856-1915

Educator and statesman, Booker T. Washington was Frederick Douglass' successor as the foremost American Negro leader of his day. Unlike Douglass, Washington was never to hold official federal office, but he managed, nonetheless, to exert considerable influence upon several areas of public affairs—in particular, civil rights.

Washington was born a slave in Hale's Ford, Virginia, reportedly in April 1856. It is known that he entered Hampton Institute in 1872 and graduated four years later. After teaching for a short while, he continued his studies at Wayland Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Washington founded Tuskegee Institute in 1881, at the same time becoming its first president. Later, in addition to instituting a variety of programs for rural extension work there, he helped establish the National Negro Business League.

In sharp contrast to his famous predecessor, Washington was intent on setting forth a less militant and more conciliatory policy with respect to civil rights. Already in 1884, he emphasized the fact that "the best cause to pursue in regard to the civil rights bill in the South is to let it alone . . . and it will settle itself."

Some 11 years later, in his now-famous speech at the opening of the Cotton States Exposition, he expounded views that—by their very moderation—were to turn most Negro intellectuals against him. It was even feared in certain quarters that the stand he was taking would only serve to encourage the foes of equal rights.

His central theme was that Negroes would best protect the rights vouchsafed them by the U. S. Constitution through their own economic and moral advancement; his major task, in this connection, was to win over to his moderate course diverse elements among Southern whites, without whose support the program he envisaged would have been impossible.

We salute Black History

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