Politics
Texas - Primaries
N-R-Grovey - case

May
23rd
1935 (Dictated May 22nd)

My dear Mr. Evans:

I have been, as you perhaps have learned from the newspapers, constantly in Washington in the fight for the Costigan-Wagner bill and against the southern filibuster in which your Senator Connally played an inglorious role. This explains my delay in answering your fine letter of April 28th.

I am glad that you in Texas have put so eloquently into words some of my feeling regarding the case of Grovey v. Patterson. Despite the circumstances, we cannot-- we must not-- permit ourselves to become embittered or discouraged. We must proceed in every possible way to retrieve the ground which has been lost in the battle in which, to date, there has been nothing but a succession of victory.

It is indeed heartening to have your vigorous statement regarding the necessity of unifying all efforty behind the N.A.A.C.P. I do not say this selfishly. If there were a better organization I would as sincerely support it. But I continue working with the N.A.A.C.P. because it is the most effective machinery that I have seen to date or see any prospect of the Negro's having for attainment of those things which are denied him and which are so necessary to his advancement.

I would be grateful to you if you would let me know specifically what steps you recommend for the most economical and effective way of organizing the State. Mr. Pickens wrote you several times about his coming to the State this past spring and, if I remember correctly, told me that he had no reply to any of his letters. Your letter of April 28th explains why he did not hear. I am mailing Mr. Pickens a copy of your letter of the 28th and of this reply so that he may be informed. Perhaps he could arrange in the fall to spend some time in Texas if a sufficiently effective schedule and program for organization of branches can be worked out in the meantime.

Again let me tell you how much I appreciate your letter.

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And may I add another personal word. On June 25th there opens at St. Louis the Twenty-sixth Annual Conference of the N.A.A.C.P., continuing in session through Sunday, June 30th. At that time we are going to discuss, among other things, the new and enlarged program of the N.A.A.C.P. as it commences the second quarter-century. It would be a great thing if you could meet with us and lend your sage wisdom and wide experience in helping us draft this new program. I do not need to emphasize how critical is the situation facing us as a race today. I wish we were financially able to pay your expenses but we just are not. Had we had the money for simple expenses like enough telegrams, stenographic service and the like, we could have made an even more effective fight for the anti-lynching bill and against the filibuster. But we didn't have it-- we expended $2,223.01, received only $1,254.18, and are faced with an actual deficit on what has been done to date of $968.83. Right now we are faced with the question of whether or not we are going to be able to stage the second round of the fight in the Seventy-fourth Congress just when victory is within our grasp because we haven't the money with which to pay even the barest expenses.

So do get in that fine car of yours, drive up to St. Louis and help us at the St. Louis Conference to make the N.A.A.C.P. even more the effective fighting machine that you and I want it to be.

Cordially,

Secretary.

R. D. Evans, Esq.,
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Waco,
Texas.

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