

April, 1937

FELLOWSHIPS

The programs of Negro fellowships and of southern white fellowships are being administered in accordance with the votes of the trustees at the meeting held November 14, 1936. Raymond Paty, formerly dean of men at Emory University, became director of the fellowship programs on December 1, 1936, and the following are serving as the committee of award:

W. W. Alexander, Charles S. Johnson, Henry Allen Moe, and the President of the Fund.

Even more interest than expected has been aroused by the new fellowship program. Some 840 formal applications were received before the closing date for this year's candidates, February 28, 1937. Of the total somewhat more than 500 were from Negroes. While fewer applications from white southerners were received, the number was unexpectedly large in view of the newness of the program and the brief period between announcement and the closing date.

The quality of the applications was also gratifying. Although a large number were perfunctory appeals from undistinguished persons, more than 200 of the applications are from highly qualified candidates who present definite programs of work and who promise very considerable additions to the leadership of their respective groups. The fellowship committee has had two meetings, one for general outlining of the program and the other, held March 20 and 21, for preliminary selection of candidates. The final awards are to be made at meetings to be held April 12 and 13. Preliminary selections indicate some eighteen white southerners and some thirty-three Negroes who are of such distinction as almost to demand awards, the total cost of which would run to \$77,000. In addition there are at least five candidates in each group who would receive awards if there were available funds.

It is clear that the number and amount of the awards must be determined somewhat arbitrarily by the amount of money set aside each year by the trustees. The judgment of the committee is that the amount required for the optimum of service is somewhere between \$75,000 (the amount set aside last autumn) and \$100,000. It should be remembered that the wise and careful administration of the program is a large factor in its success or failure. We have estimated that approximately \$11,000 a year will be required for the salary of the director and his assistants and for the large correspondence and considerable amount of travel involved in proper administration. This cost of administration must either be subtracted from the amount available for grants or must be provided in addition to the fund appropriated for awards.

It is suggested that the sum of \$100,000 be set aside for next year's fellowship program, including both awards and administration, and that of this sum, not to exceed \$10,000 may be used during the current year. This will give us a full year for working out the program in detail without crystallizing either the administration or the total awards at a fixed level. The development of personnel in both the groups concerned is so important to all of the Fund's work and the trustees have expressed so deep an interest in this program that it seems desirable to give the fellowship committee adequate leeway for developing an optimum program.

The following action is recommended:

RESOLVED that the sum of One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) be and it is hereby appropriated for fellowships, it being understood that the major part of this fund shall be held for awards and administration in 1937-38, but that up to Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of this sum may in the discretion of the fellowship committee be used in the fellowship program of the current year.