

## Importance of History Week

Every year about this time someone asks us whether we think that we should continue the annual observance of Negro History Week.

Each time we have answered "yes." This year, we are more convinced than ever that the observance should be continued, and here's why:

When *Life* magazine recently published its special mid-century issue—"American Life and Times, 1900-1950"—it failed completely to report, by words or pictures, any worthwhile accomplishments of colored Americans during that period.

While admitting that this omission was "probably our worst mistake," *Life*, nevertheless followed a pattern established by many historians, movie producers, newspapers, national advertisers etc., of completely ignoring an important segment of America's population or else of depicting that segment in an unfavorable light.

Negro History Week grew out of a desire to fill in for posterity these blank pages of American history and Dr. Carter G. Woodson and his associates have, with limited funds, done a most remarkable job along this line.

Through the schools, churches, press, radio, and civic organizations the story of the contributions made by America's largest minority is gaining circulation.

Unfortunately, there are still thousands of people who are not being reached by these media—people who are still totally ignorant of what has been accomplished, often against great odds.

A few may know of Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, and Dr. Ralph Bunche, but how many know of Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Phyllis Wheatley, Benjamin Banneker, Dr. Ernest Just, Richard Wright, Mrs. Mary Bethune, Dr. Mordecai Johnson and hundreds of others?

Yes, we would like to see the day when the observance of Negro History Week will no longer be necessary—when there will be just one history of America which will be all-inclusive and objective.

That day, however, no matter how optimistic we may be, is still a long way off.