

What A White Paper Says

The following editorial, under the heading "The New Negro," appeared in The Rochester (N. Y.) Times-Union

The New Negro

In Amos 'n' Andy and the Kingfish the American people have taken to their hearts the stereotyped Negro of the Old South, bungling, pretentious, sentimental, happy-go-lucky, child of nature. These three entertainers, with Lightning, fit into the conventional picture of colored psychology.

But it will be observed that in dialect, mannerisms and mental processes, Brother Crawford, Lawyer Collins and Henry Van Porter are not living up to the tradition we associate with the Negro. They evidence a "white" psychology. Indeed some listeners have been puzzled to the point of assuming these characters to be impersonators of white men. Not so. They represent the new Negro, educated, in-

telligent, moving up the social scale.

This popular radio feature is true to fact in this sharp division of its personnel. There is a Negro in our midst who is displacing the conventional type. Every community is able to produce a Lawyer Collins or a Henry Van Porter. The war gave the colored man a chance. Post-war conditions dispersed him far and wide into the white man's domain. His racial organizations have presented his claims to a hearing and an opportunity. He is moving steadily into a new day. He is not exactly demanding a place in the sun, but is taking it by merit.

Amos and Andy and the Kingfish are echoes of a fading tradition. Enjoy them while you may. For their children may boast a Harvard accent, honestly acquired.