NEW YORK, Feb. 2.-- In an appeal to Governor John S. Battle for executive clemency for the remaining three men convicted in the case of the Martinsville Seven, Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, today warned that these executions would be "exploited throughout the Orient and Africa as another demonstration of American color prejudice."

"The execution this morning of four of the Martinsville Seven for a crime for which no white man in Virginia has ever paid the extreme penalty graphically exposes the inequality of sentences imposed upon Negro and white defendants," Mr. White said in a wire to the Governor.

"Already this mass execution is being exploited throughout the Orient and Africa as another demonstration of American color prejudice. There is yet time to commute the death sentences imposed upon the remaining three men. I urge you to exercise this executive clemency not only as an act of mercy, but also in the interest of national security at a time when our country desperately needs the understanding and support of non-white nations throughout the world."

Unable to fly because of poor weather conditions, NAACP lawyers, in last minute efforts to save the lives of the men, drove frantically over the dangerously icy roads of Virginia, trying vainly to contact a Federal judge who would grant a stay of execution. They went to Charlotte, N. C. to see Judge John J. Parker of the Circuit Court of Appeals and to Washington to see Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson of the United States Supreme Court. Meanwhile other NAACP lawyers appealed directly to Governor Battle for commutation of the sentences.

Shortly before midnight Thursday, Attorneys Martin A. Martin, S. W. Tucker and Frank Reeves placed a final plea before Chief Justice Vinson. The Chief Justice rejected the plea on the grounds that the Supreme
Court had twice refused to review the case. Earlier in the day, Judges Parker, Dobie, and Soper of the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals had individually turned down appeals submitted to them by Martin and Tucker.

In Richmond, the appeals made by Attorneys Oliver W. Hill and Spottswood W. Robinson III were likewise rejected by Governor Battle. After their various pleas had been rejected, the attorneys stated that the NAACP had exhausted every possible legal and non-legal step to save the lives of these men, without success. They indicated that they knew of no further possible action that could be taken.

U. OF MARYLAND TO ADMIT NEGROES TO ALL FACILITIES February 2, 1951

Baltimore, Feb. 2.-- The University of Maryland today opened the doors of its school of engineering to a Negro student and indicated that it has now adopted a policy of admitting Negro students to all schools, colleges and facilities at the University of Maryland where such facilities have not been provided separately for Negroes on an equal basis.

The action culminated a two-year fight by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to secure the admission of Harram Whittle of Baltimore as an undergraduate student in the engineering school. President Harry C. Byrd of the University of Maryland notified Donald Murray, the attorney handling the case for the Baltimore branch of the NAACP, that Whittle is to report for registration on Monday, February 5.

The trial of the suit which the NAACP had brought against the University, scheduled to be held on January 30, was cancelled by mutual consent when the Attorney-General of Maryland indicated that he would accept a consent decree ordering Whittle's admission to the University.

In the meantime, the state's Board of Regents issued a statement indicating that unless the state provided facilities for Negro students substantially equal under the law to those provided for whites, the bi-racial education system would have to be terminated. A request to the state legislature for appropriations to build up equal facilities for Negroes was refused.