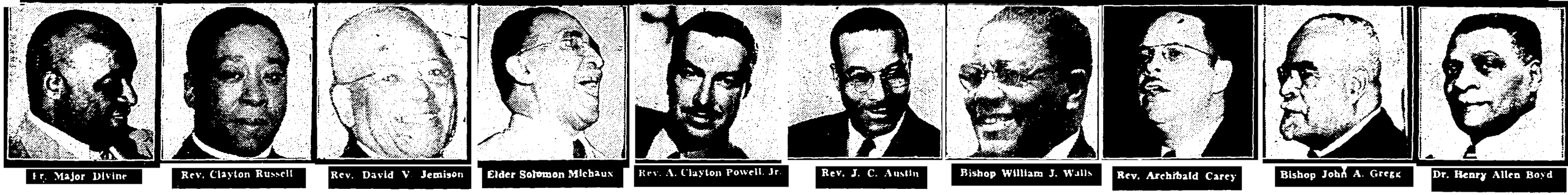


# Picked For Personal Power In U. S. Affairs

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## THE BIG TEN OF U.S. RELIGION



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#### THE JURY

They Selected the BIG TEN IN U.S. RELIGION



One of the most powerful forces in the history of the Negro in America has been the church.

During the dark days of slavery, it provided surcease from drudgery, humiliation and oppression, and was the ladder of hope to which a hopeless people clung.

With the shackles of physical bondage gone, the church became an instrument of enlightenment and a bubbling fount of inspiration and guidance in a dark unfriendly world.

Today, as potent as ever, its mission is as complicated as the world in which its communicants live and have their being.

As an economic force, the collective church controls more wealth than any other Negro institution.

As an agency concerned with the physical welfare of the people, it assumes a responsibility greater than that of any private organization.

It maintains more schools and provides more funds for education than any other private source.

It is one of the race's greatest producers of leadership, not only in the field of religion, but in politics, education and business as well.

And finally it is, and shall always  
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Mrs. Gaines is president of the Chicago Council of Negro Organizations; Mrs. Joyner, vice president of the Mme. C. J. Walker Manufacturing Co., in charge of education, is also president of the National Association of Negro Beauticians; Mr. Carter is president of the National Alliance of Postal Employees and most worshipful grand master of Prince Hall Masons of Illinois; Miss McKissack is president of the Chicago Metropolitan Council, National Council of Negro Women; Mrs. Brown is president of the Illinois Housewives League; Mr. Owens, former three-event Olympic champion, is public relations representative for the Leo Rose Co., Chicago.

# Big Ten

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be the supreme basis of the strong spiritual faith that has been the guiding force in the forward surge of a strong, ambitious people.

It is for this reason that the selection made by the Chicago Defender's layman jury of the 10 most important religious leaders in the United States is important and significant.

Bases for their selection were (1) their national popularity; (2) the size of their following; (3) the loyalty of their followers; (4) their social and political influence, and (5) and the financial strength of the denomination they represent.

Ministers listed in this series were selected on the basis of their individual personalities and not because they represent any specific denomination.

With these factors in mind the jury selected the following religious leaders as the most powerful in the country:

**FATHER MAJOR DIVINE**, founder and leader of a religious cult which has millions of followers all over the world is undoubtedly one of America's most popular ministers. Hundreds of feats demonstrating the loyalty of his followers have made interesting reading time and again.

Divine's "heavens" which have sprouted up all over the country are numerous peopled by devout followers who believe that Divine's word is **THE LAW**. Their financial contributions have given the Divine movement a wealth estimated at well in the millions.

**ELDER LIGHTFOOT SOLOMON MICHAUX** struggled up from fish peddling in Newport News, Va. to have his religious exploits headlined by editors across the country. Stating that he wants to set up a million altars in homes by radio, this minister combines showmanship, choirs, bands and old-time religion to keep his capacity congregation coming back for more.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill consider that this shrewd business man, who owns the \$5,000,000 Washington Mayfair Housing project, wields a great deal of influence.

Dynamic pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist church, Congressman **APAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.**, is the spiritual guiding light for the biggest Baptist church in America and the temporal guiding light for the great New York electorate who put him in office.

No New York or national election is considered without taking into cognizance Congressman Powell's political influence.

**THE REV. JUNIUS C. AUSTIN** of Chicago's mighty Pilgrim Baptist church boosted that church's flagging membership from 1,500 to more than 12,000. He seldom makes appeals for financial aid in the church's undertakings. However, when he does, the response is immediate and almost phenomenal.

His interest and leadership in

civic matters make him a mighty force to reckon with in any political picture which concerns the South Side of Chicago, as well as national elections.

The **REV. CLAYTON D. RUSSELL**, pastor of Los Angeles' People's Independent Church of Christ is one of California's most active Democrats as well as one of the state's most civic-minded ministers.

Worshipped by his thousands of followers, Rev. Russell, who names presidents and governors among his friends, has an enviable record of political and civic achievements.

Working his way up from janitor inside the National Baptist Publishing Board's plant to become secretary-treasure of this powerful religious publishing house, **DR. HENRY ALLEN BOYD** is the president of Nashville's Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company. Boyd wields a great deal of weight through the influential offices he holds in many business, church and political organizations.

Internationally-noted educator, **BISHOP JOHN A. GREGG**, senior Bishop of the AME church and presiding over the fifth Episcopal District, is a former president of Florida's Edward Waters college, of Wilberforce University, and was elected as the first Negro president of Howard University but did not accept.

During the war, President Roosevelt sent Bishop Gregg to tour all theaters of combat to make a personal inspection of Negro troops. Erudite Gregg's opinion is highly respected in religious, political and especially educational circles everywhere.

The powerful **BISHOP WILLIAM J. WALLS** is chairman of the Board of Religious Education and the Board of Publication of the AME Zion church. Bishop Walls has traveled extensively around the world in his capacity as a churchman and was the only Negro member of the American Clergymen's Commission to occupied Europe sent by the Secretary of War.

Venerable 76-year old **REV. DAVID V. JEMISON** is president of the National Baptist Convention of the U.S.A. which boasts more than four million members and represents \$115 million in churches, schools, missions and even an African rubber plantation.

Strong, mute testimony of Rev. Jemison's popularity, influence and leadership is the fact that this fiery orator and former small town preacher has literally commanded the highly-independent, big Baptist vehicle for the past nine years.

Red-headed, fiery, Rev. **ARCHIBALD C. CAREY, JR.** pilots the spiritual destinies of the congregation at venerable Quinn Chapel, Chicago's oldest Negro church.

Carey, a youthful alderman who is a constant thorn in the side of racial bigotry in the City Council, throws a lot of weight from his pulpit as well as in Chicago's provocative political arena.