HEAR PROF. EUBANKS

Four members of Bethel AME Church talk with Prof. Robert A. Eubanks, right, speaker at the church's Saturday night Lincoln-Allen-Douglass banquet, in the Brass Rail Restaurant. From left are Mrs. Carl Nelson, the Rev. Blaine Ramsey, Mrs. Nettie Cook and Mrs. Wilda Herndon.

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Bethel AME Members Told:

Negro Hardships Could Open Door to Greatness

Opportunity is there but "we usually don't recognize it because it goes around wearing overalls and looking like hard work," a speaker told Bethal AME Church members Saturday night.

Robert A. Eubanks, University of Illinois engineering professor, spoke to the church members at their annual Lincoln-Allen-Douglass Banquet in Brass Rail restaurant.

Prof. Eubanks noted that he was not trying to play down the burdens of being a Negro in America. "The trouble is that we don't see the thing in its correct light.

"The white American has forced us to live in cold, windy houses. That toughens us up."

All of this "should made us give more attention to good education and good work habits," the speaker added.

Chance for Superiority

"If you look at the picture this way, you will see that the white American is trying to develop us into a superior race. All we have to do is cash in on our opportunities."

The dinner is held annually to honor Abraham Lincoln; Frederick Douglass, a Negro and prime force in the American abolitionist movement, and Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Prof. Eubanks said that about all these men had in common was their relationship to the history of the American Negro and their achievement of greatness "by taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them.

Opportunities There

"There are all kinds of opportunities — big ones like opportunity for personal success in life and opportunity to help others achieve happiness and contentment. Smaller ones like the opportunity for a promotion or a nicer house. . .or just the opportunity to bring a smile to the face of another human being."

Prof. Eubanks observed that opportunities are found in many places, at home, at work and at church.

"In some ways," he said, "the church is an interesting paradox in this regard for us as American Negroes.

"It has been a major source of solace and comfort in our lives when the concepts of American freedom and liberty seemed to carry a 'White Only' sign.

Another Side to Coin

"It has been a major source of leadership in our fight to achieve the sweetmeats of the American Dream and has furnished rallying points for that fight.

"But there is another side of the coin. Sometimes we have become so concerned with the theology of the Church and so satisfied with the prospect of everlasting redemption that we accept the indignities and disappointments which we suffer in mortal life with a crippling complacency."

Prof. Eubanks urged preserverance in housing and employment and called for night school, correspondence school and work to "overcome the two strikes against you."

Proposed UF Change Told

Jack Coyle, director of the United Fund of Champaign County, Friday told a Red Cross board meeting of the proposed UF constitutional change that would affect member agencies who conduct drives for operating expenses.

The amendment, to be presented later to the fund's board of directors, stipulates that member agencies may not make their own solicitations for operating expenses.

Currently, member agencies are not allowed to conduct their own general drives, though some do collect funds for "operating expenses." A Red Cross spokesman said he felt the amendment was an attempt to clarify the United Fund constitution.