



## **JOSEPH JACOB SIMMONS, JR. (1901-1981)**

Mr. Simmons was one of the most important African Americans in the world. His friends in Muskogee, Oklahoma, called him "Jake." When he was 10 years old he told his father, "I want to be an oil man." Jake was the first African American to be appointed to the National Petroleum Council. He partnered with oil barons like Mr. William Skelly and Mr. Frank Phillips to purchase oil from the African countries of Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya.