

# EDITORIALS

## QUESTION

We wonder if any two Negroes in Wake County could have pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon on any white man in Wake County, after the trial had proceeded for some time, after the testimony of defense witnesses had been impugned, and then have got a suspended sentence of a year on the roads?

## NOT FAIR

It is reported that General Eisenhower has passed down an official oral order to the GI overseas newspaper, Stars and Stripes, to desist from making cracks about the engineers and other behind-the-lines overseas troops.

Roi Ottley, author of "New World a-Coming," and special war correspondent for PM, has reported several times that combatant soldiers have expressed resentment over the praise and attention given the engineers, quartermasters and other service troops to which the vast majority of Negro soldiers have been assigned. It is generally known, or should be, that the Red Ball Express, the truck line which accomplished marvels in transporting supplies from the Normandy beach to the front during the invasion of France and the subsequent break-through, was manned seventy per cent by Negro drivers. The Red Ball received unstinted praise from every quarter, including the high command.

It is doubly unfair for white combat soldiers to quip the Negro service troops. In the first place it was the policy of the high officials controlling the conduct of the war to use Negro troops as nearly exclusively as possible in the necessary but unglamorous work of war rather than in the fighting. The Negro soldiers did not ask for it, and they and the Negro public in general presented the policy long before the shooting in France brought the situation so forcibly to the attention of the white combat soldiers.

In the second place, it is certainly not all moonlight and roses for the non-combatant troops. While not as exposed to death

## UNHOLY ALLIANCE STILL FUNCTIONS

The coalition of reactionary southern Democrats and reactionary northern Republicans is functioning in this Congress just as it did in the previous one. On the very first day of the session Congressman Rankin successfully led a movement of those two allied forces in not only extending the life of the ill-reputed Dies Committee, but in further strengthening its position.

Some of the Republican members of the coalition are downright reactionaries; others are motivated chiefly by the desire to embarrass the Democratic administration and the liberal Democratic leadership in Congress. Many of the Democratic adherents to the unholy alliance are Democrats only in name and for convenience, and use the name only because it is a prerequisite for staying in southern politics. They are anti-labor, anti-Negro, anti-progressive, anti-liberal, and above all it would sometimes seem, anti-Roosevelt. Certainly the engineers, quartermasters and other service troops to which the vast majority of Negro soldiers have been assigned. It is generally known, or should be, that the Red Ball Express, the truck line which accomplished marvels in transporting supplies from the Normandy beach to the front during the invasion of France and the subsequent break-through, was manned seventy per cent by Negro drivers. The Red Ball received unstinted praise from every quarter, including the high command.

The Dies Committee was clearly repudiated in the election returns, and even before then two of its leading lights were not even renominated for their seats in the house. Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans who joined in putting over this new job can give any good explanation or excuse for their action. Most blameworthy in our opinion are the southern so-called Democrats, a majority of whom supported the measure.

It was a bad omen for the fate of liberal legislation on domestic problems for at least the next two years.

## TWO HEROES

Again Raleigh takes pride in the heroic deeds of Captain Vernon Haywood, her native son. Already the recipient of the Air Medal, with five oak leaf clusters, he has won in addition the Distinguished Flying Cross. The exploit responsible for his latest decoration was one which demonstrated not only physical bravery, but resourceful-

Cross. The exploit responsible for his latest decoration was one which demonstrated not only physical bravery, but resourcefulness, leadership, technical efficiency, as well; in fact every quality needful for the responsibility of command under the most difficult conditions.

Raleigh is happy to honor also Captain Henry B. Perry, who though not a resident, attended St. Augustine's College, from which he was graduated in 1941, and then taught in the high school at Littleton, in this state until accepted as a volunteer to the Air Corps. He is second in command of the original 99th Squadron, and has been in continuous active duty longer than any other of that famed group. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross also.

The Negro soldier continues to measure up to the highest standards of whatever branch of the military service he finds open to him.

## NEGRO COMPOSER HONORED

William Grant Still won a signal honor for himself and reflected great credit on his race when his overture was unanimously selected in a contest sponsored by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra offered a \$1,000 war bond for a festival overture to be performed at the celebration of its 50th anniversary, and Mr. Still's composition was selected over twenty-odd other entries.

Mr. Still, whose work is well known in musical circles, is regarded as one of America's leading composers of serious music. He has composed operas and other long works, including the "Afro-American Symphony," and his compositions have been played by the best American and European orchestras. A few years ago he won a competition arranged by the Columbia Broadcasting System for music written especially for radio. Mr. Still should be better known to Negroes. This most recent honor will help.

## HINDSIGHT

A Negro service man captured inside the residence of a white family in Chapel Hill is reported to have said, "I hope this will not hurt my people." It is a forlorn hope, surely. Too bad you didn't think about your people a few minutes or a few hours before.

# Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

An Associated Press story not long ago made note of the fact that a ship built by Negro workmen in Mobile in record time was "constructed entirely by Negro craftsmen."

The story contained several significant lessons. First of all one is reminded of the riot of a few years ago in Mobile—a riot against Negro skilled workers in shipbuilding yards. It is evident that conditions have changed in Mobile since then. But they did not change because Negro employees, their employers and the U. S. Government all agreed that the thing to do was to forget that there were Negro workers with skills, and others who given opportunity could acquire skills. There is hardly any doubt that the U. S. Government is built in that ship. Now everybody is proud, apparently, that this group of Negroes had the opportunity to contribute in this case their

beat to the war effort. Another angle of the story should be noticed. The point was made that the shipbuilders who set the record were working under white supervisors.

Now there is enough credit to go around; but the writers of such stories seem always to make a studied effort to promote the deeply ingrained idea that Negroes are no good unless they are commanded, supervised or bossed by whites. That idea is one of the most cherished racial myths of the American mind. That it is a myth is some fear that may be determined is evidenced by the rider so often tacked on to stories of Negro achievement.

In several reports of heroism and unusual accomplishment on the part of Negro troops at the front the point has been made that units mentioned were commanded by white officers. There is an attempt at subtlety; it is a no-

tion to all and sundry that what might otherwise be incredible has after all some basis in logic. It has already been asserted in our histories and folklore that under white leadership Negroes can work creditably, fight bravely. That is conceded, at least by some. But it is feared that in some way it might be discovered that Negroes fight under competent Negro leaders; that Negro skilled workers can become supervisors and directors. Too many Negroes who do not (some believe or hope) think so now might begin to do so. Too many whites, when presented with evidence, might revise their views.

Many hard-boiled leaders and rank-and-file members of certain labor unions don't take any chances. They have a saying, at least in private, and they try to see that it is lived up to. It is, "Never let a Negro pick up a tool."



# Lest We Forget...

By W. L. GREENE

## NECESSARY AND TIMELY DEPARTURE

While we were discussing the historical trend of human migrations as they have contributed to our problems of human relations, an editorial in the most widely circulated North Carolina Daily Newspaper has presented a point of view with respect to school attendance which claims our attention. The point stressed is the responsibility of superintendents, principals, and teachers for school attendance and the enforcement of the compulsory attendance law. The editorial minimizes the importance of the so-called truant officer in the program and suggests that money spent for such personnel is mis-spent. Herein lies the error and the FORGETTING.

Let us remember: (1) that the critical lag in school attendance is

found in schools serving the children of the poor and exploited people living in the city slums and on the outskirts of the city. The policy of the school boards in such areas is determined largely by the owners of the homes, industrial plants, and farms employing the parents of these neglected children, (2) that employers of underpaid domestic workers pay too little to support the families well enough to keep the children in school regularly; industrial workers with large families and small pay stay away from home and have no time to see that the children remain in school; large farm owners demand the labor of the children of tenant farmers as a part of the condition that the families live on the plantations. The teachers in schools serving these people have no legal tenure in their jobs. They hold their positions from year to year by keeping

the people satisfied with them. If they bring pressure to bear to get the children in school and keep them there, the cry of dissatisfaction is raised. This is done by the finest technique of subterfuge, practiced for generations in such localities. No direct charge is brought against the superintendent, principal, or teacher for the attendance activity but all their other faults are magnified and the main cause for dissatisfaction is discussed only in the confidence of the policy makers.

We need ATTENDANCE OFFICERS paid by the STATE and responsible to THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ONLY to require reports from school officials and teachers and who will themselves ENFORCE the law for the benefit of the state. Nothing less will do the job.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. M. W. Williams

Subject: Standards of the Kingdom. — Matt. 4:23; 6:3-10, 43-48; 6:1-18.

Key Verse: Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. — Matt. 5:10.

Why? Man is trying to get happiness in his own selfish way rather than the ways as pointed out in this lesson. Then, too, those of us who are said to be followers of Christ in many instances, are like a salt which has lost its power to preserve society. The Christians are not only expected to carry a light but a "light." The church is making progress, but not enough of those in the church are introducing and practicing into the social, industrial and religious life-elements which make for happiness and check unrighteousness.

In this sermon on the mount, we must meditate on Christ interpretation of (1) The Law Regarding Murder, vs. 21-26; (2) The Law Regarding Adultery, vs. 27-30; (3) The Law Regarding Divorcement, vs. 31-32; (4) The Law Regarding Oaths, vs. 33-37; (5) The Law of Love vs. 42-47; and (6) The Ideal of Perfection vs. 48. The first eighteen verses of the sixth chapter of Matthew deal with the Kingdom of God and the Brotherhood of man. We will then abide by the true and only standard which Christ gave. Then there will be justice and liberty for all.

Things to be seen or heard of men, but emphasize the private exercise of them with the right spirit.

Our reaction to all phases of the sermon on the mount is that the

# PLAIN TALK BY DAN GARDNER

## NEGRO CASUALTIES AND THE ATLANTIC CHARTER

Through the strict censorship of the army censors stories involving huge Negro casualties in the furious fighting now going on in Belgium and parts of France where our Third, First and Seventh Armies are attempting to slave off the last minute surprise counterattacks of the Germans.

The daily papers carry correspondingly high lists of the maimed and killed white GIs but only occasionally mention those of Negroes. This conclusion was arrived at after a study over a period of the casualties released by the War Department for publication in New York papers. Few names of Negroes were seen in this study for comparison, thus the assumption that either the War Department is withholding complete and up to date lists of the Negro war wounded and dead, or that our boys are not engaged in close quarters fighting as many of us have been led to believe.

## EVEN GENERALS GET KILLED

Unlike World War I, this conflict is one in which even generals get killed and killed in close quarters since it is a war of movement and not a war of tactical operations because there has been much stress placed on the basic training of the recruit in teaching him the rudiments of the British Empire advanced warfare so as to prepare him to be a soldier in every sense of the word. Many generals use private's uniforms to avoid attention. That is why in this war there are no general's boots from 300 miles to the rear in some quiet rendezvous where only the still and distant boom of cannon would be heard. The war is going on. The truth of the matter is that it would appear, as that Negro soldiers are catching as much hell as any of the

## OTHERS

While we are not inclined to give too much credence to wide-eyed reports that Negroes are being carried around in baskets, others with arms and legs shot off, some with brass plates in the tops of their heads, etc., we do know that Negroes are contributing their share of blood and lives in this most costly of all wars.

## GREAT INCREASE IN CASUALTIES

As the conflict draws near its final stages, there is bound to be a great increase in the number of men injured and killed as bullets are no respecters of persons or color.

There must be a sense of futility in the hearts of many of our soldiers, sailors, and others in the Armed Forces as the war progresses and the brave words, which inspired them with enthusiasm for the fight, fade into hard cold, and grim practicalities of take and hold instead of give and let be.

The Atlantic Charter, we have been told, has now turned out to be only a few empty phrases discussed in the abstract by Roosevelt and Churchill to wit away the time because Churchill announced later his attitude toward the whole war and the principles for which it is being fought, saying that he did not propose to preside at the liquidation of the British Empire.

The Atlantic Charter was the beacon of sincerity of this whole war that attracted the downtrodden millions of the world toward their hope of a new day and a new deal on a world-wide scale. For such principles, Wendell Willkie fought and died. Vice-President Wallace declared at the National Democratic Convention in Chicago that the future belongs to those who go unswervingly down the line for the right regardless of race, color, or creed.

## NO INSPIRATION SEEN HERE

## HOPE FOR

These boys, many of them from our sidewalks who before they went into the army had little to hope for, have learned what to ask for because they fought for it and many of their buddies died for it. They will be in no mood to keep on "taking" the insults, ridicule, and mistreatment of the American majority. They will know how to protect themselves and will do that instinctively and thus end a lot of the discriminations and social adjustments they were forced to put up with before they were rushed into the uniform which they have

## —AND PASS THE AMMUNITION!— By COLLIER



so glorified. Death itself has been met by them and they have not been found wanting. Those who have gone "over the hill" have left men, many of them more than a rich heritage of inspiration for the others to carry on.

The nearly one million Negroes in our Armed Forces will do more to help solve the race problem on the home front than all the preaching, writings, and campaigns of many of our great professional race advisers who managed to stay out

# The Day Is Comin'

By ERIC HASS For Calvin's News Service

It's an old argument. It isn't even new to me. But my counter-argument may be new to you. Some of my white friends argued the other night that if Negroes are not segregated by law, or by conditions which practically prevent dispersal, they will segregate themselves voluntarily. Thus, no matter what kind of a social system we have or how high our living standards, there will always be all-colored communities. The argument went something like this:

Its more comfortable and convenient for a Negro to have fellow Negroes next door and across the street. They won't look down their noses if you go around in your cultural undershirt, whereas in a predominantly white neighborhood you'd have to be stiff and formal and eternally on your Sunday behavior. Then, too, you're accustomed to the social pattern of the all-colored community and suffer a moral discipline to face the host of problems you imagine would arise the moment you left it. Finally a lot of people who help to share "Negro opinion," such as Negro civic officials, Negro preachers, Negro politicians and Negro business-men have vested interests in segregation.

That's just the gist of the argument. I countered it this way: Under our present capitalist society, with its prejudice breeding economic strife and vested interests, there is some merit in what you say. Many Negroes feel that it is not only more comfortable and convenient, but also that it is safer. In an all-colored community. But let us assume that this society were to collapse under the weight of insoluble economic contradictions, and that a new society were built on the foundations of collective ownership of the mills, mines, factories and workshops. Under this set-up, progress could come only through collective effort. And this would mean the end of prejudice-breeding economic strife as well as the end of vested interests.

It would also mean a fundamental change in our individual attitude toward our fellow men. Instead of seeing them as exploiters and competitors (which they could no longer be under the changed conditions), or as Negroes or whites, or Jews or Gentiles, we would regard them as fellow human, collaborators in a great and good joint enterprise.

In the collectivism toward which society is inexorably moving not only would all the legal and extralegal forces of community race segregation relax and disappear, but every reason for voluntary grouping in all-colored neighborhoods would also vanish. Men of all races would be safe everywhere. They would be comfortable everywhere, too, because as there would be no false attitude of race superiority, neither would there be an equally false sense of race inferiority.

I pointed out, too, that while there was religious segregation in the Middle Ages, we did not have race-segregation until the coming of the capitalist era, and that this proved that it was not a law of nature. But here isn't space to develop that here.

Finally, in pointing out that, while flowers may not grow in the desert, you can irrigate and change the desert into a veritable garden, I emphasized how prevailing social and economic conditions determine man's outlook, and how the latter can be changed by changing the former.

If \$100 billion for 11 months this year and \$4 billion for 6 months last year and 50 per cent above the ten-year average.

Cows that are to freshen this winter should be gotten in good physical condition now, says John Arey, Extension dairymen at State College.

February 1 is the final date for filing requests for "new grower" tobacco allotments for 1945, says AAA officials.

Steer clear of "Land Mines," says Extension authorities. High priced land is loaded with dynamite.

## TAN TOPICS

By CHARLES ALLEN



TAN TOPICS: "How does it just bought an extra one hundred to be the son of a man who died dollar war bond?"

moonlight and roses for the non-combatant troops. While not as exposed to death or battle injury as the front line troops, they have suffered casualties, hardships and hazards aplenty. Ernie Pyle and others have made it plain that bombing, strafing, land mines and sniping are not reserved exclusively for those in physical contact with the enemy.

What praise the service troops get, and what credit they receive, is not likely to be too much, nor will it detract at all from the glory of the combat troops. And certainly it is not sporting to bar men from fighting and then permit them to be maligned for doing so.

## BANNER YEAR FOR NAACP

The annual report of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reveals an encouraging state of affairs as regards that organization. A membership of 400,000 was recorded for 1944—the greatest in the history of the Association. Indeed the membership should be 4,000,000; but 100,000 is an impressive number. It is gratifying that the NAACP membership includes 15,000 service men.

Other parts of the report by no means indicate that the NAACP has accomplished so much as to have worked itself out of a job. There is much more to be done, and the membership and financial support should be greatly increased to meet the problems which the organization must face in the post-war period.

Many will note with interest and satisfaction that Dr. W. E. B. Dubois has returned to the NAACP staff, as director of special research. It is to be hoped that he will lose his productive career working with the institution with which he was so closely identified through most of its history, and to whose success he has contributed so much.

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