

EDITORIALS

GREAT GOOD NEWS AGAIN

Less than a month ago America was plunged in gloom because of reverses on the western front. The Nazi had made a surprise counterattack. At least it was surprising to us here at home. And just as we are prone to be overoptimistic when things are going well, we sank into undue pessimism when the tables were temporarily turned.

Our brave and resourceful men checked the German advance. Gradually, painfully, and doubtless at great cost, the Nazi onslaught was stopped; and now the enemy forces are being pushed back. On most of the western front we have regained the initiative, and there is talk already of another allied offensive into German territory with the next few weeks.

But the real tonic for our lagging spirits came in the form of news last week from the eastern front, where the incredible Russians, after a long period of relative inactivity which was beginning to try our faith and patience, broke out with force unprecedented even for them, and within a few days almost ended the German occupation of Polish soil.

Now again our overoptimistic prophets will begin to name early dates for the end of the European war. Well, however wrong the prophets may be this time, we know of a certainty that the great Russian victories will certainly not prolong the war.

BRASS TACKS

The decision of the Supreme Court of the State of California in the case of the Boilermakers' Union gets down to brass tacks. In a case presented to that court it was ruled that the Boilermakers must either admit Negroes to full and unconditional membership or give up the policy of the closed shop.

The Boilermakers Union is one of those national unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor which have for years followed a policy of admitting Negroes only to "second class" membership, if at all. In the first place the Boilermakers have tried to prevent Negroes from acquiring the status of master craftsmen. Where Negroes have been employed at the trade

them was sentenced two years in the penitentiary, however, when found guilty of stealing \$21.50 from a home.

When courts, created to uphold the law, protect citizens, and preserve the integrity and sanctity of the individual, have such a cock-eyed sense of values, what is to be expected of the man-in-the-street?

WHERE THERE'S A WILL—

High officials of the I.O. testifying before a Congressional committee said that there would be no need of a "draft labor" or "work-or-fight" bill to solve the present labor shortage in war industry if proper use were made of available female and Negro labor potential.

If the federal government did not find it so necessary to bow to the sacred cow of color prejudice, this war could be carried on much more effectively. If nurses are needed, don't use Negro nurses. Senator Bilbo and his ilk might not like it. If skilled workers are needed, don't consider untrained Negroes, or untrained Negroes who might be trained. There are white people who don't like the smell of Negroes about, and who might be offended. Keep Negro soldiers unloading boats; let them be kicked around in camps down south, beaten up by civilian brutes called policemen, insulted and shot by bus drivers. White supremacy and the "peculiar" (peculiar is right!) customs of the South must be preserved.

Never mind the war. Uncle Sam can whip anybody else, with both hands tied behind him. And he'll do it if he has to draft a thousand men to avoid giving fifty Negroes an even break. Where there's a will, there's always a way—to keep the Negro in his place.

ERIC JOHNSON NEW TYPE

Mr. Eric A. Johnson has demonstrated for some time that he is an unusual type of man to occupy the position of president of the United States Chamber of Commerce. That organization has for many years preserved practically an unblemished record for economic conservatism and social reactionism.

Mr. Johnson made a new kind of history for the organization he heads when last year he made it clear in several public statements that government regulation of business was not in his opinion an evil,

he statements that government regulation of business was not in his opinion an evil, not even a necessary evil; that organized labor had just as much right to existence as organized capital; that American economic interests could not best be served by ignoring the economic interests of other nations.

Now he makes another statement, not in itself revolutionary, but not the kind that usually emanates from those high in the councils of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. He said in a recent interview "wherever we erect barriers on the grounds of race or religion, or of occupational or professional status, we hamper the fullest expansion of our economic society. Intolerance is poor economy. Prejudice doesn't pay. Discrimination is destructive."

It is barely possible that another Willie is on the way.

OBSCENE LANGUAGE AND BAD CONDUCT

Today forces of decency that put a premium on clean speech are urged to join a crusade to help wipe out the amount and kind of language we are forced to hear as many of our passers by explode their "high powered" language among the populace.

This is an indictment against many civilians and soldiers, and is common among both men and women, boys and girls.

One has only to stand on the street a few minutes or around our public stations and other places of assembly to hear a loud report of vile language coupled with deplorable conduct.

Our suggestion is, that everyone strive to use the best language; act with the best manners, at all times and in all places.

CONGRESS AND THE FEPC

Let us hope that during the 79th Congress a permanent FEPC will be established. This all important agency is not only a necessary medium through which we may gain the kind of democratic action needed in a war period, but will serve as a safeguard to insure all minority groups security in the post-war plans of this great country.

Its establishment as a permanent government agency will enhance our freedom from "fear and want".

THE CAROLINIAN



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

The annual race address of Dr. James E. Shepard on the state of the Negro's life in North Carolina is a race address in the truest sense of the word. It is a good one. Dr. Shepard has the ear of the Negroes of North Carolina, and probably receives the respectful attention of whites that no other colored man in the state.

Dr. Shepard is wise enough not to waste his time in diatribes. His speech was well balanced, containing practically equal elements of exhortation to the white and colored races, and of warning to the white race not to retire into complacency over their color. No amount of improvement in race relations in which changes are sorely needed, and (3) reminding Negroes that there are things for them to do toward the amelioration of their own condition and the promotion of better race relations.

Each aspect of the speech is important. We live in a world of relative rather than a world of absolute. Things are good, better, or worse, but a proper orientation toward reality calls for the recognition of whatever is. If race relations are better than they used

to be, the same should be recognized. It is the Negro's life in North Carolina is on the whole a better life than that of Negroes in other southern states, that is a fact, and should not be glossed over.

On the other hand, it would be just as unrealistic and unfair to fail to call attention to the fact that all is not well; that there is much in justice, indefensible discrimination, callous prejudice, and mental, spiritual, and even physical cruelty, to which North Carolina Negroes are constantly subjected, or liable, in varying degrees, solely because of their color. No amount of improvement in race relations in which changes are sorely needed, and (3) reminding Negroes that there are things for them to do toward the amelioration of their own condition and the promotion of better race relations.

Finally, Dr. Shepard with propriety points out that the Negro

must be always on the alert to measure up not only to the standards of his present opportunities and privileges, but also to his aspirations. What is more embarrassing than to ask for an opportunity, and then, because of one's own shortcomings, to be unprepared for it when it comes? What is more damaging than to permit the grudging and skeptical chance to say, "I told you so"? What can hurt the cause of Negro advancement more than the selfish exploitation by the individual Negro of his particular advantages of education, prestige and opportunity to his own personal ends, and to the detriment, in one way or another, of his fellows, black or white, but especially those of his own color?

It is all too easy for white people to excuse discrimination by magnifying the imperfections of Negroes, and by creating them where they don't exist. It is too easy also for Negroes to get into the habit of rationalizing their own shortcomings by blaming them all on discrimination.

Dr. Shepard says, in effect, "Let's ALL face ALL the facts."

Lest We Forget...

By W. L. GREENE

The greatest and most persistent problems in human relations have grown historically out of forced migrations, those forced by the sword, and those forced by the plow. Types of ancient forced migrations are found in the coming of the Hebrew people out of Egypt into Canaan. Original inhabitants whose religious beliefs they to live peacefully with the invaders were forced out of the country as the only condition of peace. Modern history records a type in the pressure of the Mongol hordes upon the peoples of Eastern Europe. The East Europeans were deeply rooted in tribal superstitions of group solidarity which made them resist intermingling with invaders and Southern Europeans in wave after wave of fighting invasions of their own.

Ancient and medieval civilizations were based largely upon slavery as the power factor in building up the states of the ruling class. In the early days of the world, slaves were taken from all wars anywhere and shipped large numbers to their sponsors for slaves. Identification was made possible and permanent by two main processes. Where physical characteristics of race differences were marked they were usually sufficient. When physical characteristics were very similar to those of the conquerors, various forms of branding were adopted. Branding in Africa captives were branded because all dark brown people of a given climatic region looked much alike in the mass. Likewise in Europe the light pink skin color of varied little from the Mediterranean to the Arctic and flesh only.

branding was a common practice when slaves had to be identified without confinement and subsequent loss of value.

What is usually forgotten when we try to interpret the rests of slavery upon the history of society is the reason for a great occurrence of slavery in southern lands than in northern regions. In ALL NORTHERN REGIONS the fight against the forces of nature requires an independence of human effort to make a successful thing. In ALL SOUTHERN REGIONS the GIGS subsistence was easy. The practice of human slavery has been climatic and southern—not racial, historically. The skin color of the majority of the slaves of the world has been incidental to the world's history.

PLAIN TALK BY DAN GARDNER

ANOTHER REASON WHY WE DON'T GET ANY PLACE

Two weeks ago the newspaper, PM, ran a feature story on "The Negro Who Started an Airline."

The story told of the first Negro company to receive a bid for national air transportation lines and mentioned that it was christening its flagship. The office of the company, The Union Airlines, is located in Washington and the president, William H. Hawkins, at 2228 Georgia Avenue.

The PM account went on to describe Mr. Hawkins and his personal views on his pioneer venture. "Well, the Union Airlines, you see, is a subsidiary of the Union Business Society of America," Mr. Hawkins told PM. "That's a corporation organized to promote big business among colored people, to organize the numerical strength of the American colored man to participate in the business of the country."

There are about 13 or 14 million colored people in the United States," Hawkins continued in his statement to PM. "You understand, and we don't have business in proportion to other number of people. We don't have factories and stores, or things to get for ourselves that type of business. "Now what we want to do is, if you could get the colored American to organize himself so he could operate factories and things like that so he could manufacture clothes and hats and suits and dresses and shoes, they wouldn't be always begging for jobs from other people but they would make jobs for themselves. "The airlines," he went on, "is just part of the over-all program of the Union Business Society of America. We have other subjects on paper, but we have gone farthest with the airlines. We don't have them in proportion to other number of people. We don't have factories and stores, or things to get for ourselves that type of business. 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