EDITORIALS

NEGRO NURSES ASKED TO APPLY

According to an announcement by high Army and War Department officials, Negro volunteers to the Army Nurse Corps are now welcome. Even the Navy has come out with a guarded statement that applications of Negro nurses will be considered.

It's about time. With less than 400 Negro nurses in the Army out of a total of some 40,000, despite the 700,000 Negro soldiers, and with the Government wringing its hands about the shortage of nurses, the attitude of the Red Cross and the Army up to now has been little short hypocritical. In consideration of the more than 300,000 wounded American soldiers it was even worse than hypocritical.

Of course the segregation specialists will be faced with the problem of just how to dispose of and distribute Negro nurses so as to use them with the least damage to tender sensibilities in various quarters, but apparently the policy of completely ignoring their availability and willingness to serve their country by the use of their skill, and the practices which hitherto have outraged their patriotism, have been abandoned.

Maybe somebody has concluded that it makes more sense to save the life of a soldier, even a white soldier, than it does to in a letter to War Manpower Commissioner preserve arbitrary color lines.

An official of the National Urban League McNutt recently reminded that official that he had failed to mention Negro labor as one of the resources available in the present critical shortage of war workers.

In his public statement Mr. McNutt may have inadvertently failed to mention the Negro labor reserve. It is more likely, however, that, politician as he is, he was following the time-worn policy of many government officials and agencies of avoiding "controversial" issues. Time and again this has been done, even at the palpable expense of the war effort.

So much evil has been and will be the outgrowth of this war; but some good may come of it. One thing that has happened, to a limited extent, is that the pressure of necessity has broken down ome of the more obviously foolish and vicious traditional barriers of race and creed. Others may go before it is over.

A START

The recommendation of one of the subcommittees of the State Commission on Hospital and Medical Care regarding medical and dental education for Negroes seems to be the most feasible plan for meeting the situation now or in the immediate future.

The committee report, after acknowledging the need for "more well-trained Negro physicians in North Carolina and the South," recommends:

"That the State of North Carolina join with neighboring Southern States in exploring the possibility of developing a regional medical center for the education of Negroes."

Whether or not such a regional medical center supported jointly by two or more states would meet the mandate of the U. S. Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court in the Gaines decision is still a moot question. Otherwise the idea seems to be sound. There would be many practical obstacles to be overcome, a fact which might account for the cautious lanuage of the recommendation. But North Carolina, and possibly some of the other states of the region, at least are acknowledging the existence of the problem, and the need of doing something about it. That is a start.

WALLACE A STORM CENTER

The forces in Congress which have been arrayed against the appointment of Henry Wallace, and lined up to strip his prospective position of as much power as possible, include those which worked to prevent his nomination for the vice-preidency last year. They are joined in this instance by the majority of thet Republicans in the Senate; some on principle,; others as a matter of politics, to discredit and embarrass the Administration.

President Roosevelt himself contributed greatly to the creation of the present impasse, not only by making it impossible for Mr. Wallace to get the vice-presidential nomination last July, but also by firing a man popular with the Senate and beloved by big business interests, in order to make room for a man feared and disliked by Northern industrialists and bankers and machine politicians, as well as Southern Bourbons and demagogues.

Mr. Wallace seems to be a storm center. It is very difficult to place a man of his type in an office where his capacities and talents may be used for the benefit of the people, especially under a system of government where political considerations are so often placed ahead of the best interests of the nation as a whole.

MORE SKULDUGGERY

The chief function of the Negro in national politics continues to be that of a pawn. When the National Service Act was being drafted in committee in the House of Representatives, an amendment was proposed which would have made it illegal for a man assigned to a particular plant to be forced to join a union. Pro-labor forces countered with an amendment which would have made it illegal for any person assigned to a job to be rejected because of race or creed.

What happened? It was a draw. The anti-labor men gave up their amendment at the threat of an anti-discrimination amendment.

The proponents of the antidiscrimination amendment were not sincere in their apparent concern for Negroes and other minorities. They said in effect simply this: If you incorporate a measure which we

It was the same kind of dodge which dei ng southerners) we'll insist on a provision which will give Negroes their rights.

It wa the ame kind of didge which defeated the federal-id-to-education bill in the last Congress. Remember?

WISE DECISION

Congressman A. Clayton Powell's decision not to answer Congressman Rankin in the former's first speech as a member of Congress was a judicious one. It seems that the ineffablae Rankin had written a letter to a Mississippi paper, saying that the election of Powell to Congress was one of the worst things that could have happened to the Negro race. Naturally Mr. Powell resented that the personal slur, and asked the Speaker of the House for time to make a public reply on the floor of the House.

Later, on the advice of friends and members of Congress he changed his intention. No good could have been accomplished by Powell's getting into a verbal brawl with Rankin, that inveterate Negro baiter and publicity seeker. The dignity of Powell and of the Negro race could hardly have been enchanced by paying that much attention to a routine statement by such as Rankin.

INCREASED FUNDS RECOMMENDED

One notes with satisfaction that the Agriculture Committee of the General Assembly has unanimously adopted a recommendation for an increase of $14,700 in the appropriation t A & T College, for the specific purpose of expanding the agricultural instruction program of that institution.

Our proportion of the farming population of North Carolina fully justifies the expenditure of adequate state funds for teaching agriculture. It is to be hoped that those who will be taught will include some future farmers, as well as farm demonstration agents and teachers of agriculture to others.

CHILD LABOR

The National Child Labor Committee states that by the end of 1945 there will be approximately 3,000,000 young people from 14 to 22 years who left school for employment during the war years, before reaching the age of 18 and before completing high school.

This great loss to the educational system is not only presenting a problem now, but the problem will be ever greater after the war, in the post war era.

This is a matter which needs careful study by all interested in child welfare. These youths who are of necessity pushed into industry because of man power shortages in many instances, must be kept in mind and in touch with educational offerings and values in order to be reclaimed at the earliest possible date.

It is easy for youth to become disillusioned and lose sight of future values as the cross of gold illumines their path.

Educational and other vital forces must keep eternal vigilance over this ever growing problem.

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Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

The story told in Drew Pearson's column some weeks ago about the Mississippi lieutenant and his interview with his state's Congressional delegation is significant not so much for the implied rebuke handed Senator Bilbo by the soldier as for the revelation that the war is changing the views of some white southerners.

Lieutenant Barfoot, a young wearer of the Purple Heart, was modestly telling the story of his experience overseas, and answering questions asked by the Congressmen from his home state. Bilbo asked, "Did you have much trouble with Negroes over there? Lieutenant Barfoot replied (in part) as quoted by Mr. Pearson:

"I found out after I did some fightin' in this war the colored whites boys. I have changed my boys fight just a sgood as the ideas a lot about colored people since I got into this war, and so have a lot of other boys from the South."

To add further to the shock, the lieutenant told of a recent occasion on which he voluntarily took a seat behind the curtain in a dining car, at a table where a Negro captain was seated. In doing so, he explained to the steward, "I've fought with colored men—why shouldn't I eat with 'em? He added that he had a fine chat with the colored captain.

Many thoughtful persons have realized that the Negro service man returning after the war will be a different man. It is a thought which disturbs many Americans, especially in the South, and it accounts for many of the indignities visited on Negro service men at home and abroad. The idea has been to discourage the Negro from getting any false ideas or hopes from the fact that he is serving his nation and fighting for the Four Freedoms, etc.

What has not been so clearly realized is that many young white southerners will also be different when they return, and different in an altogether more wholesome way. The story told of this young Mississippi officer is a concrete illustration of the kind of transformation that is going on in the minds of many young men as a result of the new kind of experiences and inter-racial contacts arising out of overseas service.

That this young officer had the courage of his new convictions, as witnessed by his calm but straightforward statements before a group of influential Mississippi oldsters, is an even happier sign that the Negro after this war will have some new and valuable friends, even though there may be also some enemies more implacable than ever.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. M. W. Williams

Subject: Jesus And the Twelve — Mat 10-11.

Key Verse: Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. — John 15:14.

In Galilee, sometime during the winter months of A. D. 29, a great movement had started. A movement calculated to shake the foundation of the Jewish traditions. A new man with a new principle had come on the scene. He had come to set men free, to save them, to heal them in body, mind and soul and the people were so eager for the message and what He had to offer that they flocked to hear Him. This man was the Son of God. After preaching, healing, raising the dead and subduing the powers of nature, He called unto him his twelve disciples. This movement was not to stop when the Leader should leave the world therefore the disciples were to make more disciples, that the dissemenation of truth and the spreading of the gospel through the church to generations yet unborn.

There is to be noted that these men were given authority. We might also note the close association of these twelve with the Christ. First they knew Him, not by heresay, but by the Revealed Spirit of God; they had witness Christ's miracles, His death. They loved Him. The movement became a part of them. No one can be a real disciple who is not a part of the movement. The commission to the early disciples as given in this lesson (Matt. 10:1-8) gives rise to theological questions concerning those who carry the message today. Has the commission been withdrawn. This commission was re-enforced in Matthew (28:19-20). Further it is well to note that those who are commissioned and have authority are provided for they are to be discreet, courteous and [illegible]ous and they have the promise of Divine Care.

It is [illegible] to know that the disciples have all of the above named provisions at their disposal, but it is also well to know that persecutions, trials and disappointments awaited them. There loyalty or disloyalty to the kingdom would be determined by their reaction to these things (Rom. 16:9). Not all men have the high privilege of being public messangers for Christ, but every man who claims Jesus as His Lord and Savior has a share in the work of bringing in the sheeves.

John the Baptist [illegible] mingled out here. He had been in prison for sometime because he condemned immortality — Herod and Herodias. He had preached that Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit; that the ax was laid at the root of the tree and now Christ had come but Israel was not turning, vice and wickedness seemed to be on the increase and even he doubtin, had not been delivered. In this state of depresion, he sends, and asked: Is this the Messiah or do we look for another? Our interpretation is that John like many of God's loyal followers today, was low in the spirit. We believe that he was comforted when the messengers told John what Jesus was doing (Isa. 53.5; 61: [illegible]). It is interesting and sad when we read of Jesus who had carried this loveliness (gospel) to certain cities now pronouncing judgment upon them. The fact, that they would not hear Jesus should encourage His preachers and Christian workers to continue to PREACH THE WORD. All may not obey, but some will, and be saved.

Continue as a true disciple to invite weary men, heavy laden men, all that labor and are heavy laden to come to Him who can and will give them rest. There are men and women in the country, in towns, in cities and in fact in the world today whose hearts are heavy. Sin, corruption, greed, prejudice, discrimination, intolerance, immortality and vice apparently have taken charge. Many of the church leaders are worried over the state of things. Even preachers, like John the Baptist, have their doubts at times, but turn to your Bible and read again and again, "Lo I am with you" Keep on preaching that there is no other way to have peace and happiness until men every where acknowledge the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man and protect the same. This then, is the work of all true disciples.

PLAIN TALK

By Dan Gardner

ADAM POWELL'S CONGRESSIONAL WAR WITH JOHN RANKIN

At hand is a copy of a letter from Chester K. Gillespie, Attroney-At-Law Cleveland, Ohio, former member of the Ohio State Legislature. The letter is addressed to The Honorable A. Clayton Powell, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. It says:

"Dear Friend: As you must know, this is a friendly letter.

"I was keenly disappointed when you failed to keep your promise to answer Mr. Rankin (John Rankin of Mississippi). If you had answered him, your voice would have been heard around the world. In my opinion, as long as you are in Congress you will never hav ea more glorious opportunity to render distinctive service to Negroes and all other persecuted people in America.

"When I was first elected to the Ohio Legislature, I was told almost verbatim the same things you were told, but I did not heed the advice. I spoke on behalf of the Negroes of Ohio within about three days after I first arrived in Columbus, and I obtained results, too. You will find, as time goes on, the business of the so-called 'white Americans' will be amply taken care of. Your friends all over the country are keenly disappointed.

"With warm personal regards, I am, Sincerely yours, Chester E. Gillespie."

The comment by Mr. Gillespie in this connection has special significance to those who are following closely the record of Negroes in national affairs and especially in high elective offices.

In New York City the name, Adam Powell, has been associated with Harlem over seventy years through his father, Adam Powell, Sr., former pastor of Abyssinia Baptist Church, and through Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., present pastor of the church and first Negro to be elected to the United States House of Representatives from New York.

The Powell legend has grown in minds of some New York Negroes to the magnitude obtained by that of the Cabots and Lodges in Massachusetts and much, if not the sheer miraculous, is expected when a Powell steps out.

While Mr. Gillespie possibly had a political reason for sending a letter, as quoted here, to the fledging Congressman from New York, there are certain facts in the matter that cannot be dodged.

It would appear from his record that Adam Powell is extremely long on talking. In fact, talking put him where he is. It will be recalled that as a minister his florid delivery and extremely dramatic method of controlling people through his oratory have made him the highly respected, if not feared individual in Harlem's hectic political and social scene When he was elected a few years ago to the New York City Council, there were any number of promises that were made that created a profound impression upon the minds of the people who gave him their votes. These promises ranged from one extreme to another and were characterized mostly by outspoken, concise pledges of what the Councilman would do once he got in on the control and New York City's government.

After two years, however, the record was almost bare of actual concrete achievements by Adam Powell. Nevertheless, the Council halls did re-echo his voice in numerous statements, few of which stood up after attacks and criticisms by those who knew what they were talking about. Ben Davis, Jr., an avowed member of the Communist Party, followed Adam to the City Council and started putting through bill an dmeasures to advance the cause of the Negroes in New York so quickly, quietly, and effectively that it would make our heads swim. Yet Ben is seldom known to give vent to long oratorical blasts and long-winded discussions of what he is going to do. He does them.

Adam Powell, in his pulpit, on the political platform, and in his newspaper, The People's Voice, made definite pledges as to what he was going to do once he got in Congress. Chief among these pledges was a bold, uncompromising, and unswerving promise to answer race-baiting, Negro-hating John Rankin of Mississippi every time he said something derogatory about the Negroes or "my race" according to Adam Powell.

To date, in substantiation of the letter written by Gillespie to the Congressman, the record shows that Powell has yet to open his mouth in Congress. And take charge of Rankin. (Note: Adam Powel made his initial speech in Congres Jan. 31, attacking an FEPC measure in the House. Ed's Note).

However, in Associated Press Releases, carried by the New York Herald Tribune on January 7, Powell took a terrific poke at Rankin, but this was out of Congress, as it were, on the sidewalk, instead of inside wher ewhta you say counts. Powell was answering Rankin who had said that he would not sit by Powell in the House or any other place and that further, in his opinion sending Powell to Congres was the worst thing that could happen to the members of his race. Adam gave him a good, old fashioned blasting in the best manner of the left-wing boys and wrote the whole thing up in his newspaper, and then moved on to something else.

Mixed up in this name calling by Powell in newspapers and not in Congress was a statement by the Congressman that his colleagues, namely Vito Marcantonio of New York, had advised him not to say anything in Congres until he got the "feel of it" or, in other words, had been there long enough to be entitled to speak up.

The reason why Adam Powell in Congress is subject of this week's discourse is not any attempt to needle a duly elected representative o fthe race, nor to point out any imaginary pitfalls in his path, not to do any kibitzing or second guessing on what he could or could not have done. Instead, an attempt is being made here to analyze soberly and coldly just what good does all this mean to a race, anxious to participate fully in the economic, social and political life of the nation on basis of full equality.

The question that concerns me here is whether calling Rangin or his associates from the South "Fascists," "crackers," "red-necks," and all the other terms that could be thought up to describe the un-adulterated Southerner, does much in putting across an FEPC Bill that would guarantee the right to work without discrimination because of race, creed, or color, to all people? Does the fact that Rankin wants to make an issue of where he sits in relation to Powell outweigh conscientious, deliberate work to establish an Anti-Poll Tax Measure? What about mistreatment of the Negroes in the Armed Forces? Is a personal feud between Rankin and Powell more important than the rights of our boys who are being shot down in the South by people of Rankin's bread?

It seems very silly and inconsiderate for a Congressional figure to make such ridiculous promises as answering Rankin every time he speaks, etc. It sounds something like the old campaign cry of the late Big Bill Thompson of Chicago when he was campaigning for Mayor on one of those many occasions in which he went out to corral the Chicago vote. Thompson at one time threatened to punch King George of England in the snoot and got himself written up in all the papers and stirred up quite a lot of attention and attracted a lot of voes on something that was out of the question and as rediculous as the Powell promise to answer Rankin. It didn't mean a thing.

But people have a habit of wanting to see someting carried through

Adam Powell was elected from Harlem mainly because the Negroes thought he would be a voice for them, fighting every step of the way through the wilderness, across the desert sands, and blah, blah, and blah. Whether this meant anything to Adam at the time he was saying what he was going to do is not known. Instead the fact that he is in Congress and hasn't said anything yet stands out. It would be far better if Powell openly renounced that part of his campaign pledged to create controversy in Congress and, instead, adopted a viewpoint of more sober and serious nature, in which constructive things would be done instead of the old rabble-rousing, soap-boxing battle cries that should be outmoded in today's more bland political circles.

North Carolina growers have an extra 30,000 bushels of the Louisiana Porto Rican sweet potato this year as certified seeds stocks. The variety gives extra yields and quality.

Phenothiazine, used a treatment for internal parasites of livestock, is now saving producers about $10,000,000 a year.

One-third of the heifer calves now saved and raised for replacement purposes turn out to be unprofitable cows. A new method is being tested for judging the four-month-old heifer calf.

Last year meat consumption in the United States and Canada was about 50 pounds per capita more than in the United Kingdom.

THE COMING THAW!

THE ROAD AHEAD

BY NOAH C. A. WALKER
Calvin's News Service

THE WORK OR FIGHT ORDER NOT FAIR TO NEGRO

The Negro population, subject to Selective Service of every community, was made restless recently by the announced WORK OR FIGHT order coming out of the Nation's capitol, Washington, D. C. According to the WORK OR FIGHT order, every able bodied man (including 4-Fs subject to draft, must either take a job in a war plant or face being drafted into the armed services. It is being rumored also that those who refuse to take war jobs and are unfit for combat duty will be "drafted" into the armed services and may be designtaed to war jobs for the duration at soldiers' pay but without soldiers' benefits for themselves or their families.

If the rights of Labor were protected equal to that of big business, and the Negro worker's opportunity for employment all over the nation protected equal to that enjoyed by the majority of white workers, then this work or fight order should have been issued not in 1945 but in 1941.

Every Negro realizes that to win the war, every able bodied person should be utilized for the best interest of our country. If this was being done today, frankly there would be no objection to the Work or Fight order.

We still have war plants in the South and many parts of the North where it is a great need for workers to fill war jobs but hire no workers with black skin. Will the Work or Fight order change this remains to be seen. The white and black boys giving their blood and lives in Europe and in the Far East do not care what the color of skin of the workers who produce guns, bullets, tanks, planes and ships with which they are using to win this bloody war against the Nazi and Japs.

In a Texas city, a shipyard needs workers. Negro men have been trained in ship yard trades at the expense of the federal government. Do the Negroes get these jobs. NO! "The Negroes must migrate for jobs to other areas. This shipyard needs men and imports white workers from other areas. Silly, but true. This is just one example of what exists in the South and many other areas. Some Southern employers claim they are not against employment of Negroes to work with white workers on the same type of job, but it would be against "tradition" and may result in race riots. What a price to pay for "tradition." The white mothers, fathers and wives with loved ones on the firing line would say the heck with "tradition" if they were told the employment of Negroes with white workers on the same job meant greater production and great production would get this bloody war over that much sooner and their loved ones, sons and husbands back into their arms. And many a white soldier's life would be saved with ole man tradition" buried.

The mere giving of Negroes jobs in war plants is not enough. Since the FEPC tens of thousands of Negroes have gained employment in war plants where employers never employed Negroes before. However, many employers are under the impression that a Negro ex-farm hand who once was paid $1.50 a day for working from before sunup and after sunset, should be satisfied getting a "white man's job at 50 cents an hour. True 50c an hour for forty or forty-eight hours a week is

(Continued on page five)

Letter To The Editor

With the theme "What the Negro Celebrates," February 11 to 16 is designated as Negro History Week. This year, as in former years, the festivities will go off to a flying start with men and women of national and international fame and prestige, in a gala program over one of the major radio networks, Sunday, February 11.

Although some white Americans know something of the Negro's cooperative efforts and signal accomplishments, far too many know Negroes only as drawers of water and hewers of wood." To the latter group of whites the Negro is at best a servant, at worst a gigantic, but superflurous appendage to the main body America, a direct result of the lack of knowleage of the facts.

For sake of argument, let us recall just three typical contributions of the Negro. Crispus Attucks was the first man to shed his blood in the war for American Independence; George Washington Carver, one of the greatest scientists of modern times, saved the south from bankruptcy by his formula for the control of the cotton boll weevil; a Negro insurance company, in our own fair North Carolina, has helped the present war effort to the tune of more than $3,000,000 (which, by the way, ain't hay.) I am sure that fair-minded Americans recognize and properly evaluate such facts, but how can they evaluate what they do not know?

Next week offers a grand opportunity and a challenge to every one to gather a wealth of additional knowledge about the Negro, through his churches, libraries, periodicals, and the radio.

CARL L. EASTERLING
Raleigh, N. C.

HOLD THE LINE

BY RUTH TAYLOR

The other night I heard a story which impressed me so much I should like to share it with you. A teacher friend of mine had asked the members of her clas to give their individual wishes for post war. One Negro girl said: "That my people may hold and merit the gains they have won."

To me that was one of the finest and most expressive lines I have heard on this important subject for it went straight to the heart of the problem.

Not in any way does it minimize the right to those gains and yet it does emphasize the responsibility that comes with increased opportunity. The leader is more to be censured than the follower when he leads astray, the scholar when he misuses knowledge. It is by the acceptance of responsibility that progress can be made.

Rousseau said: "Never exceed your rights and they will soon become unlimited." Or as Milton put it: "They who seek nothing but their own just liberty have always the right to win it."

Yes, this is precisely what the Negro editors have been preaching. They have done a splendid job in stressing the fact that the way to hold your gains is to prove yourself not only capable in the positions you now hold but ready for advancement. Gains for either the individual or the group call for greater vision and greater ability, greater duties as well as greater opportunities.

The words for crisis and opportunity are the same in Chinese. Let every crisis be an opportunity to forge ahead. Prove that you merit your gains and you will keep them. Make a virtue of necessity and use this time to prove that Negroes can and will make the most of every opportunity given them, that as workers they can not only do their jobs, but are cheerful, cooperative and pleasant to work with. In that way new gateways be opened and the old gains made secure.

The time of reconversion will be difficult for every one. Now is the time to prepare ourselves — first, by doing to the best of our ability the jobs we now hold; second, by learning all we possibly can to prepare us for a better job, and lastly, by cultivating a sense of responsibility that will make us dependable, wanted workers.

In this way, may the gains already won be held and merited and new ones earned.

A new Negro curb market at Goldsboro has sold $2,061.16 worth of products during the last three months. The principal products were poultry, vegetables, and meat.

North Carolina fails by about 650,000 tons of hay a year to provide adequate roughage for animals now on the farms, reports John Arey, Extension dairyman at State College.