

EDITORIALS

A GLANCE BACKWARD

We mark history sightly when we are living in the midst of it. As we hear and read of the current massive carrier-based attacks on Tokyo and other places in the Japanese homeland, we forget what a wonderful event was Doolittle's audacious bombing expedition to Tokyo not so many months ago. Even dimmer in our memories is the very real threat of the invasion of Australia in 1942, when it looked as if Japan would be soon and for an indefinite time thereafter undisputed mistress of the mid-Pacific an eastward. Yet today we are expecting, with relative calmness, the occupation of an island within 750 miles of Tokyo.

On the other side of the world also, we see, when we look back in review, that events have moved fast. This time last year there was not an allied soldier anywhere in western Europe. We were looking toward the coast of France with determination, but with many misgivings. As of today, however, France is long since liberated, and though we have not yet crossed the Rhine, we practically stand on its banks.

Last year this time the Russians were driving the German from the Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of the enemy were still well inside the soil of Russia. By today it is almost forgotten that at that time great Soviet cities were still in German hands, as now the Red Army threatens Berlin and Frankfurt and Dresden, having captured Warsaw and Budapest, and having overrun practically all of Poland.

Since this time last year the Balkan front has disappeared, Greece has been liberated, and all the Axis satellites have capitulated. The Axis has been whittled down to a fraction of its size of three or two years ago, or even one.

Final victory may seem slow in coming, but in retrospect one may well be cheered by the distance from which we have come, and the great strides that have been made within a short time toward that much longed-for goal.

ted for goal.

FISTICUFFS ON THE HILL

The wisdom of Congressman Powell in avoiding a common quarrel with the inefable Rankin was demonstrated in an indirect way last week. The Honorable Congressman from Mississippi became involved in fisticuffs with a New Deal congressman from Michigan.

It seems that Rankin, in some of his usual flinging of invective, called Congressman Hook a communist. The Michigan congressman countered with "liar." Naturally, being a southern gentleman, Mr. Rankin couldn't take that epithet from anybody. Only the intervention of other members of Congress kept Rankin and Hook from swapping punches, though the latter said afterward that he had no desire to sock the white-haired and puny Rankin. Hook said he was once welterweight champion of Michigan.

The pugnacious and loud-mouthed Mississippiian seems to have a strange immunity, however. Though he provoked the unpleasantness, and though in many respects it is worse to be dubbed a communist than to be called a simply prevaricator, the talk about disciplinary measures has all been directed against Congressman Hook. (Left or right?). The talk is being led by a fellow southern fire-eater, the great Cox, of Georgia.

Congressman Hook is reported to have said, "If John Rankin will resign his seat, I'd be more than happy to go with him for the good of the country."

Congressman Hook may be sincere, and there is no doubt that his sacrifice of his own seat under the terms mentioned would be a great service to the nation; but if he manages to stay in Congress until John

Rankin resigns, he'll be there a long time. Congressman Powell did well to avoid an unnecessary verbal encounter with the undignified Mr. Rankin, who not only fights, but fights unfairly, and is not adverse to letting himself be represented as a martyr.

NEGRO NEWSPAPER WEEK

The 118th anniversary of the Negro press in the United States is one to call to mind many things. One of these is that Negro journalism was born as crusading journalism. The early Negro newspapers and magazines were dedicated to a cause—the abolition of slavery. Throughout its history probably the paramount objective of the Negro press has been the raising of the status of the group it represents.

It is good to note that the crusade for the Negro's full citizenship is today as important to the press as was the fight for freedom from chattel slavery a century and more ago. Until full unqualified citizenship, with all that it implies, is an accomplished fact, the Negro press must continue to be a crusading, special interest press. It has no choice.

Again, as last year, we should note with pride during Negro Newspaper Week the excellent job being done by the Negro press in the war. Without a word implying disloyalty or lack of patriotism, it has backed and publicized discrimination in the armed forces and on the home front. Some have counseled that certain kinds of news should be played down, because it would be bad for the war effort; because it would promote disunity and ill-feeling. A superficial view, what promotes disaffection and disunity, is not the news about the facts, but the facts themselves. Those who would protect the war effort should try eliminating the morale-destroying elements in our national life, rather than just the news about them.

Moreover there is no doubt that improvements which have been made as to the participation of Negro America in the armed forces and on the home front as this war has progressed would not have come as a result of silence. In democracy a minority may not always get what it asks for, but it almost never get what it doesn't—except the kind of thing it does not want.

In supplying news about our fighting men the Negro newspapers are doing another admirable job. The Negro war correspondents covering the doings of our boys on the fighting fronts for individual newspapers and syndicates represent a new departure in journalism—a feature almost absent in World War I. Our people are infinitely better informed as to what is going in general, and what Negro troops are doing in particular, than ever before, and largely through the Negro newspapers.

Finally, we should by no means forget the great debt the Negro press owes to the American system of freedom of the press. The right to publicize, to criticize, to protest, we take as a matter of course. But it is not so all over the world. White minorities in the dictator countries would not dare, and have not for years dared, to publish the kind of thing which is commonplace in the Negro press of this country, even in wartime.

Freedom of the press is a wonderful and precious right. It is to the credit of Negro newspapers that it is not more often abused.

ANSWER THE CALL

We are told, and it is not difficult to believe, that the Red Cross is spending \$7 a second to render its service to the armed forces and others. The Red Cross renders services which cannot be performed by any other agency. With its efficient and far-flung organization, its world-wide prestige, and its semi-official national and international status, it can bring aid not only to those among the allied and liberated peoples, and those of our own, who need it; they can also reach the enemy territory and help those who cannot be helped by any other means.

The size of its present task is staggering. As war has become ever so much more devastating and costly, so has the job of the Red Cross. A dollar membership will not do this year. You are asked to make a contribution which will represent a real sacrifice. It is needed, desperately.

100,000 BOOKS NEEDED FOR THE AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE LIBRARY.



'BOOKS PROVIDE RELIEF FROM TORPEDO TENSION AND CONVOY FATIGUE'



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

The story in last week's CAROLINIAN regarding the employment of a Negro secretary by a St. Louis business executive is interesting, because it shows what can be done by an employer who cares enough about fair play, and who is willing to run the risk of trying something which is not common.

It is also of interest to note that the presence of the secretary has not injured Mr. Klein's business, nor caused any serious difficulties with his other employees. Let Mr. Klein could easily have demonstrated his interest in Negroes and their welfare by following the conventional method of donating money toward Negro education. He might, without having appeared in the least queer or im-

practical, have even contributed a sum to foster secretarial education for young Negro women, giving not the least thought to the question of who would employ them when they finished their course. Instead he concluded that the best place to prove his theories about race relations was in a fireman, but not an engineer. Sometimes it's the title and the status, rather than the work, which often is gagged at.

Lest We Forget...

By W. L. GREENE

There are evidences that force of reaction against the new liberalism, born of the present depression and the pressures of war-time economy, are setting themselves to a long program of comeback efforts. The resistance to confirmation of the appointments of Henry Wallace and Aubrey Williams in Congress, the Texas episode wherein the FHA representative wishes to have his plan approved for taking housing units away from colored tenants at the end of the war, and the action of certain war boards in giving athletic contests the green light while holding the ban tight like religious guardians all point to a definite trend toward pugging progress in liberalism before real gains can be registered. There are those who would have us forget that the need for gains in democracy at home are equally as im-

portant as winning the battle on the islands of the Pacific and in the European theatre of war. We must remember that election and registration which abolish democratic controls of our social organizations tend toward precedents which the self-seeking bosses want to establish and perpetuate at the expense of popular control.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. M. W. Williams

Subject: Jesus Teaches the Kingdom of God. — Matthew 13:24-35. Key Verse: If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matt. 6:14-15. Human relationship stands without the spirit of forgiveness. It is the Kingdom of God, there are certain essential attitudes which definitely determines our correct response. We have a debt which we owe to God. We owe it to ourselves, to our brothers and neighbors, in fact, the whole of life, if properly lived, is that of grace and good will. And there is no forgiveness will in the Kingdom of God. All of us know that we are here because of God's love. We know that Christ died for us; bore our sins in His own body on the tree — died for the just and the unjust, to bring us to God, and through His death to forgive us shortcomings? Do I let little slights and grudges grow into personal hatred? As we pray ourselves, to our brothers and neighbors, in fact, the whole of life, if properly lived, is that of grace and good will. And there is no forgiveness will in the Kingdom of God. All of us know that we are here because of God's love. We know that Christ died for us; bore our sins in His own body on the tree — died for the just and the unjust, to bring us to God, and through His death to forgive us shortcomings? Do I let little slights and grudges grow into personal hatred? As we pray ourselves, to our brothers and neighbors, in fact, the whole of life, if properly lived, is that of grace and good will. And there is no forgiveness will in the Kingdom of God.

become victims of the reactionaries who would substitute regulatory orders for democratic processes. The cause of democracy is served only when popular controls are increased rather than diminished. The necessity for obedience to command and regulatory order is never questioned when our life as a nation is at stake and our military forces must have the support of a mobilized nation. A greater necessity for freedom from all forms of government by arbitrary orders will be faced at the end of the military conflict. We should decide NOW to resume democratic operations of our social processes as soon as the military emergency is over. We must have more democracy in the things we already do and extend democracy to more people in the future.



The significance of Georgia's abandonment of the poll tax is almost beyond estimation. Here we have this legal political liberation of the common man, Negroes and whites alike in a state situated in the heart of the South, the state which produced a red suspended Talmadge, the state in which the lynching spirit has run rampant and the singing of a song causes blood to boil and fur to fly.

When Governor Ernest Arnall of Georgia declared that he would urge the passage of an anti-poll tax law we honestly believed that he was using words to clear the way for his plea for the removal of discriminatory freight rates in the South. We thought that he was using a stratagem to keep from having to state why he could have the colossal effrontery to ask for non discrimination in anything while his State was one of the greatest exponents of discrimination in the world. We even said that his effort was designed to produce a smokescreen to hide from the Nation the fact that in the South the political strength was unduly disproportionately greater than any place else in the Nation because a few people did all of the talking for disfranchised millions.

But Governor Arnall came through and for his willingness to carry his expressed plan through we doff our hat. What can Georgia's outlawing of the poll tax mean? In the first instance the action is the first step toward proper political representation. People in Georgia can feel that they have no longer this artificial obstruction to a fair and just voice in the affairs of the state. Of course the very fact of passing a law does not imply that in its operation all of the injustices will be removed. As far as Negroes are concerned the people who administer the law may still use many and varied subterfuges and intimidations to keep Negroes from making use of the voting privilege. Yet one thing is certain. The law is on the books. And with thinking justice-loving and vigilant Negro leaders on the job the State Supreme Court can be the recourse for those who feel that the law is being violated.

Secondly, Georgia's willingness to do the right thing will challenge North Carolina to move on in other areas and will serve as beacon light for other states in the South which have not yet seen fit to take the first step. States in the North may feel the need to make operative the justice of their laws in order to keep ahead of the South.

In the third place Georgia may not be so poorly regarded now as a place in which an organization for the development of interracial relationships may be located. Some of us might conclude that the Southern Regional Conference had influence on the legislation. There are many benefits which will be derived from Georgia's first step. Many of them may not be evident for many years. We all know that that is one thing done in Georgia which will live long after the men who passed the law.

DO YOU AGREE? Big words do not always mean big thoughts. Education, life vaccination, is wonderful, if it takes. No first-class town was ever built by a bunch of scrubs. The best way to exhibit your religion is through your daily life. Not all the jokes appear in print—some of them have two legs. This is about the time of the year to imitate the man with the hoe. The world, in general, is not interested in the individual who has a good excuse. Notice is hereby given that no spring poetry will be published in our columns. Just because a man is a good sport does not always mean that he is a good man.

reports of conditions overseas that come to my desk each day, has made me see this in a different light. Taxes are one of the few ways which every citizen can participate in the government. Taxes are a contribution every free born man and woman can make to the freed which has given him and her an opportunity to earn a living. Taxes are an insurance against slavery. They keep the brutal heel of the conqueror from pressing against the neck of any man or woman in this country. Taxes are a tangible expression of our faith in the democratic processes, in equal justice for all before the law, in the way of life which is evolving for the first time on earth equal opportunity for every man and woman according to his or her talents. Taxes are every citizen's obligation — laid as fairly as is possible upon every person able and willing to earn his way. Tax-shirking and tax dodging aren't American. It's like cheating yourself — because you, too, are America. Taxes are the price of liberty — to pay taxes is a privilege not a penalty. It is a proof of fitness. You should take pride in your ability to earn enough to pay a man's sized tax. Slaves do not pay taxes. Only free men pay them. That is how I feel. And I don't think I'm different from anyone else. Let's not take this taxpayer's lightly. Let us instead think of the oppressed, starving people all over the world — and be glad we have the PRIVILEGE of paying our own way!

FULL-SPEED AHEAD



ON TAXES

BY RUTH TAYLOR

There are a lot more people paying taxes today than ever before. And it is supposed to be very funny to joke about the subject in a bewailing sort of way. I don't find a joke about taxes at all humorous. I just don't happen to think we should joke about something that should be taken seriously. No, I don't like a curtailed income better than anyone else — but somehow, reading the great mass of

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