

EDITORIALS

NEW SMALL LOAN LAW

The Small Loan Law, finally passed by the 1945 General Assembly of North Carolina, promises to bring relief from the depredations which loan sharks have made on the hard pressed and the unwary in many parts of our state. Several sessions of the state legislature before the last one had considered small loan legislation, but it took the scandalous situation revealed in an East Carolina city last summer to precipitate action.

The law seems to be a good one; but as is the case in all such laws, its effectiveness will depend largely on how well acquainted the public is with it. For this reason, the main points of the law are summarized here.

1. Loan agencies may not charge higher fees and interest than those authorized for industrial banks. More specifically, six per cent on an annual basis is the maximum interest charge, and on installment loans fees may be charged roughly as follows: \$2.50 and \$50 or less; and with an increase on the average of \$1 for every \$50. For instance, on a loan of from \$201 to \$250, the legal fee is \$5. Above \$500 the fee is proportionately lower.

2. Interest and fees may be deducted in advance.

3. Loan agencies may not divide a loan "or make more than one loan out of what is in fact one extension of credit to the same borrower. Any fees charged on account of dividing any one extension of credit shall be illegal. No loan shall be treated as a new loan which is in fact the same extension of credit."

1. Small loan agencies come under the inspection and supervision of the State Banking Commission.

Small Loan companies cater to those of limited means and limited credit who are usually honest, naive and needy. Such persons need protection from unscrupulous and greedy lenders, who trade in misfortune and improvidence. Negroes because of their economic position in our society form a disproportionately large part of the clientele of loan sharks. This new law will benefit them, but only if they know about it, and insist on its enforcement. It is your job to know, and to pass on the information to others.

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SENATOR LA FOLLETTE SPEAKS

Senator LaFollette charges both Britain and Russia with flouting the Atlantic Charter, and the United States with permitting them to do so. Especially does he accuse the two powers of following the same old policy of territorial aggrandizement as has been characteristic of the great European powers for so many years. Britain's diplomatic maneuvers in Italy and Greece, and Russia's in the Balkans, the Baltic States, Poland and Austria were characterized by the senator as being typical of old-fashioned power politics, disdainful of the rights and wishes of the small nations involved, and in direct contravention to the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

The proposed voting arrangement insisted on by Russia, which would give any one of the Big Five a blackball over the use of force to checkmate aggression, the senator describes as preposterous. He advocates a veto an inclusion of a "bill of rights" into the World Organization charter, which would pledge the nations belonging to the organization "to preserve and extend religious and political freedom, civil liberties, racial equality,

the protection of minorities, and the abolition of human slavery and imperialism," within their respective realms.

Commenting on the role of the United States Senator LaFollette was caustic. He said: "It must be obvious to every American who has watched the developments from Casablanca, Quebec, Teheran, Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta, that virtually every compromise has been at the expense of the very principles to which we have committed ourselves before the world."

Senator LaFollette has used strong language. It may be that his gloomy comments are unduly pessimistic and critical; but they furnish food for thought.

SOME WILL COME HOME

The prospects for the discharge of some Negro soldiers who have served long and well overseas are not as dim as they at first appeared, according to the latest information from the War Department. Though the great majority of Negro troops have been in the service forces, a good many of them were among the first to go overseas; and though the majority of these did not see front line combat duty, they will be considered in the point system for their service on the beaches, and in getting supplies to the front. Many of the maintenance and supply troops have bronze stars for service in battle areas.

This is good news for the loved ones of many veterans who have been on foreign soil for many months, and it will boost the morale of soldiers and civilians alike to learn that the heroic performance of many of these unsung but invaluable back-up of the front line men is properly valued.

TRUMAN SPEAKS OUT

President Truman has again demonstrated his independence, courage and straightforwardness, and this time in the handling of an especially hot potato—the FEPC.

After the House Appropriation Committee had declined to include the FEPC in the war agencies appropriations bill, which action would mean the death of the FEPC on July 1, the President wrote a letter to the chairman of the committee, reminding that body that the war is

its announced aims. So striking is the pronouncement issued by the Committee that it can best be set forth by quotations from it. It reads, in part:

"It is the purpose of this committee: (1) to contribute in whatever way it can to the improvement of relationships between white and Negro citizens of Durham; (2) to search out and collect facts and information relevant to this purpose; (3) to keep the Mayor constantly informed of the state of interracial affairs; (4) to advise and make such recommendations to the Mayor as the committee might see fit; and (5) to be ready to publish the facts concerning these affairs for the benefit and information of the people of Durham."

There is no doubt whatever that the President's firm stand on this issue will not further endear him to many of his southern supporters and personal friends. Especially irate will be those who trusted Mr. Truman's southern origins to cause him to side with them on all issues affecting the Negro. Likewise, those Negroes who were so sure that nothing good could come out of a man from Missouri, as far as they were concerned, will find it necessary to revise their opinion.

President Truman continues to demonstrate that he is the president; that his first aim is to serve the welfare of the nation as a whole, and that he is prepared to take it on the chin, if necessary. In follow that aim on controversial issues it would appear now that he will be more straightforward and frank in his pronouncements than was president Roosevelt.

SOUTHERN LIBERALS IN CONGRESS

It is hardly more surprising that Senator Pepper of Florida, as well as Senator Hill of Alabama, and Senator Fulbright of Arkansas, are opposing the Permanent FEPC Bill, than it is that Senator Ellender, of Louisiana, has announced his willingness to filibuster against it for five months, if necessary. The gentleman from Louisiana outdoes Senator Johnston of South Carolina, who signified his willingness to maintain a three weeks' talking campaign against the bill.

The difference between Senator Ellender and the trio first mentioned is that Senators Pepper, Hill, and Lister all have a reputation for liberalism. As a matter of fact they are liberals, but liberals in the South, at least those who are subject to the electorate for their positions, can differ slightly if at all from the old-line southern politicians on anything designed to advance "the nigger" substantially toward equality of citizenship.

There is no way of telling whether such men as the liberal trio personally approve or disapprove of the FEPC or other measures designed to close the gap between American principles and American practice, so far as the Negro is concerned. It is rather a matter of whether or not they can appear before their constituency in any other role than that of a defender of the southern status quo. If they expect to keep their places and influence, they cannot, or think they cannot. It is another example of the tragic split personality which is the heritage of most southerners, black and white.

So long as southern senators and representatives do not have to feel one iota of responsibility to that fourth, or third, or half, or more of their nominal constituency which cannot express itself by the ballot, only those with a very limited understanding of politics and human nature will expect to see southern liberals cross the black line very far in their liberality.

"PLAN NOW TO TAKE A SUMMER JOB ON A FARM FOR NEGRO WORKERS, INCLUDING 1,500,000 YOUTHS AND 750,000 WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO MEET THIS YEAR'S WAR-TIME FOOD PRODUCTION GOALS."



'TAKE A SUMMER JOB ON A FARM!'



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

An interracial committee which according to its public pronouncements means business, is organized in Durham. There is nothing unique about local interracial committees. Many existed in pre-war days, and since the war began, but more especially since the deplorable 1944 and racial disturbances that have occurred in wartime in Durham and elsewhere, many more have been set up, often with the impetus coming from municipal officials.

But Durham's Committee on Interracial Affairs, recently appointed by Mayor W. F. Carr stands out because of the clarity of its stated program and the concreteness of its announced aims. So striking is the pronouncement issued by the Committee that it can best be set forth by quotations from it. It reads, in part:

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The committee proposes to carry out its work under the principles that the whites and Negroes of Durham possess, or should possess, in equal degree, not only all the rights, but also all the duties and obligations of citizenship.

"Every citizen, white or Negro, has a right to protest injury, or alleged injury, and this committee invites citizens having grievances arising from the community's racial relationships to lodge their complaints with it. The committee will do what it can to remove or alleviate conditions that make for legitimate grievances. It should be emphasized, however, that this

committee does not regard itself as a protest organization. Its function is not negative but positive. It exists for affirmative and constructive community service.

The Committee on Interracial Affairs proposes to take itself seriously. The committee is composed of both white and Negro citizens, and so is this committee. The committee does not exist as a political organization to get something for Negroes as Negroes but as an organization seeking to promote the welfare of disadvantaged or underprivileged citizens of this community whether black or white. The committee will not compete with other agencies better prepared than itself to handle particular problems."

Little in the way of comment need to be added to this pronouncement. It is in a way an editorial in itself. It is straight sensible talk. If the action of the committee approximates its statement of principles, and if the citizenry supports the program, history maybe made in Durham.

Lest We Forget...

By W. L. GREENE

The recent trial of two soldiers on charges of rape and sodomy by an army court martial illustrates a point of our forgetfulness which is very important. These soldiers were accused by the victim, a reputable colored soldier, wife to the crew of the train on which all were en route from Alabama to points north. The train crew put on whitewash No. 1. They refused to recognize the complaint as valid because some of the crew had violated railroad regulations in placing the victim in a compartment on a dead-end pullman car. A new train crew, not party to the breach of regulations, allowed the victim to contact officials in Harlet who called police and brought the defendants to a hearing. The officials at Camp McCall conducting the hearing pulled whitewash No. 2. No cause was found and the

victim was asked to drop the matter because of the findings which examining physicians and camp officials chose to report. The advice to go back to some unknown place in Georgia or South Carolina and swear a local warrant was but a dodge because no one was able to fix the spot of the action which the victim sought to have punished.

Many people became interested in the implications of the case and finally ways and means were sought to have the case brought to trial. Few people had any doubt that the defendants were guilty. Many people doubted whether they could be brought to trial and convicted. Army investigators did their duty in gathering evidence and summoning witnesses. Attorneys Thompson and Gates of Durham went the second, third, and fourth miles in advising

and aiding in the legal procedure. The defendants were brought to trial and then:

We got the final whitewash. TWO JURIES OF ARMY OFFICERS, COLLECTED FROM ALL OVER THE EVIDENCE. That the evidence was adequate to convict, provided an unprejudiced jury could pass on it, is a matter of opinion. This much is evident, however. No white woman ever presented as good evidence against a colored defendant in a rape case half as conclusive as that presented against the soldiers, without the defendant being convicted and sentence executed.

We must not forget that we need organization in the South to stop this whitewashing of crime against colored people. We need more lawyers who will follow the example of the two mentioned and they should be rewarded amply.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. M. W. Williams

Subject: The Church Begins Its Work. Luke 24:44-47; Acts 1:1-4; 5:30-42.

In the city of Jerusalem, we have Jesus in His own way speaking to His disciples, after His resurrection. A. D. 30. The first reason for Jesus' talking on each of forty days was to attest His resurrection and another was to help and guide the disciples in their effort to reconstruct their thinking under the new conditions. They had, no doubt, known the ancient writings, the Old Testament and all through it He, the Messiah, had been predicted. Now Jesus about whom all had been written speaks to them in person saying "All things must needs be fulfilled which are written in the Law of Moses, and the prophets and the Psalms concerning me." He had to open their eyes concerning the Scriptures. He had to acquaint them with the fact that only by the aid of the Holy Spirit would they be able to interpret the word of God and the further and important fact of their responsibility for preaching that repentance and remissions of sins are available, not through Abraham, nor John the Baptist, nor any of the prophets, but only through the Son of God.

It seems to us, as we study, the text and the theme of this lesson — The Church Begins Its Work, there are at least three outstanding lessons which might help us:

(1) The responsibility of the Christian Church for the preaching of the gospel to all nations.

(2) To proclaim the redemption of the Son of God effectively means that the preachers must be convinced themselves. These apostles were convinced. They were to begin in Jerusalem where sin was at its height. First, they were to witness to the Jews and even the crucifixion of Jesus were looked upon as a matter of fact. (3) To teach the gospel and witness for Jesus in a city with such conditions prevailing required men of strong conviction, conscious of their responsibility and certain that the shed blood of Christ is the only remedy for sin. The hope of the world is the uncompromising preaching of Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

It is not strange that these men were opposed. All through the ages wrong has opposed right. Not only has wrong opposed right, but it goes to the extent of persecuting men of strong conviction. ON THE FENCE SO-CALLED LEADERS in the Christian Church. They are afraid of persecution. To do right in the face

of opposition may mean job reprisals, ostracism and many other things which may cause humiliation, but courage, conviction and trust give the assurance that right will eventually triumph.

— Witness —

The Christian Church is the star witness for Christ in the world today, despite those in the Church, who are dodging the real issues of right and wrong. The ringing challenge of the Church is to witness — the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Gamaliel is an outstanding example of those who are dodging the real issues of life. His is that of Judaism — wait and see. The Christian should be convicted, and a witness is one who knows and faces the issues. Why don't the Church leaders come out and condemn injustice wherever it is found? If they would a lot of things which are carried on in the name of the time is not ripe and a lot of people who a result of and humiliated would be relieved. Happily, we have more and more true witnesses. We believe the biggest business of the Church is witnessing for Christ. It is paying a dividend — the more faithful witnesses for Christ — the bigger the dividends. Peter was a faithful witness. Are you?

ALONG THE WAY

By C. L. BRYANT, JR.

FAITH

We live by faith. An existence that is not characterized by some kind of faith achieves nothing of significance. To believe in nothingness is an admission of sure defeat. Faith in some form is possessed by all who move the upward trail of successful endeavor. Every move made by mankind is an expression of an indomitable something within that says you can or can't. The infant takes his first because of confidence, he is not really conscious of it in his parents. The selection of vocations and avocations is made upon the basis of one's ability to master certain skills—faith in oneself. Faith is an attribute without which all life is nothingness.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1—To have an abiding faith in the promise of God, whom we have not seen, is absolutely essential to defeat us. We submit ourselves to the care and keeping of God through faith. Only the resolute soul is determined to rest implicitly upon the faithful fulfillment of the promises of God. Through faith in God man has surmounted obstacles that seemed unarmountable; where his possibility became an impossibility. God takes hold.

Faith in self is a prerequisite of human achievement; it is not synonymous to success because human frailty sometime stand as an impenetrable barrier making what we conceived as possible very impossible. Through faith in God we prepare ourselves for a more complete life here, and assure ourselves of the much desired blessing and peace that are the prizes of all who keep the faith.

One decides to execute some task—is not the decision made as a result of a faith lodged within the recesses of the human mind? Faith so stimulates man that freedom is not peacefully attained, until those pent-up desires reach fruition. Faith in God makes all things possible to us.

We must confidence—have faith—in some one. From time immemorial human progress has depended upon the "trinity of faiths"—Faith in oneself, Faith in friends and admirers, and lastly but, not least of all in importance Faith in God. The arrangement of the faiths was done so advisedly. When one's faith in self weakens, he is able to rely upon the faith he has in friends. These two faiths have acknowledged weaknesses and must not be accepted as being a sufficient guarantee of success. We confide in friends and they sometime forget the obligations that gave birth to the faith or bond between us. Because of God's infallibility He can not and will not betray our trust in Him.

The inherent weakness of faith in oneself or in one's friends is most vividly brought out in this verse from Sara Teasdale's "Leaves"

"One by one, like leaves from a tree,
All my faiths have forsaken me."
Tennyson expresses in his—In Memoriam—how man clings tenaciously to a power whose works are known to all who put their trust in Him.

"Strong Son of God, immortal Love,
Whom we have not seen thy face,
By faith, and faith alone, embrace,
Believing where we cannot prove."

Faith is one of the most significant forces of the universe; it provides man with a solace during the dark hours of despair. Faith arouses the passions from a state of lethargy, and sounds the death knell to our detrimental foes. Faith make possible for us ultimate victory. Faith is the leaven of life; it impregnates mortals to the extent that their enslavement is not easily carried out. It must and will find an outlet thereby enriching all human pursuits. J. M. Barrie in his "The Little White Bird" gives a rather lucid description of faith and we can't simply that they have perfect faith, to have faith is to have wings.

Have faith in God to run the race with patience. O that man possessed the kind of faith the hymn writer, William H. Bathurst, described in "O For a Faith That Will Not Shrink." Quoted as follows—

O for a faith that will not shrink, Tho' pressed by ev'ry foe,
That will not tremble on the brink of any earthly woe,
That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the Chast'ning rod,
But, in the hour of grief or pain, Will lean up—on its God,
"A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without,

That, when an dan—ger knows no fear, In darkness feels no doubt!
The request of the earnest believer for faith that remains constant is expressed in the last of this stirring hymn of faith—
"Lord, give us such a faith as this, And then, whatever may come, We'll taste o'er here, the Hal-loved bliss of an eternal home."
Because it was believed that faiths, other than faith in God, would only be transient H. F. Lyte was inspired to write "Abide With Me." Consider meditatively the thoughtful request made in the first stanza—
A-bide with me: Fast falls the e-even-ide: The darkness deepens—
Lord, with me a-bide! When other help-ers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the help-less, O a-bide with me!
We live by faith; with it all life is void.

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Some Observations

By GEORGE F. KING

NEGRO EXTENSION WORKERS CONGRATULATED FOR THEIR FINE WORK

That Negro ruralists in North Carolina are doing a remarkable agricultural job is revealed by the last annual report of R. E. Jones, State Agent Negro Extension Work with headquarters at A. S. College, Greensboro, North Carolina. Negro farmers in North Carolina who are so admirably responding to the programs of Negro extension workers are to be congratulated for their accomplishments as revealed by the narrative report of Mr. Jones.

People who are affected by the acute shortage of poultry and livestock should encourage extension work among Negroes because every dollar expended for this type of work is a substantial investment for the people of North Carolina. This type of education is an investment that develops human resources that will keep urban and city folk from starving. Human resources produce wealth and contributes to the happiness of every citizen. The hopes of our American families are inextricably bound up with the objectives of the programs of white and colored extension workers.

Public attention should be focused on the 57,428 farms operated by Negroes in North Carolina because they are a factor in the basic resources for American industries and in helping to meet the food necessities occasioned by this war. Negro agents are expanding the resources of Negro farms wherever they are located. This isn't done by a touch-and-go method, but by a system that reveals these agents are abnegating themselves for the betterment of farming practices of Negroes. As a concrete example we quote this paragraph from Mr. Jones' report:

"In poultry production, Negro agents assisted 5,926 farm families in obtaining better strains of baby chicks and having them raised. In one county alone, in Eastern North Carolina, over 17,000 baby chicks were secured by Negro farm families.

"Our first emphasis with Negro families is a plentiful supply of food products for home use. However, last year, 3,481 Negro farmers were assisted by Negro extension agents in selling and purchasing \$100,544 worth of poultry and egg products in a number of counties. Negro farmers are producing eggs and selling them at a premium to nearby hatcheries."

Of course the statistics in the foregoing paragraph should be unusually interesting to city folk who crowd markets at early hours in the morning to buy a chicken for Sunday's dinner—most of them reluctantly return to their homes without the real meat—will perhaps get their first taste of the "meat" when they get home. So of course after this war is over—when facts in the paragraph to follow this are digested:

"According to the 1940 census, there were 98,460 farms in North Carolina without a cow. Negro agents in forty-three counties, with 2,107 heads of high grade heifers and cows at a cost to farmers of \$108,000. The most important part of this piece of work was the fact that 47% of these dairy cattle went on farms where they was not a cow. To get the best results from these animals, agents spent a considerable amount of time on recommended methods of feeding, pasture, grazing and housing."

"Reports show a larger number of Negro farmers growing hogs, with more pigs farrowed, and more pigs served at farrowing time, which meant more meat for home use."

In making observations of work being done by Negro agents throughout the South one finds that there should be more Negro agents to assist Negro ruralists in areas where there are no Negro agents. If more Negro extension agents are placed in North Carolina, its wealth will be correspondingly increased. This assertion is backed by the following excerpt from Mr. Jones' report. He says:

"Negro farmers are making use of opportunities to increase their income on the farm so as to provide more of the necessities of life, make farm life more attractive for their boys and girls and

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