

EDITORIALS

A FACT RECOGNIZED

It has been noted in these columns on more than one occasion since the November election that newsmen and statesmen have been rather quiet as to the role of the Negro vote in returning President Truman to the White House. About the only prominent source of comment on the Negro's part to come to our notice has been the southern statesmen who continue to express the opinion advanced for many weeks before the election — that certain of the President's legislative proposals and the decisions of the Democratic National Convention were both dictated by the desire to catch the Negro vote in various crucial northern and border states. Even so many of these politicians have been slow since the election to acknowledge the importance of the Negro vote bringing about the great victory for the President personally and for the Democratic party. One notable exception is Governor Kerr Scott, who in a public statement credited the Negroes of his own state with being more loyal Democrats than many so-called Democratic leaders in North Carolina.

But by an interesting coincidence, two of the best known political commentators in the nation at the time of Truman's inauguration both commented on the Negro's role in making that day possible for the Missourian.

Drew Pearson, commenting on the inaugural events, wrote of how the President had wanted the "little people" who had elected him to get recognition in these events, rather than have it a field day for the "big socialites," many if not most of whom had done their best before November 2 to send him back to Missouri by January 21 at the latest.

Referring to the inaugural parade, with its ostentatious show of military might, Pearson said:

... Truman was sitting on Pennsylvania, watching long lines of artillery and troops, the naval cadets and armored cavalry which had done nothing to elect him and which could have been reviewed another day. The brass hats had put their military units near the head and middle of the parade, leaving the labor unions, the war veterans, the Negro units and civilian groups who swung the balance to elect Truman, bringing up the rear."

Marquis Childs in a rather rhapsodic article on the inauguration and what was back of it, talked about the party for which Inauguration Day was a day of justifiable pride. He wrote:

"The new-found vigor of the party is evidenced not only by individuals. Negro leaders from various parts of the country are here, many of them attending an inauguration for the first time and participating in the events connected with it. This is understandable since if any single bloc of votes contributed to the Democratic victory, it was the Negro bloc."

(It is a little regrettable that the term "bloc" has to be quoted, but we must use Mr. Child's exact words. The word "bloc" is being used currently in Georgia in a feeble and hypocritical effort to justify disfranchisement of Negroes.

Of course Negroes did not elect Truman, neither did labor, or the farmers, or the housewives, or any other group alone. The votes of all these categories were needed and it is bootless to say that any one group was the "deciding" factor if all were needed for the decision. But we are glad to observe that there are those who at least will include the Ne-

groes of the United States, and especially of those states where the Negro's suffrage is unhampered, as one of the groups whose support of Truman was not only a factor, but an important factor, in the success of the President and his party last November.

ANOTHER PROP KICKED OUT FROM UNDER

It looks as if Herman Talmadge and his legislative henchmen in Georgia may have to dig up another method to disfranchise the 89 per cent of the Negro voters of Georgia whom they had planned and were ready to disqualify by some such device as the infamous Boswell Amendment of Alabama. We confess an uncharitable amusement as we thought of the consternation that must have been aroused in the Talmadge camp by the decision of a three-judge Federal court the other day that the Boswell Amendment was unconstitutional. The decision, rendered by Alabama judges, was another and a very effective blow against unfair suffrage limitations and it is of great significance that, like the recent decisions in South Carolina, it was made by southern judges.

As has been said over and over in these columns the denial of the ballot to qualified Negroes on grounds that would not disqualify whites is definitely on its way clean out of the United States. The precedent established by the United States Supreme Court in the Texas primary case and subsequently has fixed the principle that the Fifteenth Amendment is to be observed in spirit as well as in the letter of the law. Lower federal courts have been constrained to accept the principle, and Judge Waites Waring, not only in his decisions, but also in the language of his opinions did a great deal to crystallize this new attitude and point of view.

The South is becoming reconciled to the idea that there is no just or defensible basis for barring qualified Negroes from the ballot, and to the companion principle that whatever qualifications are established for the suffrage should be applied equally to all.

The spuriously pious arguments of the Talmadge group that Negroes should be kept from voting because they vote in a bloc is no more than a way of saying that Negroes won't vote for persons who are pledged to do everything they can in office to keep Negroes from the right to exercise the suffrage.

THE CREECH CASE

The CAROLINIAN does not believe in capital punishment. It holds that the savage and deprived deeds of no individual should be answered with a correspondingly savage act by the State in behalf of the society at large.

There may be some persons whose destructive proclivities are of such a nature that they are a menace to society as long as they are alive. It may be that such people should be killed; but at the very least we might go about it in a better way than the way of "capital punishment" as we now carry it out, with all its trappings and pious and refined cruelties and its baneful effects on all. But as long as capital punishment is mandatory for first degree murder, it is well that those who are rich and of high status and can hire the best legal talent and have large numbers of influential friends should not have an advantage over the poor and unimportant and those represented by court-appointed counsel, in escaping the "extreme penalty."

So in the case of the late James B. Creech the CAROLINIAN feels that the original trial judge and jury, the State Supreme Court and Governor Scott are all to be commended. None of them are responsible for the principle of capital punishment, or for the laws which are now on the statute books of North Carolina as to the death penalty. Their job was to see that fair and impartial justice was carried out in this case, without fear and without favor. The result of their action was to strengthen the none too strong faith of the people in the impartiality of the law.



THE OFFICE IS NOW THE VICTIM OF TEACHING



Second Thoughts

BY C. D. HALLIBURTON

If a Negro "leader" wants to make the front page of the southern newspapers, it is not necessary that he back up with a wife of his bosom with axe or meat cleaver, or get himself charged with committing rape. Such a spectacular and risky deed may be the only way to personal publicity for lesser and more humble individuals. But better known Negroes do not have to go to such lengths. They have simply to make some such statements as Old Man Holley did before the Kiwanis Club in Albany, Georgia, not long ago. Dr. Holley, former president of Albany State College is now retired and therefore in relative obscurity, but he hasn't forgotten the techniques for attracting attention to himself.

I presume that every reader knows the circumstances, but to make sure, here is what Dr. J. Holley did. Invited to speak before the Kiwanis Club of his home town, Albany, he told the assembled Kiwanians, according to Associated Press, that he protested "the rape of my race by the Northern press and other organizations." He condemned the CIO, the NAACP and the Rosenwald Fund and said that Georgia Negroes are being taught, presumably by such "outsiders" influences, to "hate the white man."

When a Negro is invited to speak to a Georgia Kiwanis club, you have already an index of his type, and you know just about what he is going to say. Only the right kind of man is likely to be invited. The matter in question may be further and more definitely typed by the fact that he had to do so openly supported the late Gene Talmadge for the governorship for the last time before his untimely death, when that worthy was running

No more need be said concerning Dr. Holley and his ilk. We do not propose to attack him in this column. He has sneaked for himself, and to answer him would be a waste of time, at least in these columns. What we do want to talk about, however, is the almost unseemly eagerness of the southern press and often of the press in other sections of the country, to feature such distorted and sycophantic mouthings by Negroes.

Not long ago a Negro editor and publisher of an obscure and unenviable little newspaper for which he claimed a huge circulation beyond that of any of the established Negro weeklies, made the front pages throughout the South by two editorials of much the same stripe as the speech with which Dr. Holley favored the Albany Kiwanians. The man, Davis Lee, was even less well known than Dr. Holley, and I personally have never seen his newspaper, published in Newark, N. J. and I never heard of it before. Not only did Mr. Lee's comments on racial matters in the South excite the news columns of the southern press, they received laudatory mention on the editorial pages of many journals.

In one of Mr. Lee's pieces he went farther than Dr. Holley and made an additional bid for appreciation by charging that the civil rights program is associated with Communism. White people of the South are deluding themselves if they believe that men like Dr. Holley and Mr. Lee are in any sense representative of the thinking of the great majority of their black fellow citizens. We suppose it is a human trait to love to hear from yes-men, but it is not very educational.

Open Letter To The Editor

3201 East Alabama Street Houston 4, Texas February 11, 1949

Dear Editor—

I found your last week's "banter" on the evacuation of Negroes from "Dixie" very interesting. About fourteen or fifteen years ago, while covering Capitol Hill at my home (Washington), I got wind of a book, "White America," which had been produced at private expense and was about to be distributed, free, to all members of Congress, and certain state legislatures, by some national "benefactor" (or should it be "malefactor") in Virginia. The book had the same benign intent — to depict Negroes, only, the paid proponent of the idea urged deportation of ALL Negroes from America, to Africa, of course.

The well-heeled champion of "White America" was evidently serious or he would not have spent his money for so futile a gesture. So I thought that it would be interesting to poll Congressional sentiment on the subject before the deluge of books arrived — to be taken over seriously or simply overlooked in the mass of mail. I was particularly interested in Southern opinion. I polled 78 members of Congress as I recall — about 90 per cent Southern. Cries of anguish were going up, and in queries at the suggestion of losing Negro labor in the South, even by "White America" arrived "massly" in the Congressional mails, from a New York publishing house. One of the non-Southerners who commented neatly was the late Senator Borah of Idaho, who handed his volume over to me. Of the Southerners who declined any

affinity for the "crazy idea," North Carolina's Bob Reynolds, was one. Bailey was another. The deeper South they came from, the less they liked it.

Someone (not a legislator) down here in Texas, has recently come up in the local dailies with a similar proposition to beat the domestic labor market. This profound social thinker would make a deal with the Chinese government to import a certain number of Chinese for domestic and unskilled labor, with the stipulation that the imported ones would be returned with thanks at the end of an agreed period, and replaced with greenhorns (before they had been here long enough to become Americanized in their thinking and get unprofitable ideas which would destroy their usefulness as menials). Interesting, isn't it?

Of course, the saving grace of these attention-getters, or save-us-from-democracy proposals is that mankind is perversely and consistently non-conformist. And post World War II mankind is in no mood for pushing around, regardless of race, nationality or previous condition of political.

Constance E. H. Daniel

WE ARE RISING

By William Henry Huff for ANP By watching trends both day and night, I saw again, like Major Wright, "Go Tell them we are rising." I hear my race here and abroad. Which reason, brood because of fraud? Say, "Tell them we are rising." Though, competition's keen and fierce, In every worthy walk of life I find that we are rising.

HERE AND THERE

(BY ANP)

When VA shuts down its branch offices, very few Negroes will be affected. Branch offices hired fewer Negroes than any other units. Most Negro employees are employed at regional office level. State offices, and in central office. Passage of civil rights laws through congress will take tremendous pressure. Chances are getting slimmer every day. Reason, agitation cooling off. (Maybe we don't really want to be free, uh?) Yes, Junior, we are going to get just what we are willing to fight for — no more, but there will always be those who would give up even less.

International day at Wilberforce State college on Feb. 12 looks at an auspicious occasion. Annual event will draw heavily this year, as program is an excellent one.

Washington is still talking about deep impression Negro guests made at the Inaugural Ball (first time Negroes ever attended). Verily, were the ladies beautifully attired and the men were in chivalrous tulle. Affairs will be long remembered.

Hip, hip, hooray for Dr. Charles Johnson (Fish proxy) for his insisting that, that St. Louis hotel house him with the white poet; who were grounded on that fight (Good stuff, Charlie).

Seems as if the National Negro Opera company will at long last produce Aida in Washington House will be sold out for this one, eh, Mrs. Dawson and crew will lay it down.

Don't let a few dopes out by some postures, who should never have been trooked anyway, cause you to look upon the Negro church with contempt. Anyone who says that our churches by and large are not worthy of their existence is as wrong as the 1948 election polls. The sooner we stop thinking acting in a Negro world, and begin acting like we were just Americans and know it, the sooner this "race question" will peter out. Get where will the "segregationists" get their jolly pants?

Free will get you ten that the interracial jury sitting on Axis Sally's case will give the former Nazi dumbstruck the works. That will be just fine.

WHAT SOME OTHER EDITORS HAVE TO SAY

Reprint from: The Lee County Messenger Bishopville, S. C. January 13, 1949

HAVE PRIVATE UTILITIES FAILED?

We are sure that a great many people are asking these days whether privately operated utilities have failed to provide electric and power service that they should have provided. This is brought about, of course, by the fact that the Rural Electrification Administration, in Washington, has approved a loan of over seven and a half million dollars for the construction of 834 miles of electric transmission lines, many of which will be exactly parallel to lines now in existence and carrying power to cities and rural areas.

We do not know everything that there is to know about the Carolina Power and Light and other companies not operated by dotes from the federal and state treasuries but we believe, on a whole, that they have done an excellent job supplying current to towns, cities, communities, rural areas and manufacturing enterprises. They have paid huge tax levies and are distinct assets to every part of the state in which they operate. We hate to see these companies being forced to the wall, and it will come to that lat-

THE ROAD TO HEALTH

ARTHRITIS

Chronic arthritis develops more slowly, first with stiffness in one joint, then stiffness in other joints home not long ago. When he phoned he said he had had a pain in period of time. The chronic form of arthritis is more difficult to treat than the acute form, and it is this on his way home from work and he had fallen on the street.

A medicine had driven him home and, once in the house, he noted his right knee was swollen and out of shape and he felt "stuck all over." I tried to avoid hurting Bob as I carefully examined the offending leg and knee. Every indication pointed to arthritis in an early, inflammatory stage, and later tests confirmed my suspicion. Bob was plainly astonished when I told him, "But, doctor, only old people get arthritis. I'm not 30 yet!"

"That's one of the great evils of arthritis, Bob," I answered. "It can attack people at any age, but it frequently strikes young adults. And if it is allowed to progress, unchecked and untreated, it can make its victim a cripple for life."

Bob exclaimed that he hoped he wasn't going to be made a cripple so young.

"You don't have to be afraid of that, Bob. You will be unable to work for some weeks, but I have every reason to hope that, with good care and treatment, we can ward off any permanent damage from this attack of arthritis."

Bob Fuller had what is known as acute arthritis, which is often a sign of infection elsewhere in the body. This form of disease attacks suddenly, with stabbing pain and swelling of the joints affected. The sufferer frequently also has fever, accompanied by nausea. With proper treatment given in time, permanent crippling may be avoided. The type of treatment, however, will depend upon the source of infection.

This article is co-sponsored by the National Medical Association and the National Tuberculosis Association and released through the Associated Negro Press in the interest of better health of the people.

IN THIS OUR DAY

A Thought For Today and Tomorrow

By C. A. CHICK

Human beings are prone, for the most part, to gloom, to fix their eyes on the gloomy things of life. They seldom let the bright rays that penetrate the clouds of disappointment and despair banish clouds from view. Mrs. Charles Cowan says in her book, "Streams in the Desert," that people should get into the habit of looking for the silver lining of the clouds and when they have found it, continue to look at it, rather than at the great darkness on the other side.

If mankind everywhere only realized that strife, disappointment and discouragements need not be visited to no matter how great they may be, the complication that accompany human existence would be lessened. A burdened soul is helpless, and the whole world seems to be struggling beneath a burden.

This burden might be due primarily to the attitude people take toward one another. Those who practice bigotry, intolerance, indifference, and all of the related misgivings cannot expect to get the most out of life. There must be an attitude of sharing and allowing others to share in the shaping of policies that affect the well-being of mankind, before a world of real peace can be enjoyed.

Needless to say mere advancements in science and in invention are insufficient to bridge the chasm between man and true happiness. As it is now, all of the accomplishments that have been made only make members of the human family uneasy and skeptical of one another. There is a lack of understanding which is serving to hinder human progress tremendously.

Without a doubt, the area in which there must be forging ahead on the part of conscientious leaders is that of bettering

or on, by politically inspired, operated and financed organizations such as Santee Cooper, Clark Hill and others. There is a place for companies financed from the public treasury only if private industry cannot and will not render the services required.

Advertisement for Mrs. Jane Roberts, Liberia's First and Truly Great "First Lady". Text includes: "THEY'LL NEVER DIE By Elton Fax", "BORN IN THE U.S. 1809 THIS CHARMING WIFE OF LIBERIA'S FIRST PRESIDENT, JOSEPH ROBERTS, WAS AN ABLE ASSISTANT TO HER FAMOUS HUSBAND.", "MRS. ROBERTS WAS TWICE PRESENTED TO QUEEN VICTORIA IN LONDON ON THE 2ND VISIT SHE TOOK WITH HER A HUMBLE AFRICAN WOMAN WHOSE SUPERB NEEDLE CRAFT WAS UNTIL THEN UNKNOWN. VICTORIA ENTERTAINED THEM BOTH AND ACCEPTED THE NEEDLE WORK AS A GIFT TO THE ROYAL ART COLLECTION.", "MRS. JANE ROBERTS LIBERIA'S FIRST AND TRULY GREAT 'FIRST LADY'". Continental Features

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