

EDITORIALS

SATISFACTORY APPOINTMENTS

The appointment of Attorney General Tom Clark to the United States Supreme Court has met with general approval among Negro citizens. While in the Justice Department Mr. Clark was a consistent advocate and defender of the civil rights of all Americans, and an outspoken champion of greater safeguards of these rights by the Federal government. It will also be remembered that he endorsed President Truman's civil rights program.

The new judge — for his confirmation is almost certain — is a Texan, but this fact does not bother Negro Americans at all. Mr. Clark is one of those honestly liberal southerners who believe in all of the U. S. Constitution and not selected parts of it, and who think justice embraces equality of protection and citizenship.

There are already on the Supreme Court bench two Kentuckians and the now highly respected and trusted Justice Hugo Black, formerly an Alabama senator. Negroes have had little to complain of as to the attitudes of these three southerners. As a matter of fact Justice Black, whose appointment created such a furor back in the 'thirties, has proven one of the staunchest defenders of the rights of the individual under the U. S. Constitution, regardless of race or creed, and has contributed much to the liberation of Negroes from prejudice against a man simply and solely because of his being a southerner.

There was some hope that President Truman would fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court with the appointment of a Negro, a number of whom are jurists learned and capable enough to fill the position. It was hardly to be expected, however, that a Negro would be appointed to the Supreme Court before Negroes had served in the lower U. S. courts, and except for judgeships in the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia, no Negro has been a judge of a Federal court. The time cannot be far distant, however, when this will no longer be true, and some day there doubtless will be a Negro supreme court judge, selected on the basis of his qualifications as well as in consideration of minority group representation.

Tom Clark was a good attorney general. If Senator McGrath accepts the appointment as his successor the office will still be in capable and reliable hands. Senator McGrath has been a consistent and vigorous fighter, as senator and as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, for the extension of democracy and the full benefits of citizenship to all American citizens.

CONFOUNDING THE RACISTS

The racists, that is, those who hold that ability is definitely and rigidly correlated with skin color, diminishing among the races of man as pigmentation increases, are not so vocal or so influential today as they have been in the past. The objective findings of the scientists have in general demolished the theory of the inherent inferiority of the darker races. It is becoming more and more accepted as a fact that environment, nurture and opportunity have much more to do with the achievement of men and women of any race than formerly was believed. It has been demonstrated that native ability

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and native lack of ability are alike distributed among all races and nationalities of mankind, and that most of us, whatever our color, are just average in inherent abilities of various kinds.

There are still a good many believers in the theory of racial superiority and inferiority, however, and unfortunately not all of them are white. There are Negroes who, consciously or unconsciously, have accepted as gospel the myth of Negro inferiority and white superiority. For the benefit of all these we call attention to the recent report of the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners on the results of the latest examination for licenses to practice medicine.

Dr. Alfred Lee Coles, of Durham, ranked second in a group of 82 who took the examination. His average was 90.8. The young white man, Dr. Claude R. Joyner, of Winston-Salem, who made the highest score, averaged 91, only two-tenths of a point above Dr. Coles. The latter is a graduate of Meharry Medical College.

This little item adds one more bit of evidence against the racists — one more bit to the vast and always growing mass of evidence that there is no fundamental and inherent difference between the races in native ability. The differences are individual far more than they are racial.

The United Press reported some time ago that only two persons turned up at a meeting of the group organized among students of the University of North Carolina in opposition to the student group supporting the admission of Negroes to the University's law school. It is encouraging to know that those actively opposed to the opening of the University's graduate and professional schools to qualified persons regardless of race are so few in number among the students of the University of North Carolina.

The time is coming when the propriety and logic of giving up the attempt to maintain a dual system of professional and graduate education will be accepted, not only by a great majority of the students and faculty of the University, but by the general public of North Carolina. There will be a considerable number who will oppose and fight this change, and some who will never be reconciled to it; but common sense and common justice will prevail. Things have certainly changed already when the kind of meeting held at Chapel Hill attracted no one except the chairman and the publicity man of the committee organized to oppose the acceptance of a Negro in one of the University's professional schools.

ANONYMITY ESSENTIAL

To rob the Ku Klux Klan of its cover of anonymity would be to ruin it. The Alabama Klan official who refused to furnish the Court with a roster of the local chapter's membership could not do otherwise, granting that he expected the Ku Klux Klan to continue in existence. He took the rap in a contempt order rather than submit the list.

Furnishing a list of membership would not damage a bona-fide secret and fraternal order like the Masons or the Knights of Pythias, but the Klan naturally is in a different category, whatever parallels its members may try to draw, or however they may try to imply that the Klan is in the same class as such organizations.

It is gratifying to note that the State Supreme Court of Alabama upheld the contempt sentence handed down by the judge of the lower court for the refusal of the Klan officer to furnish the roster. There can be no legal justification for the kind of secrecy the Klan claimed it had the right to, and no legitimate organization would demand it.



STOP THEM, BEFORE WRECK US ALL.



Second Thoughts

BY C. D. HALLIBURTON

Life Magazine for August 1 said, "This week Jackie Robinson, the Negro star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, gives us our editorial." I can see no good reason, if I think Jackie's statement, which it quotes almost entirely for its editorial of the week, is so important, why I should not make it the basis for my column of this week. Jackie Robinson was the subject of this column not long ago, but then his prowess as a baseball player was the theme of what was practically a sports article. This time we want to think of Jackie as an American citizen who happens to be brown of skin.

A few of the more captious may think that after all he is only a baseball player, so why all the fuss. But Jackie is an extremely important personage in America and in reference to the always pertinent matter of race relations. He is at present probably the best and most favorably known Negro in the United States, and what he said will carry tremendous weight among millions who would not easily be reached otherwise by any intelligent discussion of the question of race in American life. The language he used in testifying before the Un-American Activities Committee in reference to Paul Robeson's alleged statement which implied that Negro Americans might be disloyal to their country in a crisis is clear and simple, carrying conviction and making an appeal to the basic fairness of the average American which will be hard to reject. Jackie insists that he composed the written statement himself, though he admits receiving "a lot of help in getting it just right." LIFE observed, "For our money it was just right."

I think the best part of the Robinson statement is contained in the excerpt quoted below: "As I see it there has been a terrific lot of misunderstanding on this subject of communism among Negroes in this country, and it's bound to hurt my people's cause unless it's cleared up. The white public should start toward real understanding by appreciating that every single Negro who is worth his salt is going to resent any kind of slurs and discrimination because of his race, and he's going to use every bit of his intelligence, such as he has, to stop it. This has got absolutely nothing to do with what Communists may or may not be trying to do. And that goes for racial discrimination in the Army, and segregation on trains and buses, and job discrimination because of religious beliefs or color or place of birth. "And one other thing the American public ought to understand, if we are to make progress in this matter, is the fact that because it is a Communist who denounces injustice in the courts, police brutality and lynching, when it happens, doesn't change the truth of his charges. Just because Communists kick up a big fuss over racial discrimination when it suits their purpose — a lot of people try to pretend that the whole issue is a creation of Communist imagination. "While defending the Negro masses against the charge of communist sympathies, Robinson made it clear that he and nearly all other Negroes recognize the basis for Paul Robeson's dissatisfaction with the outstanding weakness of American democracy. That, and his declaration that Robeson had the right to his individual opinions and beliefs, though he denied the propriety of Robeson's speaking for 15,000,000 Negro Americans on the subject of their loyalty, moved even Robinson himself to express publicly his approval of the manly Jackie, and to declare that he would not be pushed into a quarrel with him. TIMES says "When he (Jackie) had finished some one in the audience called out, 'Amen!' So say we. We add our 'Amen' to TIMES.

IN THIS OUR DAY BY C. A. CHICK, SR.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS (INSTALLMENT III)

Whatever else may have been the results of the statement supposedly made by Paul Robeson that American Negroes would not fight in case of a war with Russia, this writer feels that it has served to point out again how important American Negroes are to the entire economic and political fabric of this country. When I travel by public conveyances, and especially on buses, I am sometimes tempted to conclude that Negroes are very insignificant factors in the total scheme of things in this country. When I go to buy my ticket, and observe that in many cases the ticket agent stands at the window set aside for white people as long as he imagines that he sees a white person coming for a ticket; when I observe how little, as well as the inadequacy of the space in that part of the bus station set aside for Negroes, it all adds up to make me feel that Negroes are very insignificant personages in the estimation of some white people. Or when I go to spend my hard earned money, and notice the lack of courtesy and the spirit of indifference with which I am serv-

CAROLINIAN PHOTO Quiz

THE QUESTION: Why do you think the number of Negro voters is so small in the state and how do you feel that the number could be increased? ANSWERS:

S. LANIER LEONARD — I think the number of Negro voters in the state is small because of the tendency of the Negro to wait for and depend upon the other person.

Far too many of us will wait things to be done or changed and will talk vehemently about these changes among ourselves, but when the time comes to go to the polls, we lose out because too many of us say, "I don't think I'll bother this time, there will be enough voters without me."

I think that the number of Negro voters in the state would be increased immeasurably if each of us made himself a committee of one to see that HE went to the polls to register and vote for himself and forgot about how many other persons were or were not going.

HAL POPE — I feel that the Negro vote is as small as it is in this state because the Negro residents, in far too many areas, have not been taught the proper methods of registering and voting.

While studies of civics and government teach us that it is the duty and responsibility of every citizen to vote, we find that a large percentage of our people doesn't even bother about checking to see whether they would have any trouble in voting or not. Many of them seem to have

BETWEEN THE LINES

BY DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

CARDINAL SPELLMAN AND MRS. ROOSEVELT

Cardinal Spellman's vitriolic attack on Mrs. Roosevelt for her support of the Eason bill which would deny Federal funds to parochial schools, seems utterly unwarranted. It looks as if the eminent churchman was attempting to make an example of a scapegoat of the former First Lady but to a casual observer he did not advance the cause of Catholicism in this country. The attempt to disparage and belittle and castigate anyone for an honest expression of opinion on public policy is undemocratic and Unchristian and itself smacks of the very intolerance that is the theme in the flesh of the current loyalty politics. But to attempt such against Mrs. Roosevelt who has won international affection and renown for her breadth of spirit and her uncompromising tolerance for all groups, Negroes included, seems highly impolite and spacious and does not become the dignity that belongs unto a prelate of Cardinal Spellman's rank.

Religious prejudice like race prejudice stems from ignorance and the intolerance begotten thereof is just as despicable when evinced by a high churchman as when evinced by the common people. It is no wonder then that the notables of the land are flocking to Mrs. Roosevelt's defense and it is tragically possible that the great Catholic church will lose ground in its fight in a land where Catholicism is far from the generally accepted creed.

Fortunately for this writer, he can write without bias or prejudice on religious and denominational matters for he understands too well the shallowness of the arguments that stand one creed or race in opposition to all others. The world would doubtless be better off without the racial rivalries and the spacious distinctions thereof. Personally, this writer would throw no spasms if tomorrow's coming would see a Catholic world of religion; but neither would he shudder if instead it were a protestant world. Denominations do not make much difference but the souls making up these make a great difference. It is true that the protestant branch

THE ROAD TO HEALTH

TUBERCULOSIS AND REST

BY MAURICE L. ADAMS, M. D., Baltimore, Md. FOR ANP
Steve Egan kept repeating that he wasn't stubborn, he was merely being practical. He accepted my diagnosis that he had tuberculosis in an early stage and wanted to go to the nearby sanatorium. I told him what to expect in the way of sanatorium regulations and he seemed to understand — with the exception of why complete bed rest was basic and necessary to his cure.

The factory where Steve worked had had a chest X-ray survey of employees some weeks before. His X-ray plates showed suspicious shadows and later tests had confirmed that he had tuberculosis. Although his illness was detected early, in a stage when it is easiest to cure, Steve would have to go to the sanatorium as soon as arrangements could be made for a bed for him. There he could obtain the complete rest under medical supervision which is fundamental to victory over tuberculosis.

I explained to Steve that he would not be confined to complete bed rest 24 hours a day for his entire sanatorium stay, that he would be permitted some activity later on when he became better and sanatorium officials knew that it was safe for him. But Steve was still puzzled a bit over what complete bed rest would have to do with treatment for his sick lung. "Look at it this way, Steve," I said. "One of your lungs is sick, and it needs all the rest and relaxation it can get if we want it to heal. The lung is one organ of the body which is constantly at work, and it has to work harder when the body is more active. By the same token, the lung gets the most rest when the body is at complete rest." I showed Steve some simple medical charts of the lung and pointed out how those organs work like a pump to get oxygen into the body and purify the blood stream. With the body at complete rest, I pointed out, the strain on the lung is much less than when a person is up and about. As its work is cut down in this way as far as possible, the damaged lung has a better chance to heal.

Steve was finally convinced. I have recently heard reports that Steve cooperates with the sanatorium regulations and has been there for several weeks now. I think that those in charge of arranging our school curricula should make the study of government a compulsory course and should see that it is taught to every student in every school.

That way there would be a wider knowledge of the responsibilities of citizenship as well as of the privileges.

THEY'LL NEVER DIE *By Elton Fax*

ANATIVE OF CAMBRIDGE MASS, MISS BALDWIN ATTENDED THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF HER CITY. AFTER NORMAL SCHOOL TRAINING SHE TAUGHT FOR A BRIEF SPELL IN MD. BUT ASHATATION FOR COLORED TEACHERS IN MASS LED TO HER ENTRY INTO THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOLS. FROM 1882 TO 1889 SHE TAUGHT EVERY GRADE A PRINCIPALSHIP FOLLOWED. AND WHEN IN 1918 HER SCHOOL TOOK OVER A NEW BUILDING MISS BALDWIN WAS NAMED ITS MASTER. SHE SUPERVISED 12 WHITE TEACHERS AND 110 WHITE CHILDREN. SOME OF THE LATTER WERE THE OFFSPRING OF NOTED HARVARD PROFESSORS.

Maria F. Baldwin
UNUSUAL SCHOLAR AND EDUCATOR

Continental Pictures