

EDITORIALS

MOST HIGHWAY DEATHS AVOIDABLE

Recently there appeared in the Raleigh Times a news article under the caption, "No Avoidable Accidents." The article analyzed the causes of each of the eight highway fatalities which have occurred in Harnett County this year, and in substantiation of the proposition stated in the caption showed that in every case carelessness or the violation of traffic rules or the laws of common sense brought about the fatal accident. It was a very convincing demonstration of the needlessness of many highway deaths.

Three persons were killed the first of the year as a result of an accident while passing a car. Another died while speeding home after a party. Another died speeding away from a pursuing patrolman. Two others died when their car turned over while going too fast on a dirt road. Another died in an intersection crash, and a child was killed while crossing a thoroughfare. The last "might not have died if his parents had warned him sufficiently about running across the road," said Highway Patrolman William O'Daniel, the man responsible for the statement, "There is no such thing as an unavoidable accident."

Corporal O'Daniel's dictum may represent some exaggeration for effect, but it is certainly a fact that careful driving practices would have prevented most of Harnett's 1948 deaths, and many more in North Carolina and throughout the country. Careless and silly behavior behind a steering wheel is one of North Carolina's and the nation's leading causes of death.

FIRST NAMES

The two local daily newspapers both carried vigorous editorials on the outcome of the court case involving the young man from Gastonia who assaulted a Negro woman hotel employee, causing a fractured jaw for the victim. Both newspapers were emphatic in condemning the behavior of the young man, both in connection with the incident and in reference to the trial. The Raleigh Times said as to the latter, "It is again disturbing to note the light handling of a Raleigh City Court case which should have resulted in a serious penalty."

It is good to note the stand taken by our local dailies in favor of justice and decency, though not at all surprising. Editorially their policies have long been definitely on the side of justice, fairness and decency. But one cannot forget that in the Times' news story of the trial the victim of the assault was referred to throughout by her first name after her introduction into the story by her full name.

White married women, except notorious and regular police court characters, are consistently given the courtesy title, "Mrs." in the news column of the Times. Mrs. Hunt, once identified by her full name, thereafter was "May," though grown, married, and the mother of a number of children, some of whom have reached adulthood. She is not a police character. She became material for the news only because of how she was treated.

The true attitude of the Times toward the mistreatment of Mrs. Hunt was shown in its editorial columns. Yet the reference to her by her first name in the news columns has some relation to what happened to her—a relation remote from the intention of the newspaper, but nonetheless existent. For it reflects a difference in the public attitude toward women of different races which at its best is simply annoying, but which

at its worst can result in the kind of thing that happened at the hotel.

Very recently the Southern Regional Council, regarded nowhere as a "radical" organization, issued a statement on "Race in the News," with some comments and suggestions concerning the treatment of Negroes in the columns of newspapers. One of the suggestions and recommendations was that courtesy titles be used uniformly for members of both races.

The newspapers have an obligation to be evenhanded in their treatment of personalities in the news. They can exercise leadership, if they will, in bringing about a healthier public attitude toward the Negro race by so doing.

THAT'S "TELLING THEM IN FRONT"

We believe that the vast majority of North Carolinians will applaud the stand of Shank Littlejohn, chief of police of Charlotte, in warning the Ku Klux Klan that that organization is definitely unwelcome in his city. Governor Scott has endorsed the statement of Mr. Littlejohn, and we hope and believe that the Governor was expressing not only his own views but the official attitude of the State of North Carolina.

The way to treat the Ku Klux Klan is not to ignore it until it has got a foothold. The only language it can understand is the kind used by Chief Littlejohn, which makes it very clear that the Klan is recognized as highly undesirable and therefore something that will not be temporized with. Notoriously the Klan is presumptuous and arrogant, claiming for itself the virtues of Christian principles and living, good citizenship and patriotism. In operation it always shows itself to be something quite contrary to these claims. Indeed, its principles are directly opposed to them. When those in authority in a place make it perfectly clear by their statements and actions that they are not taken in by the hypocritical or misguided evaluation of the Klan by its own officers and members, a great deal has been accomplished toward heading off its growth in that place.

The best recent editorial on the hooded order was reprinted in the News and Observer from the Dallas (Texas) Morning News a few days ago. It is quoted below in its entirety:

"The head of the Ku Klux Klan has offered his assistance to the government, and if the government has any rocks it needs broken, it should take him up."

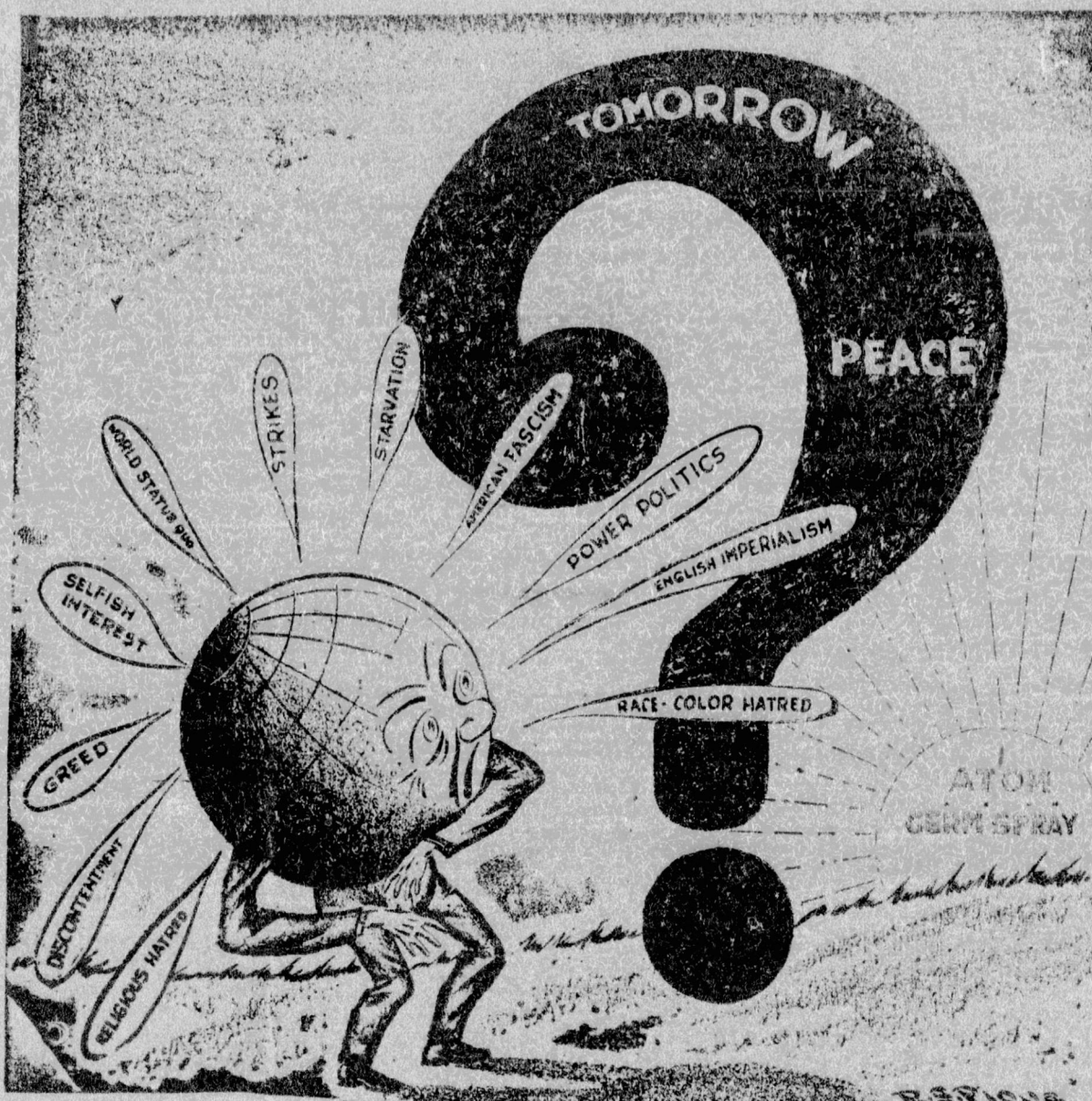
NEW TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL PLANNED

The news that a 100-bed hospital for tubercular patients is to be erected at time. It is especially good, however, coming so soon after the news of the destitute deaf and dumb woman who died in a North Carolina county jail of tuberculosis.

According to the news story the poor woman was ejected from the poor home of her relatives because they found her unmanageable. There was no bed available in any of the state's hospitals for the tubercular, so she was given lodging in the jail where she died.

Maybe the county authorities in contact with the case did all they could under the circumstances. Maybe the relatives of the woman found the burden of her care too much for them. On these points we are not competent to judge in view of the sketchy information available concerning the case. But we do know that North Carolina should not permit its tubercular to die in jails, especially when guilty of no offense punishable by law.

We do not know at this writing the ratio of Negro to white hospital beds in the state sanatoria, but we hope that in building new hospitals for tubercular patients, those in authority will take proper cognizance of the much higher incidence of tuberculosis among Negroes than among whites, and apportion the facilities with these facts in mind.



"They Are All Dangers To World Peace"



Second Thoughts

BY C. D. HALLIBURTON

As an Episcopalian and a male I admit that I am disappointed and rather embarrassed by the action taken by the General Convention in its sessions at San Francisco in failing to give women the right to lay representation in the Convention.

Each diocese of the Church sends four lay delegates to the triennial convention, the legislative body of the national church. It seems that to this convention a small number of women were elected and sent by their respective dioceses as delegates. Of course as soon as the question of seating them arose it was pointed out that the organic law of the church referred to the lay delegates as "laymen." A resolution was introduced calling for the changing of this term to "lay persons," thus qualifying women to be delegates.

The General Convention, which is to some extent modeled after the U. S. Congress, consists of two houses, the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, the latter made up of clergymen and laymen. But in the House of Deputies, in turn, the vote on at least some issues is divided by orders, the clergy and laity voting separately, a majority vote of both orders

being necessary for action. Both the clergy and the laity voted against the resolution which would have enabled women to be lay delegates or deputies, and the laity voted more strongly against it than the ministers did.

I am ashamed in the Episcopal Church as in most other churches, women do a great deal of work. The Women's Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church raises a tremendous amount of money, which they are allowed by the men to contribute toward the work of the church. They carry on a large program of activity on their own, in addition to this. One deputy, with this in mind, said in favor of the resolution, "If we expect women to finance us they should have the privilege and responsibility of representation. If they are communicants they should have the right to representation." That is certainly the way a lot of men think, including the writer of this column.

The opposite view was set forth as follows by another deputy: "Don't put on the shoulders of the women our responsibility. Men and women have different functions in the church." My answer to that would be that we have already

and for many years let a good deal of "our" responsibility in the churches fall on the women, and as to the difference of functions, why should not being a delegate be one of the functions concerning which there should be no difference?

Excluding women from eligibility to be delegates is nothing but prejudice, based on tradition. The tradition stems from Paul and others of the church fathers, who regarded women as spiritual inferiors, but who nevertheless like the present-day church leaders utilized the energy and devotion of women for the advancement and welfare of the church. Discrimination against women is often arbitrary and unjustifiable, as the United States finally conceded in adopting the 19th Amendment. To practice discrimination within the Church is not to sanctify it, when that discrimination is traceable to prejudice, whether it be race prejudice or sex prejudice or prejudice of some other kind.



BETWEEN THE LINES

BY DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

THE NEGRO IN THE NEWS

The Southern regional council without noise and fan fare is making a gallant stand against dreadful odds and its contribution to the cause of interracial understanding is immeasurable. It would be difficult to overestimate the south. Its voice has been loudest and most insistent in the matter of pressing upon the South the necessity of having Negro policemen as one possible answer to the police brutality which at times reaches alarming proportions.

Whenever Negro policemen have been tried the results have proved salutary, and the movement is still in its infancy, but in full swing. The Southern Regional Council is easily the driving force which explains the accelerated endeavors to have Negro policemen appointed in every southern city and community. Again the self-survey approach to community betterment as sponsored by the council has generally commanded itself and the Jacksonville study has become a revelation and a challenge that Jacksonville has met with courage and intelligence and it serves as a classic example of interracial community cooperation.

One good move in one city often opens currents of community help and betterment that become a contagion for good in other cities. Richmond, Va., is far from being an interracial paradise, but a self-survey set off a series of community inspections with the result that after nearly 25 years this studious city is still on the move toward a better city made so by the full participation of Negroes in all affairs of the community. Richmond's survey was set in motion by the eminent Arthur Guild the brilliant director of the Community Chest assisted by his brilliant wife Mrs. June Gild. These two broad-gauged persons proved to be blessings to Richmond and the Negro race, but the self-survey approach sparked the program that is still being prosecuted with most gratifying results.

So then when the Southern Regional Council sets itself to bolstering the Negro-for-police-men movement it was going to the heart of a grave question. And the self-survey possibilities it has revealed promises far reaching progress in the ad-

vancement of the South and the Negro. More recently the council has brought out a brochure on "The Negro In The News." This study is easily a classic in its field and should be read by every citizen of this nation. Too long has the Negro been made a journalistic arena—villain scape-goat and do-funny. It was revealing to note that the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Chattanooga Times were commended for their almost complete break with southern tradition in their treatment of news as it pertains to Negroes.

Much has been written on the shame and disgrace of lynching in the South but little direct attack has ever been seriously directed against the lynchings that have taken place on the editorial desks of the south. Now comes the Southern Regional Council with something constructive in this sphere of race relations. The tragic practices of the southern press are gallantly portrayed with invaluable suggestions for improved practices.

The Richmond papers leave little to be desired when it comes to portraying news relating to Negroes. Only last week a fine write up occurs with Dr. Percy Julian as subject. Dr. Julian's scientific achievements were given full publicity with fine picture accompanying. The Times-Dispatch called him "great Negro scientist" the reason being of course that he showed the contribution a Negro was making and was destined to make in the world of arts and sciences. It would have been unfortunate to have attempted to belittle race in the premise and just call him a scientist.

There is a school of Negroes who are trying to discard the racial designation in the news as a means of overcoming certain discriminations. But when meaning is given to the Negro designation such as Dr. Julian, Jackie Robinson, Don Newcombe, and Doby are bringing to it, the term is not a reflection but a mark of honor and distinction. Long live the Southern Regional Council with its constructive tactics so ably evidenced in The Negro In The News. Write Southern Regional Council, 63 Auburn Avenue, in Atlanta, Ga., for a copy and supply your local editor with 2 copies, this is a must obligation.



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