

# EDITORIALS

## THEY NEED TO BE TOLD

The first speaker to extend greetings at the inauguration of Alonzo G. Moron as president of Hampton Institute was a representative of the governor of the State of Virginia, selected from the State Department of Education to be the personal and official ambassador of Governor Tuck.

During the course of his speech he had several occasions to use the word "Negro," which to the embarrassment and chagrin of the large and distinguished audience he pronounced "Nigra."

It may be that the Negro is a little hypersensitive about the pronunciation of the word which designates his race; if so the sensitiveness is understandable. As the speaker went on, possibly under the strain of nervousness caused by the subdued but unmistakable murmur through the audience which accompanied his unorthodox pronunciation of the word, it sounded more and more each time like the diminutive which the Negro so strongly resents.

It may be true that Americans ordinarily do not stress the "long" sound of the final letter in words like 'piano,' but it is equally true that they do not say 'studia' or 'studio' or 'gumba' for 'gumbo,' even in the South. And there is no excuse for shortening the long 'e' in 'Negro' to the equivalent of a short 'i.' The Negro knows all these facts, so when the word emerges from the mouth of a speaker a 'Nigra' the uncomfortable thought that occurs to the hearers is that the speaker is compromising between a forthright 'Negro' and the word the Negro regards as a mark of disrespect and condescension.

Every white speaker before a Negro audience should be warned and briefed beforehand on this matter. If he means well he will be willing to make a real effort to comply with what is expected of him in the pronunciation of the word. Because of habit he may make a slip, but a hint from the audience will bring it back to his mind. If he persists in the mongrelized pronunciation, it is pretty good evidence that he is not prepared to speak before Negro audiences.

Somebody needs to tell them. If they have the right attitude and are approached tactfully they will accept the caution gratefully. If the reaction is otherwise they should be discouraged from appearing before Negro audiences.

## EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS

The little school in Mississippi which rejected the \$50,000,000 offer to sell itself into academic slavery and arbitrary control was under a terrific temptation, and its stand for decency and honor is all the more praiseworthy because of that. It deserves even more credit in that the doctrines of racism to which the college are not emphatically rejected among many of the people from whom it draws its students and what support it has.

It should be noted, however, as an evidence of the progress that has been made in a generation in the South that racism of the more rabid type has to a great extent disappeared from the content of formal education in schools of higher learning. It is probable that corresponding progress in this line has been made in the elementary and high schools.

The idea of the necessity and propriety of rigid racial segregation is still strong and still official. The eminent *News and Observer* concedes that the South still has strong views on racial re-

lations. More and more the orthodox point of view of those who lay claim to enlightenment is that justice and equity in the treatment of the Negro and in the races can and must be arrived at, but within the pattern of segregation. Those who subscribe to this theory hold that segregation may operate without discrimination to the disadvantage of the Negro.

A good example of this attitude which is becoming the orthodox southern stand is found in the case of this Mississippi school. One of the members of its board who was unalterably opposed to accepting the millionaire oilman's offer also declared that it was "unthinkable" that Negro students would ever be admitted to the school.

The South is justly proud of the outcome of the issue in this case, and there is no denying that the rejection by the impoverished college of the magnificent sum of money is a reflection of the progress that has been made, even in the Deep South, toward truth and respect for truth. Not only the action of the authorities of Jefferson Military College, but probably more so, the reaction of the southern public to the integrity of the college in this severe testing, is something pretty fine. We believe that fifty years ago there would have been many institutions in the South which could have convinced themselves with little trouble that it was not only their right to accept the money under the terms proposed by the donor, but their duty to teach the doctrines he advocates, even if they got not pay for it.

## ANOTHER MONKEY WRENCH?

It has happened again. Some so far unidentified person or persons have offered objections before the City Council to the proposal to enlarge Raleigh's two municipal housing projects, Chavis Heights and Halifax Court. The city government had previously approved the additions, which would increase the capacity of the two projects by 150 units, and the local housing authority was ready to apply to the proper Federal housing agency or funds, when an attorney turns up before the council asking for a postponement of action, in the interest of a client or clients he declined to identify.

There has been enough opposition to new housing projects in Raleigh already this year. This opposition has made itself felt despite the crying need for low-cost rental housing, especially for Negro families. But at least those opponents of other housing developments have made themselves known from the beginning, and in general promptly made an honorable presentation of their side of the case.

What the objections may be to the extension of the already existing municipally controlled housing projects at the sites they now occupy has not been made known at this writing, and it is hard to imagine what objections could be raised. In view of all the facts, or lack of them, it is also difficult to understand why the city council consented to any delay in going on about the business of providing this much needed housing for which Federal aid is available.

## UNFORTUNATE

It is very unfortunate that there had to be a public demonstration and a so-called strike at Washington High School over something no more basic than whether there should be a dance after the Homecoming football game. Without assessing the blame the case, and in the absence of a full knowledge of the circumstances, the *CAROLINIAN* is still sure that the matter involved could and should have been settled on a basis satisfactory to all parties concerned short of a parade up Fayetteville Street by part of the student body, and uncomplimentary pictures and front-page stories in the daily press. We hope that there will be no real or imagined occasion for such a public airing of such grievances on the part of the students, or as in this case, some of them, in the future.



"There Can Be No Peace With These Forces At Work"



# Second Thoughts

BY C. D. HALLIBURTON

On October 23 the New York *TIMES* editorially marked the second anniversary of the publication of the report of President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights, referring to it as "a landmark in the never ending struggle to secure for all the people of the United States the blessings of freedom, liberty and equality now enjoyed by the majority."

Quoting from the text of the report, the *TIMES* editorial reminds us that the committee concluded:

"We need to guarantee the same rights to every person regardless of who he is, where he lives, or what his racial, national or religious origins are."

Reviewing the record of the present Congress as to civil rights legislation, the *TIMES* concludes that the national legislature has done little in the past two years toward enacting the recommendations of the Committee as passed on to the Congress by President Truman. But it adds that the fight has not been lost. True, there have been some setbacks, "the editorial observes," but adds, "on the other hand there have also been advances on a wide front, and there is every reason to believe that slow but fundamental progress is being made in this field throughout the country as a whole. The mere fact that extension of civil rights is a live issue in some parts of the country is itself an indication of advance. The mere fact that many people who had never before noticed the existence of

wide areas of discrimination and injustice are now concerned about them is a mark of progress."

The great value of the commentary by an intelligent and relatively disinterested observer is that we are likely to be too close to the battle to observe carefully how it is going. We need the reassurance here given that "fundamental progress" is being made. We need to be reminded that the struggle is "a never-ending one," and that sometimes we are a "breakthrough" at a particularly tough spot on the front after an apparently hopeless assault which has lasted a long time.

The *TIMES* sums up the situation and gives grounds for optimism.

"There have been many special instances of the forward march of civil rights, of the retreat of racial and religious discrimination during the past two years. In a little booklet issued to mark the second birthday of the report to the President, the National Council on Civil Rights gives an encouraging and impressive list of concrete achievements by administrative order, by state legislature and city council, by court decision and individual action—all directed toward closing the gap between our day-to-day practices and our national ideal of equal opportunity for Americans of every race, creed and ancestry."

## In This Our Day

### BY C. A. CRICK, SR. DEVELOPING "BACKWARD LANDS"

The United States government, under the wise leadership of President Truman, is advocating a plan whereby the "backward peoples" of the world may be aided in industrial, commercial, and intellectual development. Such a plan, if carried out as it is argued, will enable the so-called backward peoples to buy more goods and by the same token, to sell more goods to the rest of the world. Therefore, the world in general would receive as much benefit from the plan as the backward areas. In other words, the plan is simply an economic investment. Under Secretary of State Webb in a recent statement to the House Foreign Affairs Committee urging the adoption of President Truman's "point four" aid program for backward areas said: "The program is not charity but an enlightened businesslike attempt to solve the most crucial problems with which our world is confronted." In addition he pointed out that the program is in the interest of world security.

The above quotation, in this writer's way of thinking, is the secret of the entire project. In the present world crisis, the opposing factions of the so-called "advanced peoples"—the "master races" are about evenly divided. Their ideologies are at extreme odds with each other, and have been so for a long, long time. In the ducking and diving of world conflict among the so-called master races even conflict that all the rest of the side will need the labor and natural resources of the underde-

veloped countries. For example, the Belgium Congo (Africa) probably possesses more uranium, a very precious natural resource in the present world world combined.

One does not need to be a specialist in history to know that the European nations, a branch of the master races, have not given back to the underdeveloped areas value equal to the value of the natural resources taken from those regions as well as the native labor required to remove the raw materials. Had the backward races of the world been given a square deal all along by the democracies, they (democracies) could be much more able, with the help of the backward peoples, to resist those governments which are unfriendly to democracies.

And so it seems that out of this world's confusion, the so-called backward races may get the best break they have had in a long time. The entire situation makes one feel like singing again the old hymn, realizing after all how true the words of that hymn are: "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, He plants His foot steps on the sea and rides upon the storm."

Ralph S. Trigg, president of Commodity Credit Corporation, reported recently that \$2,450,000 was invested in the CCC price support program as of July 31 this year. Loans outstanding totaled \$3,400,000 while inventories acquired and loan purchase agreements and direct purchase operations represented an investment of \$1,050,000.

## SENTENCE SERMONS

BY REV. FRANK CLARENCE LOWRY FOR ANP

The greatest endowment ever granted to all in the land of the living is the privilege of thanking God for His Divine guidance and keeping.

This would be a cruel and despised place if men at some time did not bow their heads to say Grace.

The Thanksgiving season gives men an opportunity to look backward, forward and upward, and to recognize God as an unfailing shepherd.

If man fails to recognize Him, it is to his own undoing, for God even grants to him ample time for careful reviewing.

Many men now don't seem to care how others live or think, but steals from God His nutritious provender to manufacture intoxicating drink.

Nearly every drug store and place of business has this pernicious stuff for sale, and by action arrogantly seem to say "even if youth goes wrong, our business must not fall."

Business today has the front of the stage and general thought is "to live"—not enough is being said about the "Golden Rule" and too little about THANKSGIVING.

What a wonderful nation ours would be if for all the things God provides, free for man's living, everyone in turn would offer thanksgiving.

Mankind then would not be wasting time in amassing fortunes and giving vent to idle thinking but would cherish opportunities to express to God deepest gratitude and thanksgiving.

The gratitude of God-loving citizens builds a strong and vigorous nation, but deception and hypocrisy will undermine any foundation.

If America is to honestly enjoy the matchless heights to which she desires to hold-claim, then her men and women in high and low stations must not be ashamed to exhibit God's name.

The courage to believe in the "GOD WE TRUST" and the moral stamina to fight against hatred and lust, will lift America's citizens to a high plane of living, and every passing day will be THANKSGIVING.

**BETWEEN THE LINES**  
BY DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

**AN AWEFUL INDICTMENT**

There was hurled into my teeth a few days ago and inditement against the educated Negroes, which a true should make us hang our heads in abject dismay. It amounts to an indictment against the entire Negro race. The story goes that in a certain southern city whites and Negroes were campaigning for the United Negro College fund, as worthy an undertaking as can be found in the country. A wealthy Negro was approached for a gift and he responded with a check for five dollars. He was not only a college graduate but a professional of pronounced success earning annually thirty or forty thousand, with these high priced cars at his command. His home was a mansion.

Here was a man who above all others should have a sense of gratitude toward the private college that administered unto him in his lowly estate, in the days small things, when his way was dark. He was beneficiary of white northern philanthropy led up hill and at times into the stream at that date, but today this fulsome flow amounts to little more than a trickle. There are those of us who always imagine that the northern Christian organizations which founded and supported gloriously the early educational institutions among Negroes of the South were wealthy people with unlimited means at their command. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

These philanthropic organizations of religious persuasion were often supported by the humblest and simplest communicants. When I was a student at Benedict College, one of the Baptist Home Mission Society schools, of which there was a chain, I remember distinctly how I would lie in bed cold mornings and read the inscription over the door. This room is furnished by the First Baptist Church of Kirkville, N. Y. My youthful imagination fairly ran riot, as if played upon those then magic words, I could envision a great congregation in a great northern city with a great and learned minister of national renown. When in later years, I was a student at Colgate University, the "First Church of Kirkville, New York" heard about one of its beneficiaries who was studying at Colgate and invited me to come up for a speaking engagement.

I gladly accepted and I was shocked into a sense of deep humiliation when I found that Kirkville, N. Y., was a little rural settlement with a post office and the church was about 20 x 50 with a membership of less than a hundred of the humblest kind of country folk. Such was the "First Baptist Church" who furnished the room in which I lived while a student at Benedict. The revelation did something to me. It laid upon me the solemn feeling of obligation to support to the limit the cause of education among my own people. If the lowly whites of Kirkville could do so much with their such little, then I was honor bound to do nothing less than my best.

The professional herein before mentioned possibly was educated under similar circumstances and he too was a product of the benefactions of the humble. The time arrived when he too could in a big way out of his affluence contribute to the advancement of the cause which proved to him such blessing. He responded with five dollars, but he could have given five thousand without financial hurt. Does this professional represent the spirit of the educated Negro? Is he a symbol of the gratitude that the educated Negro manifests towards his benefactors? How will his example influence the philanthropy of the Negro capitalist of tomorrow? Does that professional Negro know that he is a great tragedy, in that he is bringing down upon the head of his fellows of educational advantages, the wrath of the oncoming generations?

But to make a shameful example more shameful in that same campaign an undertaker who had never been to college and who knew none of the pleasures and privileges of college communion, handed over a check for a hundred dollars. When we have an uneducated Negro giving a hundred dollars for education and a wealthy educated Negro giving five dollars, we have some food for thought that should give us moral indignation. Is the educated Negro an imposter? Certainly not all of them, but how general is the spirit herein portrayed? The foreman gets forth an awful indictment against the Negro who can help his people and will not!

## LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY!



Middlebury, Conn., May, 1949. Westover Girls' School announces it will accept qualified Negro students on the same basis as white.

Lexington, Ky., June, 1949. **WELLESLEY COLLEGE**

**JOHN W. CROMWELL**  
UNUSUAL SCHOLAR, TEACHER & EDITOR!

BORN IN PORTSMOUTH, VA. 1846. THE YOUNGEST OF 12 CHILDREN. JOHN W. CROMWELL LATER BECAME KNOWN AS "THE WALKING LIBRARY". HIS EARLY EDUCATION WAS RECEIVED IN PHILA., PA. AND THERE HE BEGAN A DISTINGUISHED TEACHING CAREER. LATER HE STUDIED LAW AND WHEN HE WAS 30 FOUNDED A GREAT NEWS PAPER CALLED "THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE". IT WAS AS AN EDITOR THAT HIS GENIUS WAS MOST WIDELY FELT!!

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