



TWO KINDS OF TEXANS, AND QUITE DIFFERENT

One after the other in the same columns of a daily newspaper we noted recently a sharp contrast in two types of thinking about the Negro by white people in the South. Both reports came from the same state, Texas. One, from Fort Worth, announced the fact that a federal court had ruled that George W. Armstrong could not get a refund on his federal income tax for 1948 on the ground that money he spent propagating his racial views represented deductible expenditures.

Mr. Armstrong will be recalled as the man who won notoriety offering gifts to poverty-stricken private schools and colleges in the South provided they would pledge never to admit Negroes.

REHABILITATION CENTER WAS OVERDUE

The CAROLINIAN welcomes the news that a youth center for young Negro honor-grade prisoners, first offenders, has been opened. The news-story of the announcement pointed out that such a center for Negroes to correspond to the one opened at Camp Butler several years ago for white prisoners of the same type has been "in the discussion stage" for two years. It is high time for the center, which will stress training and rehabilita-

SECTIONALISM SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN

The syndicated columnist, Thomas L. Stokes, in a recent issue of his column expresses the opinion that the southern conservative wing of the Democratic party is trying to control that party. Mr. Stokes thinks that a statement made soon after the election by Senator Maybank of South Carolina is pretty good evidence of that trend.

The senator said in a public statement that he did not regard Governor Stevenson, defeated candidate of the Democrats in the presidential election, as the present head of the party, but expected rather that the party representation in Congress

THEY NEVER GIVE HARRY CREDIT

Mr. Truman's good sportsmanship, and much more important, his placing the good of his country in these perilous times ahead of personal feelings, has not received much open recognition by those who have regarded him as a dehorned devil. We refer to his prompt action in inviting General Eisenhower as president-elect to send his representatives into the councils of the

government at once, and to his invitation to Eisenhower himself to come in and get the low-down personally from Truman and his advisers.

The anti-Trumanites who have commented have generally attributed the President's acts to some political or other ulterior motive, just as they attributed his civil rights stand to low motives and implied that he was a double-dyed hypocrite.

BIG BUSINESS TAKES OVER THE CABINET

Someone has said referring to President-elect Eisenhower's cabinet appointments, that if we don't have government run on a businesslike basis for the next four years, it will be because the typical American business man can't bring it about. It has been pointed out that ad but two of his appointees, the secretary of labor and the secretary of agricult-

ture, have had careers which definitely associate them with big business, and the key ones with.

If business trained administration can end wars, cut taxes, build the best defense in the world, and some of the biggest,

at the same time preserve all the real and legitimate benefits of the New Deal, the Fair Deal then it ought to be done.

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PAUL R. JERVAY, Publisher

LIN HOLLOWAY, Managing Editor



JIM CROW OR 'APARTHEID', THE ANSWER MUST BE THE SAME



C. D. Halliburton

SECOND THOUGHTS

THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE, November 29 issue, carried an extremely interesting and informative article on Liberia, a subject of perennial if mild interest to most Negro Americans. Written on the spot by Oden and Olivia Meeker, it covers both the history of the republic in a sketchy way, of course, and the contemporary scene.

I wish all the readers of this column could see the excellent article in its entirety, and it is with the hope that some will that I have given the exact date of the issue in which it appeared. It chronicles a

great deal about Liberia which should make Negroes hopeful and proud.

The very first paragraph is arresting:

"This West African Republic established by a few shiploads of freed American slaves, the first of whom arrived here a hundred and thirty-two years ago, has survived a series of misfortunes that would have wrecked many a stronger state. More than a third of the founding fathers died of malaria and yellow fever within a few months of landing, and the origins far from welcoming them mentioned, yellow Africans did their best to annihilate the French and British, who were colonies adjoining Liberia, thought it wasteful and previous owners to allow people with black skins to govern, or even govern themselves and cinched off almost half the country's territory at one time or another."

ONE HAS READ so many accounts of the inefficiency and mediocrities of the Liberian government that the first sentence of the above paragraph, a tribute to the hardihood, determination and wisdom of the early settlers of Liberia, is most welcome. Another source of pride is revealed in the following quotation:

"It cannot be denied that in Monrovia, Liberia's capital city, one has the unmistakable feeling of being in a raw country. Just the fact that most is not censored as it is in the French territories next door—or at any rate not very often—and that until little there is of a white country-club sets the prestige it enjoys elsewhere in Africa makes this a fairly cheerful place to be. And again: 'Unlike the Americans, is some other tropical countries, who belittle the inhabitants and pride themselves on ignorance of their culture. No Americans here, even those from the Deep South, seem to have become champions of racial equality.' I have heard the same from American Negroes of my acquaintance who have lived and worked in Liberia."

Space does not permit even a digest of the historical sketch which forms one of the most interesting sections of the Meeker article, or a discussion of the relations between the descendants of the American settlers and the natives of the hinterland, or the highly stimulating description of the material progress that is being made in Liberia, partly with American capital, but apparently with a minimum of surrender of sovereignty by the Liberian government. Or the thumb-nail sketch of President Truman, who by this account is a truly remarkable and highly respected statesman.

I feel that our schools, secondary and colleges, would do well to put in courses to train people for leadership in our villages and rural areas. The villages and rural areas are important segments of our national life. We cannot conceive of a period of time when we will not have the villages and rural districts in our national make-up. And, indeed, we do not even desire to conceive of such a time. Villages and rural districts are the backbone, pillar and foundation of our democracy. Let us then give more attention to the training and developing permanent and desirable leadership for our villages and rural districts.

THE IMPRESSION LEFT by reading the article is that Liberia has a great deal indeed to be proud of; that it has a bright future, and that the "experiment" of black self-government has on the whole been much more successful than one might believe on the basis of most of the reports that have reached us from that Black Republic. I hope many of you will find the opportunity to read the article.

JAMES A. SHEPARD'S

THIS and THAT

CHICAGO, IL.—Traveling a long distance over crowded highways you can't help but think and think about. You can also see things to ask questions about even though the answers you receive are usually an answer at all. So far as the topic of your question is concerned, again, you come across some rather interesting and odd answers both interesting and revealing.

In Winona, Minn., you see a sign that reads construction going on in a highway widening project. This particular job extended about 10 miles and at the end of the project, the workers were white. At the end of the project, we stopped and asked a foreman if his company employed Negroes. He looked at me for a full minute, then walked over to another man who was working in a ditch, took out a cigarette, and said to me and the one I had asked the question of, "Hold on a minute, we would need Negro men to work at once if I would send them to him." He said his company had road building projects going on in six states and their employment practice was to hire all labor available on this particular project in fact there are no Negro workers available.

What the foreman said was a fact we naturally wanted to know why it was a fact so we asked the foreman if there were many Negroes in the area and what did they do. According to this foreman, Negroes are not going to work hard if they can help it. Winona County Senator Byrd, Galveston, in case you didn't know it, is one of the great apple areas of the country. For miles after miles all you see is apple orchards and dairy farms. Apple products from apple cider to apple candy are displayed for sale all along the highway. In the town of Winona is the huge sprawling apt-

ment of the Negroes who work in the area. We asked him if he knew of any Negro employment available. "No," he said. "I don't know how to string wires and cables." We asked him if Negroes knew how to dig holes for the posts. He said he could not see any need to hire Negroes to dig post holes when they did not know how to string the wires that went on the posts. As a matter of fact he said it was better not to mix the crews anyway and since Negroes could not hang cables and wires he saw no reason to employ them at all. We did not see any reason for telling this man that the men working on top of the telephone poles did not know how to work on cables when they were born and that Negroes could learn to do what they were doing if given the opportunity. I suppose he thought all Negroes were too stupid to understand remotely how to make deductions and reach conclusions. The bad feature of this type of thinking is that we feel he was really honest. Doubtless the poor fellow had never been exposed to intelligent Negroes.

The two experiences related above, one white man feeling that Negroes think themselves too good to work on highways and another thinking that Negroes are too stupid to learn to string telephone cables tend to show how little the average white man really knows about the Negro. As a matter of fact, he really knows nothing about the Negro for if he did, he would know that the Negro is a human being with all the capabilities, yearnings, aspirations, abilities and feelings the white man posses and knowing that he would stop considering the Negro as a something apart, a strange creature, half human and half beast. The white man's attitude toward the Negro indicates that way about him.

Desirable leadership is an item, anywhere but most especially in our villages and rural areas. And this is true despite the fact that a large number of our state and national leaders were born and reared in the villages and the rural districts. Moreover, a large number of our traders on the state and national levels began their careers as leaders in the small villages and rural areas. But so speak, they learned to lead by practicing on the village and rural training leaders for the state and national levels, is a continuous one.

In almost all phases of American activities the vast majority of our state and national leaders started out on the village and rural levels. This is true in the field of education, religion and churches, politics and business. By and large, we American people are certain minded. When we become fairly well-to-do in wealth or fairly efficient in some vocation, we head towards the urban centers.

All the foregoing has resulted in the villages and the rural areas suffering for good leadership. This is true in the majority of activities in such areas. Efficient Parent Teacher Association presidents, efficient church officers, progressive and efficient statesmen and business men in the villages and rural areas are few and far apart. And, yet, leadership is needed in the foregoing places as much or even more than in the urban centers.

I feel that our schools, secondary and colleges, would do well to put in courses to train people for leadership in our villages and rural areas. The villages and rural areas are important segments of our national life. We cannot conceive of a period of time when we will not have the villages and rural districts in our national make-up. And, indeed, we do not even desire to conceive of such a time. Villages and rural districts are the backbone, pillar and foundation of our democracy. Let us then give more attention to the training and developing permanent and desirable leadership for our villages and rural districts.

AS IT LOOKS FROM HERE

BY LEON LEWIS

HE WAS A BIG MAN, and very old, but he walked with a springy step swinging his cane jauntily. He had a big bold mustache, grey and bristly, but neatly trimmed and a pair of bushy black eyebrows. What he let run wild.

HIS HAIR WAS THICK and gray as wood ashes, but his eyes were bright and alert, and his voice was strong and resonant.

He had gone to his office on business and his cane swept me over curiously. "What's on your mind?"

BEFORE I COULD ANSWER, noting I had a look in my hand, he said "What you reading?"

I TOLD HIM it was "Twelve O'Clock High" by Platner.

CRITICALLY with a smile he said, "What you're trying to do? Learn how to live by reading of somebody else's life, or catching up on history?" When I told him the latter, he recited from Logan Pearsall Smith:

THERE ARE TWO THINGS to aim at in life: first, to get what you want; and after that, to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second. In the time of your life — LIVIN'!"

HE ASKED ME what I learned from my reading of books that spoke of life and men's thoughts in other ages. And I told him not much, but this—that whatever has happened to a man or nation, good or bad,

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