



Are We Ready For "Civil Rights?,"

We like to think of ourselves as good American citizens, willing and ready to support the cause of democracy within the limits of our abilities and means.

Believing in the principle of equality for all men, we naturally support the efforts of those who are now engaged in an all-out struggle to effect the passage of the first civil rights measure in over 75 years. One of the chief purposes of this bitterly opposed legislation is to guarantee and protect the voting rights of southern Negroes. Every one knows, including the southern opponents of this measure that in many places in the South, Negroes are not allowed to vote. Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina, one of the bitterest opponents of this civil rights measure, knows or he most certainly should know, that in the eastern section of his state, Negroes are simply not allowed to vote and are discouraged from attempting to do so. By eastern North Carolina, we mean just east of Raleigh on through to Virginia. We make this distinction because in Zebulon, only 20 miles east of the Capitol City, it is extremely difficult for Negroes to register and vote.

We are painfully aware of the many other rights that are denied Negroes, particularly in the South, the right of a free choice to work where ever their abilities are equal, the right to live where ever their resources would enable them to do so, the right to use and enjoy the recreational and amusement facilities, opened to every other racial group, these and many other rights have been and still are denied Negroes in the South. Among these are rights just as important as the right to vote. On the other hand, because the heart of the now pending Civil Rights legislation is concerned mainly with protecting and enlarging the southern Negro's right to vote, we are endorsing this legislation and at the same time asking ourselves if we are really prepared to recognize and accept this legal protection if it should be given to us.

At the risk of being called traitors, we feel compelled to say that we are not prepared to accept any civil rights measure, designed to protect us in our right to vote. This bold statement is made on the strength of past and present voting record of the Negro in the South. For the purpose of localizing the issue, let us confine our discussion from now on to the voting record made by North Carolina Negroes.

We have already admitted that in the eastern portion of this state, it is very difficult for a Negro to register and vote. It is not difficult in Raleigh for him to do so. But here is his record of voting in Raleigh: there are approximately 30 thousand Negroes here, of that number less than four thousand, about 1-8 of the Negro population has taken the time to register. Negroes in Raleigh are not in the least restricted in their right to vote in any of the precincts where they live. In the two predominantly all-Negro precincts they enjoy the additional advantage of friendly Negro registrars and all-Negro precinct officials. Still only about 8 percent exercise their right to register. In the election held in Raleigh last Spring, two Negroes were on the ballot seeking election as members of the City Council. Despite the urgent and apparent need for Negroes on the council, less than two thousand of the four thousand Negroes registered in Raleigh went to the polls and voted. Although both Negro candidates lost, one of them received more white votes than Negro.

Negroes are perfectly free to vote in all of the larger cities in North Carolina, but the percentage of those availing themselves of this free privilege is just about the same as in Raleigh. The voting percentage of Negroes in all localities west of Raleigh averages less than 10 percent. Yet, it is in these localities where the Negroes have little if any difficulty in voting.

There are at present over one million Negroes in this state. Of this number less than 100,000 actually register and vote in any election. The total Negro registration slightly exceeds 200,000, roughly one-fifth of the Negro population. Allowing for the fact that there are possibly between 300,000 and 400,000 who are denied the right to vote, we see that the majority of our Negro citizens refrain from

voting because they are not interested in voting. All of this brings us back to the question we posed: "Are we prepared for civil rights?" We feel that we have defended and proven our negative answer to this question by the facts just presented.

Now that we are on this subject it should prove of interest to delve a little deeper into it. All 14 of this state's representatives in Congress are on record as opposing the civil rights measure now being debated in the U. S. Senate. They are violently opposed to even the idea of the enactment of a law that would remove all of the artificial barriers the southern states have set up to prevent Negroes from voting and enjoying the other rights guaranteed to them by our Constitution is so repugnant to our representatives in Congress that they have vowed to kill this proposal if it is the last thing they do. These gentlemen know they are wrong, they know they have neither a moral or a legal right to block the constitutional aspirations of Negroes or any other citizens. But these representatives know that if the Negroes of the South ever march to the polls and vote freely and intelligently, there will be a new set of congressmen in Washington from the South. They are not afraid of the Negro's present voting habits because even with the voting restrictions imposed on one-third of this state's Negro citizens, Negroes in this state could have prevented Hodges from being elected governor and Ervin from going back to Washington had they been mentally prepared to exercise the right to vote already possessed by them.

It may be that the phrase "prepared for civil rights" needs a little clarification. By now, it should be obvious that the voting record of Negroes in North Carolina is just short of being disgraceful. It is an assumed fact that people generally do what they want to do when they can do so. If Negroes who can freely vote in this state refuse to do it, it must be concluded that they do not want to vote. We know there is a reason for everything. So we conclude that the reason Negroes do not want to vote is because they have not been taught by training and education that not only can they be greatly benefited by intelligent voting, it is also the duty and responsibility of all qualified citizens to register and vote.

The responsibility for this lack of preparedness rests on the shoulders of all of us. We certainly know about this lack, we know, in a degree what we are losing because of it and we know that we can do something about it. Every Negro in North Carolina who votes, who knows the value of voting should set himself the task of converting as many non-voters as he can reach. Regardless of our station in life, each of us has the power to influence some one. Many of us can influence several others. Many of us, in our attempt to escape the responsibility this lack of preparedness reveals, will be anxious to shift the blame to others. Some will say it is the duty of the ministers, some will try to put it on our teachers, our lawyers, doctors and other public figures. Admittedly, each and all of those individuals and groups share in this responsibility, but until you and I have done our duty, we are not in any position to criticize another for failing to do his.

This is not a situation to be taken lightly. There is far too much at stake for us to attempt to minimize the issues. We need all the protection that the law can provide us for the peaceful and unrestricted exercise of our voting rights. But our need to learn to use the rights we already have is more important. As a matter of fact, we are really not in a position to use more if we have failed to use what we already have. Many of the wrongs we now patiently suffer could be righted at the ballot box. The governor of this state would not be telling us to "volunteer" for segregation if he felt we would prevent him from going to the U. S. Senate when his term as governor expires in 1960. Facts and figures reveal that we are not now ready for some of the things we ask for. We are not fully prepared to use them. We can and should begin now to right this wrong we are doing ourselves and prepare ourselves for the full utilization of all of our rights.

Fulfilling Expectations

U. S. Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lawrence Derthick is quoted as saying in a speech at Teachers College, Columbia University, last week. "I think people who become school teachers are a little better than they would be otherwise because children and others have such high expectations of them." Dr. Derthick was addressing his remarks to a group of school superintendents from 27 states who were attending a summer workshop at the Morning-side Heights school. The above remarks were in reference to compliments his office has received for its efforts to afford better educational services for all the nation's people.

It is doubtless true that many school teachers become better persons because of what is expected of them but we feel this should be

true of people in every walk of life. The teachers by the very nature of their work are probably more exposed to the public glare and have the opportunity of influencing and moulding younger minds that are placed in their hands. But when we look this matter squarely in the face, we have to admit that at all times some one, some where is expecting something from some one and our lives should be governed by that fact.

The average person begins his day in a home where there are several other persons. Each of those persons is expecting something from the others. These expectations can and do range all the way from kindness to the supplying of one another's daily needs.

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"Passage Of Civil Rights Law Will Show The World How To Remove The Chains"



SENTENCE SERMONS

By REV. FRANK CLARENCE LOWRY For ANP

SEEING FURTHER THROUGH TEARS THAN GLASSES

1. Tears are not destructive, but wash foreign substances from the eyes and help one to move upward and onward, even toward a fortune perhaps hidden in disguise.
2. Yes, they add clarity to one's vision and set off-line focuses straight, making possible for one to see the distance the thing which might have been discovered too late.
3. TEARS are a screen that sifts what is to be, from a daily routine very easy to see, and provides a panorama of things yet to come, which if followed, prayerfully could doubtless save one from danger and impending harm.
4. Joseph surely in his first trial could not have seen too clearly, when suddenly by his brethren he was sold into Slavery.
5. But when later as a convict he had time to reflect, then the high purposes of God he could easily respect; for out

of chaos, hate and unrequited toil, he was able to emerge, and his enemies foil.
6. It was then his tear-stained cheeks began to take on color as he quickly arose to fame and honor; folks bowed the knee before his throne, where graciously he gave bread instead of a stone.
7. Standing now in power accord only to Pharaoh of Egypt, but one of his guilty brothers did not revengingly spy; but gave them gifts, plenty of provender, then heaped his richest blessings upon his dear old Father.
8. Of by-gone Tears no doubt he must have had a plenty, but unlike his brothers he retained their identity . . . and God in like manner keeps us clearly in His sight, when we utilize our tears to chase away the night.
9. Our fore-parents did just this and turned their sorrows into bliss . . . with bleeding backs and hearts thread-bare, they still had faith that God did care . . . and those of us, their fortunate posterity who

now take lightly this day of prosperity should fall upon their ungrateful knees, and most humbly before God make incessant penitential pleas.
10. And when one sacrifices that another might better live, there is nothing too good in this wide world for the recipient in return to give; for the tremendous cost of labor, blood and sweat, make future man into significance in any effort to compute the debt.
11. Then to soar to highest heights of intellectual concept, to try to analyze man's comprehension that He would descend through His Plan of Salvation, to save us from eternal damnation.
12. TEARS, and great drops of sweat like blood ran down beneath a worthless tawny crown . . . He paid the debt you and I should have paid, when those mobsters railed upon Him in that torch-light adventure. Can you now leave the heart to endlessly pass Him by when you know that for you and me He paid it all, and did surely die?

IT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK

By GLADYS P. GRAHAM For ANP

DR. DUBOIS CALLS FOR REGISTER AND VOTE
The Dean of Historians Dr. W. E. B. DuBois indicated in the NATIONAL GUARDIAN and by word of mouth that "it was no easy matter for American Negroes to bring 27,000 representatives to Washington to protest against lawlessness and discrimination. The alert Dr. DuBois sees the move as a register and vote and that the warning must have far more significance than it did in 1876.
Eugene Gordon on the other

hand (writer, world traveler) has given a long treatise on how Negroes are prevented from voting in the South and cites the most recent tragedy of Tuskegee's vote bar.
The American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born an alleged charitable organization has been denied the power of public fund raising but the organization may use voluntary contribution methods.
Constance Morris Woodruff, City Editor of the New Jersey Herald News is slated to be the first of her race to write pub-

licity for the Republican Women of the State when she moves over into the national and local publicity realm next month. More details are scheduled to be available for publication.
BIAS TAKES A LICKING
Dr. Billy Graham has let loose on bias and he has further warned that America must solve its racial tensions with love lest the judgment of God fall upon the nation. Rev. Graham spoke at Rev. Danays Ray's invitation in the heart of Brooklyn's borough. It is felt that this man of God has done more to cement brotherhood than a ton of atom bombs.
The Frontiers of America members are heading this way for their national convention to be headquartered at the Hotel Douglas on Hill Street in Newark. This is the first full scale national convention held in that city in thirty-five years. Oliver Butts Brown, Convention Chairman, has informed this writer that the New Jersey Herald News will edit a special Frontiers of America edition which will hit the stands next week.
JIM CROW GREATEST SINGLE PROBLEM
Attorney Cora T. Walker, Chairman, "Committee on Human Rights for the Western States of the National Bar Association, Inc. has forwarded the groups brochure on Human Rights in the Western States. The document surveys the present civil rights situation in respect to public accommodations in the nine western states of Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.
It is the belief of the group that the practice of discrimination against human beings in public places because of race, color, religion or ancestry is the greatest single problem confronting the Western States." Persons wishing a copy of the brochure HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WESTERN STATES, may write Attorney Cora T. Walker, 101 West 125th Street, New York 27, Suite 204. IN OUR MAILBAG
Educator Elizabeth Leman of Indiana is visiting relatives in Savannah, Georgia, her home-

BETWEEN the LINES

Gordon B. Hancock's

WINNING AT WIMBLEDON

The tennis matches at Wimbledon England, are to tennis what the world series is to baseball. And now we have a Negro starting at Wimbledon in the person of Althea Gibson. Baseball and football have long since had their heroes but now tennis has its action.
More than once Althea has been on the brink of taking the "first" trophy to take the crown; but 1957 was Althea Gibson's year and she accepted to tennis glory and its crown.
We often say that it was a long long journey that took Booker T. Washington from slave cabin to the Hall of Fame; it was also a long long journey that took Althea Gibson from the side walks of New York to Wimbledon, England the tennis capital of the world and to far famed glory. We have often quoted here the saying that you cannot whip a man who comes back for one more round, so Althea, not coming back after a succession of failures.

She would not be denied. It is with Negroes as with other racial groups that the door will be opened if we just keep knocking. It is in such triumphs that this writer wants to write of Althea Gibson, Negro Woman's tennis champion of the world.

Too often we see that John Doe, Negro, has committed some crime, so it makes for a wholesome change to write of Althea Gibson is not only the woman champion tennis player of the world, but also a Negro. When Willie Mays knocks the home out of the baseball, this writer wants it known that he is a Negro.
So long as we live in a color-streaked world and get discredit for all our shortcomings, let us give credit for all the great things that we do from time to time.

One of the things we must keep in mind is that Althea has been foiled at the gates of glory on more than one occasion and one will less stamina and heart would have made the journey cruel. But not Althea Gibson. When her most ardent admirers were thin and scanty, disappointed that she faltered on the threshold of glory, Althea looked tennis in the face and decided to keep coming back and she made her point.

Althea is a specialist in rear-guard tennis. She is a member of the Atlanta University system.

Mrs. Wilhelmina Perry formerly on the staff of Medical Center has moved to service New York where she is serving the Gowanda State Homeopathic Hospital in Holmdel, New York. Mrs. Perry is a specialist in physical therapy and ardent member of the American Friends of Liberia. She was guest of the Lincoln movement during the recent symposium of President Tubman.

Mrs. Heppie Ross, wife of Noble Ross, who recently celebrated twenty-eight years of married bliss is in Alfred, New York at Alfred College in attendance at the School for Organists and Choir Directors. Prior to leaving, Professor Ross presented Jacqueline McQuarrie, youthful pianist and Mr. Rudolph Scott, Sr., guest vocalist, along with other talented talents in Alfred, New York.

and won the world's acclaim. You cannot whip a man who will come back for one more round.

You cannot ultimately foil a tennis player with Althea Gibson's spirit. Her glory is doubly glorious because it came the hard way. One of the significant things about Althea Gibson's victory at Wimbledon is that it embodies the struggle Negroes are making for first class citizenship in this country.

It is an uphill struggle and a fight every step of the way. It is hard to believe that having been set free nearly a hundred years ago, the Negro today is struggling for his basic rights and the Congress of the United States is locked in a terrible struggle over a bill of civil rights which means that after nearly a hundred years the Negro has not yet set feet upon the Promised Land of full citizenship.

He is like Althea Gibson, often foiled on the tennis courts, and like Althea he is determined to win at last. It is difficult to believe that in the year 1957 we could find in these United States men of the mould of the representatives of the Old South who are out to defeat civil rights legislation as any evil and by any means.

Abuse of the Supreme Court is routine and bull-dozing Congress is a daily occurrence. If the Congressional fighters for civil rights will put just one half of what the opponents are putting, civil rights legislation will go over with a bang.
We have to hand it to them, southerners are fighters and they are knock-down-and-drag-out kind of fighters, the kind that the Negro must reckon with when he is lethargic about exercising his vote at the polls.

The Negro who can vote and does not vote is a traitor to the cause of Negro advance. If the Negro can be Gibson-hearted in his fight for his rights his triumph is only a matter of time.

We might have been foiled in Birmingham, we might have been foiled in the Year of Our Lord 1957, but if we keep on coming back for another round, one day the Negro race will be worthy of the heart and stamina of Althea Gibson. Long live Althea Gibson, Negro!

Christine Johnson, Chicago school-ma'am known in Georgetown, Kentucky, the East has finally reached England en route to Ghana where she will remain with Prime Minister Nkrumah, a former classmate. She is the wife of Earl Johnson, Windy City politician and community leader.

Dr. William Howard of Fayetteville is attending a meeting in Africa at Western Michigan College. He will hit California for the Alpha convales subsequently.

WASHINGTON AND SMALL BUSINESS

By C. WILSON HARDER

There is a growing suspicion in Washington that a portion of the government's program of "stockpiling" so-called strategic materials is merely a plan to give some foreign monopolies a surplus program such as afforded to the American farmer.

The government now has stockpiled 1,200,000 long tons of natural rubber, acquired at a cost of \$825 million, which is costing U. S. taxpayers an estimated \$3 million per year to maintain, plus interest on the C. W. Morse Investment. That is the report in a recent speech by the president of the B. F. Goodrich company.

What makes this situation all the more confusing is that last year's production of natural rubber totaled only 1,900,000 tons. Thus the U. S. has almost a full year's production of natural rubber in storage.

It is also significant that the production of natural rubber is a virtual British monopoly, and that it was not too long ago British rubber interests publicly complained that their profits for the year had fallen to slightly below 35%.

As a matter of fact, with the great developments made in synthetic rubber, natural tree rubber has become almost as obsolete as the buggy whip. There are a few minor uses where natural rubber is best, but by far, in most applications such as tires, hoses, other uses, synthetic rubber does job better.

Actually, without government buying up natural rubber and storing it away, prices of the natural product would undoubtedly drop to quite a low level.

American rubber industry leaders say that in event of national emergency of serious proportions, nation could be entirely independent of foreign rubber.

Last year, when due to a heavy worldwide demand of rubber, the price of natural rubber was being boosted, an effort was made to get government to release a part of this vast store as it would have been the most logical time for the taxpayer to get back a reasonable share of the money that has been poured into an excessive stockpile. Government refused to do so.

But so far this year, reduced demand for rubber has brought the price of natural rubber down, so that it would be hard for government to get back a fair share of the investment.

It very much appears that natural rubber bears the same relation to synthetic rubber that silk does to nylon. In other words, premium price is paid for synthetic because of its better quality, and natural product is considered secondary in value.

Thus, there is no telling what price levels natural rubber would have dropped to by this time, but the deterring of the British monopoly and its 1957 U. S. price supporting the product with huge stockpiles.

At the present time, when not only Congress, but the entire nation, is appalled over the extraordinary high federal budget, it would perhaps be the logical time to launch a probe to get at the bottom of this situation.

Obviously, the American taxpayer is paying huge sums to price support American farmers.

It would be quite ironic if it could be shown that the U. S. taxpayer is also being assessed to price support British rubber tree farmers.

Do's And Don'ts



"You're His Hero, So Watch Your Conduct."