

WHY I HAVE BEEN SILENT ON BLACK

The Carolina Times

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Two Great Fist Fights Coming

By William Pickens for
A. N. P.

That is, they will be great from the standpoint of the gate receipts at least,—for that Welshman, Jimmy Farr, who fought Joe Louis fifteen rounds Monday night, has himself into the big money class. The next two big fights should be one of these arrangements: First, that Farr and Schmeling should have it out,—and the winner be matched again with Louis; or, Second, that Louis and Schmeling should settle the championship between themselves,—the winner be required to take Farr.—Either way, somebody will have big money coming in at these: Schmeling and Farr can be big now, for they stand as two chief contenders for the heavyweight crown,—and either one will now draw bigger with Louis than previously; because Farr (by prowess or by some happy accident) has beaten Louis once,

and Tomp managed, against all predictions to the contrary, to stay 15 rounds, and gave good account of himself.

Of course, if you listened to the radio announcer who was reporting the fight from the rig-side, and who boasted and emphasized every good quality and every strike of Farr, even those that "missed," you perhaps thought that Farr was winning or at least fighting a good draw with Louis. It was nice in America to give the foreigner exaggerated credits for all he did and even for the great efforts that went wild when he threw over his powerful right,—but it was somewhat misleading to the radio fans. Louis was missing some, but landing more often, and Farr's face was showing the awful effects.—But the experts and newspapers had given Farr such a low rating from his training tactics that he was a happy surprise to the fight fans, and of course to the radio man.—So it was not just being

"white" that made the radio man seem so delighted with Farr. You can remember that the three judges were also white, and they gave the fight unanimously to the champion, Joe Louis.

But the Brown Bomber was really dropping his bombs on a tough British Battleship that time,—and the Battleship could "take" them. Besides, Farr, like Louis, belongs to a minority group, which has felt the sting of oppression from a dominant group or race,—and such men have more determination in a contest: they feel that they MUST win; that to lose will be not only a personal, but a group failure. They feel the extra urge of the "cause." Did you ever see Llewellyn's castle in Wales,—that magnificent ruin where "the last native Prince of Wales" made his stand against the British in the 13th century? Farr is a descendant of that Spirit. So like Louis and the other American Negro contenders for honors, his struggle upward is a little more than individual, and has more strength in it than the struggle of the egoistic or confident representative of any dominant race. That is one reason why the American blacks, with only one tenth of the population, and one fifth of the chances, are so far ahead of their quota in athletic and other honors, when they are admitted to the contest. Therefore: the Jack Johnsons, the Joe Ganses, the George Dixons, the "Kid" Chocolates, the Tolams, the Peacocks and the great black football stars. There would be equally great Negro baseball and tennis and polo stars if they were given opportunity to try in those games. But even a Mississippi white man will admit that a fellow cannot win in a game in which he is not allowed to play. But where they play: there is Owens, swiftest runner; John Henry Lewis, light-heavyweight king; Joe Louis, on the heavy throne; and Father Divine, who is "God Almighty."

In selecting his topic the columnist must have in mind one of three objects; first to contribute useful and valuable information, second, to present his point of view with the thought of influencing the opinions and conduct of his readers; and third, to furnish, after the manner of the essayist, interesting and entertaining discussions upon some important current topic.

The white and colored press has been replete with discussion of the Black appointment ever since his name was first sent to the Senate. I therefore had no information to offer that was not already available. Advice from me would have been wholly impotent and no calculated to change a single vote or to modify public sentiment. Calm judgment and reflection upon such an appointment can be indulged in the light of retrospect rather than in the midst of the perverted controversy. I do not know whether the volume of abuse and condemnation broadcast by the Negro press has had one iota of influence upon events. It has served merely to argument the anger and hatred of the denouncers without anywise affecting the course

[Booker Malone, age 68, died Thursday August 3rd at the Lincoln Hospital of complications. Mr. Malone was born in Durham and resided at 1004 Dawkins Street. He was member of White Rock Baptist Church. Funeral was held at McLaurin Funeral Home Parlor, Rev. Miles M. Fisher officiated.

Kelly Miller ..Writes..

Many of my friends have chided me for not rushing into the arena and denouncing the appointment and confirmation of Senator Hugo Black as Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. A columnist who engages to discuss public questions might reasonably be supposed to deal with issues which are brought sharply into the national and racial focus. During the last five or six weeks no current question has more violently agitated the public mind than last six months, both in the white and colored press, I have engaged in the discussion of the Supreme Court.

The Black appointment was merely in fulfillment of the President's purpose to liberalize the Supreme Bench with which I am in complete sympathy. No reader of mine misapprehends my attitude.

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of Senator Black or the Supreme Court.

I recall two instances in which the concerted protest of the colored people throughout the country defeated the appointment and confirmation of justices to the Supreme Bench. President Taft, it was announced, had decided to appoint a distinguished jurist to the Bench. A delegation of colored citizens headed by the Honorable William H. Lewis confronted the President with his candidate's opinion hostile to the right of the Negro, while on the circuit bench. With this information the President declined to make the appointment. On another occasion when introducing Taft to an audience I stated the fact that the colored people wanted to thank him for an appointment which he did not make. Upon this sally the good-natured Chief Executive cracked his sides with laughter.

It is of recent memory that the N. A. A. C. P. contributed to the defeat of Judge J. J. Parker of North Carolina because of his previous declared attitude upon the political status of a colored race.

So far as I know, nothing can be found of the record of Senator Black which can be properly brought against him as appointee for the Supreme Bench. Certainly the Negro press has brought forth no evidence. If any citizen, white or colored, had any damaging information it was his duty to present it to the Senate while the Senator's confirmation was under consideration. Otherwise, he should forever afterwards hold his peace. There were suspicions that years ago he was sympathetic with the Ku Klux Klan, but no positive proof was forthcoming. If we would place under the ban every public man suspected of Ku Klux Klan affiliation or leaning many of our distinguished western Republican statesmen would be caught in the net. It was, at one time, stated in the public press that the Ku Klux

Klan initiation took place in the White House. We may be well expected and discount blatant Republican denunciations of the appointment on purely partisan grounds. This is an allowable part of partisan tactics.

It is folly to assert that the South with one fourth of the population is not entitled to its fair representation on the Supreme Court Bench. The mere fact that its justice is a southerner is no certain guarantee that his judicial decisions will be inimical to the rights and interests of the colored race. Chief Justice White of Louisiana, a rank southerner, delivered the opinion of the court outlawing "grandfather" clauses in revised southern constitutions. Justice Harlan of Kentucky was the most liberal justice, so far as Negroes are concerned that ever sat on the Supreme Court Bench.

Senator Black, during his career of ten years as United States Senator, has never engaged in any anti-Negro tirade. He has devoted his energies chiefly to industrial and economic questions and has thrown the weight of his dynamic influence on the side of the New Deal in which the chief hopes of the Negro are involved.

The issue before the Supreme Court during the next half generation will be concerned with industrial and economic issues and not primarily with human rights from a purely political point of view. Senator Black's lack of judicial learning and experience constitutes a just basis of criticism, but he has a capable athletic mind and an unusual grasp of public issues. The great question in the immediate future will not hinge on legalistic technicalities, but upon social justice. Many go so far as to advocate Laymen to the Supreme Bench without any pretension to technical legal learning. Good citizenship requires that all public officials will well fulfill their function. I prefer to join with the N. A. A. C. P. and President Patterson of Tuskegee Institute in hoping and prophesying that Senator Black will make a brilliant jurist whose chief concern will be social justice, safeguarding the rights and interests of all, even the humblest.

Kelly Miller

KELLY MILLER—

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against the unfair practice of unequal salaries for which the south is noted. There are thousands of white persons within and without the class room in the south who will lend a sympathetic ear to such a move.

Teachers aroused to action can become a formidable force for right. Unlike most other professional groups all of their protesting energy has not been used up before they are ready for the final push. Negro teachers of the south, are for the most part a shiftless and spineless group who are kept so by white teacher bosses who dare them to show any signs of concerted action. They ought to become inspired by the Madison, Wisconsin affair but they woot.

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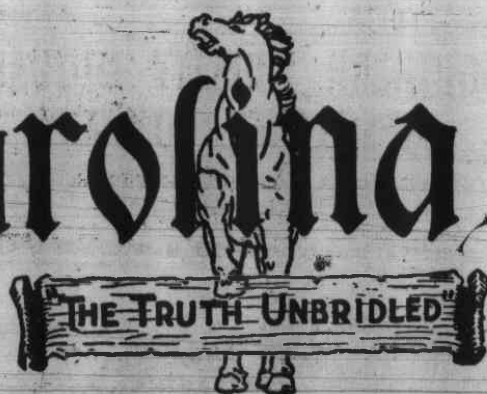
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