

### Durham Leads The Way In Negro Business

All of Durham will take delight in learning that the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company is maintaining its place of leadership in the world of Negro life insurance. Last week's story, published in these columns, disclosed that the local company has a little less than one-sixth of all the life insurance which Negro companies have on the lives of members of the race. In addition one-fourth of all the admitted assets owned by Negro life insurance companies is possessed by the N. C. Mutual.

When it is considered that its home office is located in the smallest city of any of the major Negro life insurance companies, the continued growth and leadership of N. C. Mutual is even more phenomenal. Such cities like Chicago and Atlanta where two of the other largest companies of the race are domiciled, have over 100,000 in Negro population, which should play an important part in furnishing a basis of prospective policyholders. But in spite of a Negro population of less than 25,000, N. C. Mutual has forged ahead to the top position.

We think the undisputed leadership which N. C. Mutual has maintained in the field of life insurance is a fine testimonial to the business acumen of the men and women who have had to do with building the company into the

most gigantic business enterprise of the race. All of them deserve the confidence of Negroes everywhere for what they have done to prove to the world that Negroes can do big things in business.

Here in Durham, Negroes have learned the necessity of cooperation to the extent that when they have personal differences they do not permit them to interfere with their business institutions. There is no sensible or respectable Negro in Durham who is not proud of its various Negro business enterprises and who will not go out of his or her way to advance their causes.

We have noted in some cities where Negro business institutions are struggling to light the path to economic independence, that there exist among their most important Negro citizens petty jealousies, personal ambitions and other faults that are destructive to the growth and development of both the businesses and the men who operate them.

With the spirit of cooperation, interdependence, confidence and sacrifice of personal ambitions which exists here, N. C. Mutual and other Negro business enterprises of Durham may be expected to continue to maintain their places of leadership.

### What The Past Should Teach Us

By the time this editorial is read the most of 1950 will be history and the dawn of a new year will be facing us. What it has in store or what it will bring forth can only be a speculation because it is beyond mortal man to look into the future and foretell coming events. About the only thing we can do is to judge the future by what has happened in the past, which if given careful consideration will reveal what is necessary for man's protection against becoming overwhelmed in the struggle of life.

Man should have learned from the past that you can't get something for nothing, and that times change and conditions change, but the price of doing wrong never changes. As far back as history records men have always paid the same price for disobeying the laws of God and there is no indication that a new era will ever dawn when man will be able to escape this responsibility.

There is also another great lesson that comes from observing the past, and that is that real success is never sold at a bargain counter at reduced prices. You either pay the full price or you don't get it. History will tell you that the men and women who have written their names indelibly on its pages did so with their own blood, energy, sweat and tears. Never exploit the blood, energy, sweat and tears of another.

So, at the beginning of the new year we lift our feeble voice in defense of all oppressed peoples of the earth and say to their oppressors that the time is at hand when the only remedy for this greatly disturbed world is that expressed in the simple words of the carpenter's son in the Sermon On The Mount when he said, "I would that men do to you do ye even so to them." This is the hope of civilization and of all mankind. Without its fulfillment we may as well prepare for another blood bath the like of which has never been seen.

The people of China, Korea, Africa, India

China and India will tell you that they have never gotten anything from Americans and Europeans that in the end did not result in sorrow and grief. They will tell you that the arrogance of the Americans and Europeans is not in accord with what they tell them about Christianity and democracy. They will tell you that they want the insults and abuses which they have endured for centuries stopped.

The Negro in America will tell you that he has poured his blood and sweat into the industrial, agricultural, religious and educational life of America only to be denied the full benefits that are to be derived from his efforts. He will tell you that he is tired of the status of second-class citizenship that has been allotted him.

Every sensible American citizen knows in his heart that discrimination is wrong and he knows that if his country continues indulging in this wrong that eventually it will be overtaken and will have to pay the price. Every sensible American citizen knows that there is no way under Heaven to build permanently a successful economy by exploiting the blood, sweat and energy of the underprivileged. He knows that time and eternity are on the side of the victims of such an economy and that eventually there will come a reckoning day.

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### More Highway Safety Needed

The report of the Governor's Committee on Highway Safety has made four recommendations which we think will do as much to stem the tide of human carnage on our highways as all the remainder of the recommendations put together, although we endorse the report in its entirety.

The three that strike us as being most important are those dealing with drunken driving, enactment of a mechanical inspection law and driver education in our public schools.

The committee recommends a mandatory sentence of five days in jail for drunken drivers which we think is a step in the right direction. About the only criticism we have of this recommendation is that the penalty provided is not enough. It is our opinion that anyone who endangers his own life and that of others by driving an automobile while drunk is just as great a menace as a person who promiscuously fires

a gun in a community where persons live or frequent.

The report discloses that drunken drivers brought death to 114 persons in 1949 and injury to 1,218. We believe a stronger mandatory jail sentence for drunken driving will do much to restrain those who tank up on liquor and attempt to drive an automobile, thereby decreasing, if not eliminating entirely the number of deaths from that source.

According to the report there has been a steady rise in highway accidents since the discontinuance of inspections in February, 1949. We would like to see the law re-enacted with even a more drastic inspection program instituted.

We think driver education in all our high schools would do much to curtail the deaths on our highways in that it would teach safe driv-

### "Still Embarrassing Our World Leadership"



ing to the very group whose tendency to drive recklessly is much more pronounced than older persons. Governor Scott has made a step in the right direction and it is our hope that machinery will be put in motion as soon as possible to implement all of the recommendations made by the committee.



## Spiritual Insight

By REV. HAROLD ROLAND  
PASTOR, MOUNT GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH  
"The Awakening Masses"

"... The children of Israel cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage..." Exodus 2:23.

A real freedom movement is rooted in the awakening of the masses of people. This great truth of the social struggle is revealed in Exodus. Here we see the masses being aroused to a true sense of their destiny. Man, with his mark of Divinity, was not made to be a slave. Man has a passion of discontentment. It may remain dormant for a long time. God has stamped the spark of freedom in man's nature. This inborn desire of God-given dignity cannot be silenced. The Pharaohs in every age, race and nation have tried to put it out. God is on the side of the awakening masses. This mass awakening among men is the will of God. Evil and oppressive men may block it for awhile. The truth is that men cannot defeat the will of God. When this inborn desire and a true leader meet on the stage of history there is an irrefutable awakening of the masses.

Israel cried unto God. God heard their cry. God sent them a leader. The spark is burning. The leader fans it into a mighty

flame. The awakening masses under Divine leadership begin the battle for freedom. God says to them: "... I have seen your affliction, and have heard their cry... And have come down to deliver them..."

The past century has possibly given us the greatest mass awakening in all history. This awakening has not ended. It is brought to a dramatic climax in our own day. It is at the heart of the present world struggle for power. Within the century slavery lost its legal status in America after a bloody struggle. In Russia, the vicious enslavement of serfdom was abolished. In the latter part of the last half century the great drama of the awakening masses shifted. This awakening of the masses has moved to Africa, the middle East and the far East. For forty years India was the center and inspiration of the awakening masses under the leadership of Gandhi. The masses are awakened. This awakening is in line with God's will. The mass awakening had God's approval several thousands years ago. God still supports the longing of the masses for justice and decency. Nothing can defeat the right-

eous indignation of the awakened masses. Decrees and legislative enactments cannot stay the just cause of the awakened masses. The violence and bloodshed of the sword cannot defeat the aroused masses and their just cause. The Son of God has rightfully said that with the sword we can only cut a pathway to defeat and ruin. There is but one sensible thing to do: We must recognize the hopes and aspirations of the awakened masses. Pharaoh did not recognize their hopes — and he lost. If we would have peace and salvation, we must recognize the hopes of the awakened masses. Any other course is marked disaster!

Israel asked but one thing. We ask but one thing as stated by the Federal Council of Churches: "... A chance to live as equals..."

### Background of THE MIGRANTS

By DON WEST

(EDITOR'S NOTE: "On the morning of December 15, 1949 eleven charred skeletons were found huddled around a makeshift wash-tub stove near Rotan, Texas. They were the family of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Perez. It had been a bitterly cold night and the family had migrated from the Rio Grande Valley, richest food producing section of the South...")

—HARRY KOGER report to the President's Commission on Migrant Labor.

Oh, here's another story. It happened in Rotan, One more Texas tragedy Above the Rio Grand...

Where is opportunity, Where are equal rights When workers in their hovels Are burned up in the nights?

They were a migrant family— Nine little ones in all— A father and a mother Late in the Texas Fall.

They'd been a picking cotton So soft and snowy white, The day was stark and chilly And colder was the night.

The night was dark and dreary And ice was on the ground. Inside the shack in tatters Nine children huddled 'round

To warm their aching bodies, Cold and numb to pain. Little did they think that night They'd never wake again!

The time was near to Christmas When Christians like to say Christ being born of Mary Makes this a special day.

It burned that night to ashes.

### "SMALL BUSINESS"

By C. WILSON HARDER

This week before Christmas a new cynicism prevails in Washington.

The current remark: "No Santa Claus? Haven't you seen the present government at work?"

No one argues need for defense money. Crosses on graves in Korea overshadowing many American homes this Yuletide prove that.

So far, American "toughness" has been only getting tough with American small businessmen and consumers.

To many others the gay, feckless Santa Claus of Washington have been very generous indeed.

For example, Santa Claus Stuart Symington, Chairman of the National Security Resources Board, just arranged a fine present for Jones and Laughlin, a powerful steel corporation. Because the corporation agreed to expand its production a special tax plan is approved for it.

No provision of similar nature is made for a small metal fabricating plant that needs a new shear.

And during the five years of peace, steel supply was so short that these fabricators often had to pay "gray market" prices for steel to keep operating.

Because of government restrictions on the use of copper and aluminum, many independent businessmen look into 1951 with misgivings.

Yet, the ECA announces Marshall Plan dollars have bought in Canada \$711,000 worth of aluminum for shipment to Austria and Sweden. In addition, \$2,021,000 Marshall Plan dollars bought

copper in Canada, Cuba, Chile and Bolivia for shipment to Germany, France and Italy.

It's also Merry Christmas in the Republic of Ireland, a country always neutral while Americans die.

Marshall Plan dollars, taken in a large part from the nation's 4,000,000 small business firms, have sent another \$453,000 worth of tobacco to Ireland.

In fact, on a recent day, an ECA press release, deemed it outstanding news that no money was given away that day.

The official press release states "No new purchase approvals to Western Europe were announced today by the ECA." But to avoid any suspicion there is laxity in showering American tax dollars around, the report further states "The cumulative Marshall Plan figure now is \$10,421,594,606."

The American Santa Claus so aroused the emotions of youngsters in Udine, Italy, so the ECA reports, that they have sent as a gift of appreciation to the zoo in the Bronx and Chicago each one donkey.

Observers are wondering what symbolism was attached to sending Santa Claus Uncle Sam the gift of a donkey. There's room for speculation.

But American taxpayers will look in vain on Christmas morning for the big gift.

That would be a sweeping slash in non-essential spending of taxes to offset increased defense costs. Seemingly, politics must go on as usual, even though it was not possible for life to go on as usual for the thousands of brave Americans in Korea who will never again be present around the family Christmas tree.

# KENDRIX COMMENTS

By MOSS H. KENDRIX

### Use The Vote — Get The Rights

Oklahoma City — Two and a half million Negro votes in the South would do more to hasten the day of full citizenship participation for Negroes than all of the lip-service that has been given the subject in the past quarter of a century.

Actually, I would not give a dash how these votes are cast, as long as they are used to advance representative government, at local, state and national levels. Political determination for the great part is a matter of individual and local concern. And should be.

During the period immediately before the November elections, I touched the southern region states from Maryland down to Florida, west to Texas, up to Oklahoma, and back to the voteless District of Columbia.

In too many instances, the Negro was the guy who did not come to vote. Negroes must have played a big hand in defeating the poll tax in South Carolina and the attempted extension of the county system to general elections in Georgia.

But in Texas, a try to outlaw the poll tax failed. Now leadership persons of the Lone Star state are asking, "Where was the Negro?" Here in Oklahoma City, where there could be as many as 30,000 Negro votes, not 6,000 Negroes voted.

It is good to note that in Missouri, the Negro vote demonstrated its disgust over a state of affairs and retired GOP Senator Forrest C. Donnel in favor of Democrat Thomas C. Hennings, Jr. Donnel had fought the appointment of Judge Hastie and civil rights.

Regardless, the Negro vote, southwide, was too small on last November 7. Somewhere along the way, Negroes have got to catch the spirit that will stimulate a desire to exercise the use of the ballot.

I like the fact that Arthur Clements offered himself for Congress out of Charleston, S. C.; that Earl J. Amedee tried for the school board in New Orleans, and; that a young vet, Louis Stewart, Paul Quinn student, ran for the City Council in Waco.

These Negro candidates did not earn office, but they made tries unknown by Negroes in the South since Reconstruction. It would be hoped that their running for public office pulled some Negroes to the polls, who otherwise might not have come.

So this is more lip-service directed at the "problem." It says in short, more Negro should seek elected posts in government, local, state and national. The assumption being that more Negroes would qualify to vote and vote. One wonders.

Despite the vast inaction of the Negro in the South during the recent elections, the showing of Negro candidates in other areas of the nation should be looked upon with a degree of pride. In these areas, admitted, it is not as difficult for the Negro to use his citizenship right — the ballot.

While Kansas was electing a GOP governor and U. S. senator, a Negro Democrat was winning a post as county commissioner in "sure" Republican Wyandotte county. In West Virginia, a Negro lady became the first woman of her race to hold public office and go to the West Virginia legislature.

Two Negroes won state house seats in Arizona in another first for Negroes in that state. A Negro went from Kansas City to the Kansas state legislature. Three men of color are going to be among Missouri's legislature. And two go to the Colorado legislature and lower house members.

Indiana and California each sent two race candidates to their legislatures. A Negro retained his post in the legislature of Delaware. Five Negroes won in Pennsylvania for the legislature, four in New York, one in Massachusetts; three in Michigan, two in Ohio, and four in Illinois.

Two Negroes returned to the U. S. House of Representatives. Several Negro candidates were successful in local contests, paced by Harold Stevens, who won the plum in his election for fourteen years to the post of judge in the General Sessions court of New York City. Judgeships and coroner posts went to Negroes elsewhere.

In Maryland, Negroes help to elect a GOP governor and U. S. senator, while nine Negro Republicans failed to enter the state legislature. This time Mrs. Hortense H. Young, Louisville, Kentucky, civic worker, made less of a showing for the school board than she did in two previous attempts.

Back to the Deep South, Negroes there can improve their lot. Not so long ago Negroes in Atlanta aid in the election of a mayor, who won by only 101 votes. Atlanta could elect some Negro city officials. So could Houston, New Orleans, Memphis, Miami and others.

### Reds Face Libel Suits For Use Of Negro Names

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Communist Party is facing libel suits over its use of the names of prominent Negroes in the new drive for Negro members, according to a Civil Rights Survey released here by the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

In this campaign the communists represented "prominent Negroes throughout the country as people endorsing the party and its aims," the survey reported. "As a result at least one and possibly more libel suits have been threatened against it by people so named."

While stating that there has been no major gain politically in the field of civil rights recently, the survey found that the new racial policy in the armed forces has been very effective.

In education, the Social Action Department survey said that "schools throughout the country have been admitting Negro students as a result of the recent Supreme Court decision.

The hut and all within Whose who can tell the sorrow, Whose is this mortal sin?

Eleven skulls next morning Were lying in a heap, The skulls of workers' children And workers' flesh are cheap!

Time out for forest fire prevention



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