

# THE LETHARGY OF THE DURHAM COMMITTEE ON NEGRO AFFAIRS

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated."

—THOMAS PAINE

This editorial is one of those that has to be written. It has to be written whatever the price that must be paid or whatever the consequences. It has to be written because this newspaper senses a stagnation that is beginning to creep over the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs which, if allowed to continue, is certain to spell its doom. For the past several years we have doggedly fought off the notion that has persisted in a whispering campaign here that the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs is becoming too high-brow, too soft and too compromising in its approach to certain problems that seriously affect the very future and lives of the people for whom it is supposed to exist.

We have also paid little or no attention or attached little significance to the whispering campaign that has been going on for the past several months that the chairman of the Committee on Negro Affairs gets his orders from the chairman of the Democratic Party of Durham County. A whispering campaign at its best is most undesirable in a situation such as now faces the Negro citizenry of Durham. We must confess, however, that we are getting restless at the manner in which the Committee has been dragging its feet here-of-late on such matters as waging a determined campaign to open up new avenues of employment for Negroes in Durham, the drawing up of a constitution and by-laws for the organization—awaited for two long years—the promotion of integration in the public of municipally owned theaters and the municipally owned Durham Athletic Park.

As a result of the Committee's feet-dragging, Negro leaders in cities of Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro have forged ahead of those in Durham and are making forthright efforts to secure equal opportunities for the race. In Charlotte a total of 34 Negroes have filed applications for admission to all-white schools; in Raleigh a Negro student is seeking admission to the all-white Needham Broughton High School, and in Greensboro Negroes have a case pending in court against the city for denying them the use of a municipally owned golf course, plus the fact that they are waging a persistent fight against segregated theaters of that city. In Durham not one move has been made in either direction, except the little skirmish that took place at the Durham Athletic Park the opening night of the baseball season, which albeit was not originated officially by the Committee.

Apparently the Durham Ministerial Alliance has fallen in line with the lethargy of the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs, and is dragging its feet on these same vital and important questions in an apparent effort to conform with the do nothing policy of the Committee. The old guard of the Alliance appears to have smothered efforts of the younger and progressive members to push the segregation question to the front. Thus the two most influential organizations among Negroes of the city have become practically "dead ducks" on the all-important question of civil rights.

There comes a time in the life of an organization when it needs new blood, new faces and some new ideas. There comes a time when those who have been in control too long become satisfied to rest on their oars and boast of their past achievements. That is the darkest hour of any organization and in that hour a major operation may be the only hope for its salvation. Certainly, this is no hour to be at ease but an hour for positive action. The struggle for freedom and human dignity for all must go on. It must not be sacrificed on the altar of greed and power merely to obtain a few crumbs for the few. What we do now will determine the destiny of thousands who come after us. God forbid that we falter or recoil from performing our solemn duty.

## WE WILL REMEMBER THE STATE SENATE OF 1957

In striking down the bills aimed at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People the senate of the 1957 General Assembly of North Carolina performed its most important duty. Of the bill which would require the NAACP to disclose its officers and financial contributors, Senator J. Spencer Bell said, it is "ill-conceived and ill-advised." Of its campaign bill aimed at lawyers involved in racial litigations, the offense being defined as barratry, Senator Bell said, "This is the little brother of the earlier bill. It is no better planned, no better worked out and no better conceived than its older brother." Said he further it would "wipe out the common law offense of barratry," which he said, "is good enough."

Negro leaders of the state are no doubt very grateful to the Senate for its action and will watch with keen interest the future political aspirations of those who took the

lead in striking down the pernicious legislation. Although authors of the bill attempted to cover up their intentions by including organizations that are for segregation it was the consensus of opinion that they were aiming solely at the NAACP.

Senator Bell and his associates who led the fight have saved the state from being involved in much litigation as well as both the state and its Negro citizens the expenditure of much money, which always results when such cases are brought. With the same alertness Negro leaders will watch those legislators who led the fight against the legislation they will watch those who were for it. If we forget them may our "right hand forget her cunning" and "may our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouths."

**EVERY NEGRO MAN AND WOMAN MUST REGISTER AND VOTE!**

## THE WHITE BABY PLAN, BY HARRY GOLDEN

Harry Golden, writing in the CAROLINA ISRAEL, has come up with a most unique plan for Negro citizens to circumvent segregation in theaters, parks, hotels, trains, buses and elsewhere. It will be recalled that Golden proposed several months ago the standup desk plan for schools since white people generally do not mind standing up with Negroes on buses, elevators, in stores, and other places.

Now Golden proposes what he calls "The White Baby Plan To End Segregation." Said he, "Some months ago there was a revival of the Lawrence Oliver movie, Hamlet, and several Negro school teachers wanted to see it. One Saturday afternoon they asked some white friends to loan them two of their little children, a 3-year-old girl, and a 6-year-old boy, and holding these white children by the hands, they obtained tickets from the movie house cashier without a moment's hesitation. They were in like Flynn.

This would also solve the babysitting problem for thousands and thousands of "white" working mothers. There can be mutual exchange of references, then the people can sort of pool their children at a central point in each neighborhood, and every time a Negro wants to go to the movies all she need to do is pick up a white child—and go.

Eventually the Negro community can

set up a factory and manufacture white babies made of plastic, and when they want to go to the opera or to a concert, all they need do is carry that plastic doll in their arms. The dolls of course should all have blond curls and blue eyes, which would go even further; it would give the Negro woman and her husband priority over the "whites" for the very best seats in the house.

We think Mr. Golden has something there and we would like to propose immediately a stock company with shares selling at \$100 each for the establishment of the factory before the baby-lending plan begins to run a shortage. Southern white people are simple minded about this question of segregation and should they doubt the reality of the plastic white dolls a small water tank could be installed in each of them with a secret push button known only to the Negro accompanying the doll. Should any "smart Alec" cop or other white person grab one to examine it, the doll could do the "wee wee" act which would result in its being quickly handed back to its Negro owner for diaper attention. This would inflate the ego of the southern white who feels that changing a baby is strictly the responsibility of its Negro nurse. Yes sir Mr. Golden we are in for it. Let's start the factory and get it running before the North Carolina General Assembly meets again.

## TRIAL BY JURY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The statement below is an editorial comment by the Journal — Every Evening published in Wilmington, Delaware, on the controversial question, TRIAL BY JURY, now spotlighted by the Civil Rights issue before Congress. The editorial appeared Saturday, June 1.)

The right of an accused person is a basic American right. So is the right to vote. Good liberals and good conservatives uphold both. But in Congress some of them may be confused when Southerners tell them they must not pass a civil rights law protecting the right to vote because that law would take away the right to trial by jury.

It is a false issue. The proposed legislation says that officials who try to keep people from registering and voting may be enjoined to stop the process by a federal court. And if they disobey the court, they may be sentenced for contempt. Now whether a man has obeyed a clear court order is a matter of fact, easily established. No jury is needed to protect his rights because they aren't in danger. Obviously, if he obeys the court, the court is not going to punish him for disobeying.

This principle is so well established that it has hardly been brought into question until now. In matters far less important to us all than the right to vote, judges issue injunctions and punish defiance of them, all without the help of juries. Some of the very states which profess to be concerned over the right to vote have passed laws forbidding the NAACP to engage in activities such as assembly and propaganda, which are constitutional rights. NAACP officials who engage in such activities are subject to injunction

and to punishment without trial by jury if they disobey.

The reason southern congressmen are insisting on trial by jury of persons charged with violating civil rights injunctions is that they expect southern juries to acquit guilty officials in disregard of the facts. If you think they wouldn't do just that, you haven't read about what happened this week in Montgomery, Ala.

A jury there acquitted two young white men charged with bombing four churches, a Negro taxi stand, two ministers' homes, and other houses. Were they guilty? Their lawyer talked as if he thought they were. The lawyer said their acquittal would give encouragement to every white man, woman, and child in the South who wanted to preserve "our sacred traditions" of segregation. He said a verdict setting them free would "go down in history as saying to the Negroes that 'You shall not pass.'" Clearly, an acquittal could not have such effects if the accused were innocent.

The right of trial by jury is basic. It is not threatened by long-established injunction practices. But it is grossly perverted wherever juries acquit men they know to be guilty. If the civil rights law is amended to permit — and encourage — such perversions, the right to a jury trial will not be strengthened but weakened.

## Life For The Teen-Ager Becomes Bright With New Interests

What fun to be a teen-ager! Life is suddenly a bright ball of new interests with so much happening that there hardly are enough hours in the day for everything. Yesterday, the youngster who never combed his hair, is now quite careful about appearance, for he has discovered girls.

And—girls have discovered that they are girls, too. Good grooming and care of skin, eyes, and teeth may go on for endless hours and, doctors agree, it's a good thing.

One of the most important adjuncts to general health is a check-up on vision to see if eyesight is normal, or if glasses are needed.

Even if glasses are not needed, eyestrain can result from improper reading habits. This is the age when most teen-agers begin to do more reading than ever before. Reading can go on for hours, and if it isn't done under proper lighting conditions, tired eyes are the result.

To make sure good reading habits are observed in your home, establish these rules recommended by researchers for the Murine Company.

1. Teen-agers go in for "fads" in lighting. Sometimes they like to study by the tiny light of a small desk lamp in an almost totally dark room. This is completely wrong. General over-all illumination is best. Reading in a darkened room only serves to bring on eye fatigue that can cause teen-agers to become tired and irritable.

2. It is best that young eyes are not facing a window when they read. Sun-glare bounces off the window and onto the page, then into the vision of the reader. So make sure all lighting comes from the proper direction.

3. Avoid shadows. Adequate light should be placed at an ap-

proximate distance of 20 inches away from the page, to avoid any furtive squint or strain to adolescent sight, say Murine researchers.

4. A reading lamp should contain a bright enough bulb to banish shadows without inducing glare. A 100 watt bulb is considered ideal.

5. Also, make certain you rest your eyes from time to time. Placing one or two drops of eye lotion in each eye refreshes tired eyes. Practice moderation in reading or in attending motion pictures. Staring off into the distance for a short while is a fine way of resting one's eyes.

6. Follow a proper, well-balanced diet and get plenty of sleep. Sleep is vital at this period of life and will help to keep eyes healthy, bodies fit, and minds alert for all the wonderful things that go on daily in the exciting life of a teen-ager.

## Graduates Get Fellowships

NEW YORK

Florina Lasker Fellowships have been awarded to three 1957 honor graduates of United Negro College Fund member institutions, W. J. Trent, Jr., Fund executive director, announced today.

Barbara L. Hill, a graduate of Bishop College, Marshall, Tex.; Donna M. Wood, of Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tenn.; and Dorothy E. Watkins, of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., have been awarded stipends to help finance their first year of study in graduate schools of their choice.

## HERE'S HEALTH!

By Lewis

**CHERRIES**

GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE CHERRY TREE AN OF-TOLD HISTORICAL TALE, AND CHERRY PIE, A FAVORITE DESSERT, ARE TRULY AMERICAN TRADITIONS

THE CHERRY BELONGS TO THE ROSE FAMILY, AND IS SO CLOSELY RELATED TO THE PLUM THAT EVEN BOTANISTS DON'T AGREE WHETHER SOME SPECIES ARE CHERRIES OR PLUMS

A FAVORITE TREAT EATEN OUT OF HAND VERSATILE CHERRIES LEAD GLAMOUR TO LOADS OF DESSERTS. THEY CAN BE USED IN TARTS, CAKES, JELLIES, JAMS, PRESERVES, ICE CREAM AND SAUCES



Give To The NAACP Legal Defense-Educational Fund, Inc. 107 W. 43rd Street New York 36, N.Y.

"WHAT COUNTRY ARE WE IN NOW, MOM?"

## Spiritual Insight

"DANGERS OF FALSE FLATTERY"

By REVEREND HAROLD ROLAND  
Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church

"Woe to you when all men speak well of you..." Luke 6:26.

False flatteries are dangerous pitfalls to human beings. They lull us into the peaceful slumber of a false complacency. And complacency carries great spiritual and moral dangers. The dangerous sleep of complacency causes us to lose our alertness and awareness amid the many dangers of this life's journey. We should all learn the great truth taught by the life of Jesus: IT IS DIFFICULT TO PLEASE EVERYBODY. You can try to treat everybody right. But it is impossible to please everybody. There is something in us human beings that makes us easy victims of the sugar-coated, sweet little nothings uttered by men. Why is this true? There is a deep hunger in us for the good will and recognition of men. Thus Jesus is right again... "Woe to you when all men speak well of you..."

The honey-coated words of human flattery puts us to sleep. They lull us into a false and dangerous sleep. Flattery is one of the devil's greatest weapons. He came with flattering words to Jesus in the temptations but Jesus told him... "GET THEE BEHIND ME SATAN..." Many have been led to ruin by his sweet words of flattery. Many have lost their integrity and their homes because they were put to sleep by false flattery. Flattery slurs over our weaknesses and imperfections and thus it hinders true spiritual growth. False flattery is a drug that induces the pitfalls of spiritual and moral complacency.

The wise human being discerns between the honest compliment and false flatteries. Let us not fool ourselves. This is a hard job for us. We all need honest compliments and encouragement. That word of encouragement may mean the difference between success and failure. A job well done amid

trial, struggle and sacrifice calls for a word of encouragement. An honest word of gratitude and appreciation. We must be alert to guard against the spiritual and moral dangers of false flattery.

Can we go the way of God's will and please all men. No! No man in history has been able to achieve this thing. Not even the sinless Son of God. You know what happened to him — He died on the cross. The Man who follows God's will cuts across the grain of human sin and selfishness. Thus he can be right but he cannot please all men. The human being who would please all men must of necessity lose his integrity and his soul.

Beware, lest you be dragged by false flatteries into a dangerous sleep of complacency... "WOE TO YOU WHEN ALL MEN SPEAK WELL OF YOU..."

By Robert Spivack

## Watch on the Potomac

ANYTHING FOR A PAL — Robert B. Anderson, the new Secretary of the Treasury-to-be, is in hot water even before taking office. It's all because he tried to help out a fellow-Texasan.

The man-in-need turned out to be Sid Richardson, the multi-millionaire Texas oilman, one of the richest men in America, with a net worth estimated at \$500,000,000. Richardson was hopping mad because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wanted to acquire full title and rights to some 1,207 acres of land Richardson owned at a flood control project near Fort Worth.

Money wasn't the issue. He was willing to let the government have the land under an "easement rights" arrangement for \$1. The Engineers offered to buy it outright for \$162,000. What Richardson objected to was letting commonfolk cross

his land to fish at the Benbrook reservoir or hunt in the vicinity of his property or simply picnic around the place. He wanted and got the reservoir as a "private lake".

All this information was brought out at hearings of a House Government Operations subcommittee, headed by Rep. Earl Chudoff of Philadelphia. Chudoff apparently didn't realize what a powerful man Richardson is supposed to be—or he wasn't impressed. Anyhow he is one of the few men in Congress who dared to tackle the oil tycoon.

What Chudoff discovered was that Richardson, never one to deal with underlings, took the case all the way up to the White House and made a "personal complaint" to the President.

The President personally intervened, ordered an investigation and eventually the Corps of Engineers had to reverse its

land acquisition policy. It agreed to take land extending only 300 feet from the "private lake" shoreline. But this didn't satisfy Richardson entirely, and the matter is now lingering in a Federal Court.

Anderson's role is a bit mysterious.

The Army Corps of Engineers was not under his jurisdiction, while he was Deputy Secretary of the Defense. By statute it was under the Secretary of the Army, who was then Robert T. Stevens. He was going along with Richardson, too, in his own leisurely manner.

This apparently was not quick enough for Anderson who stepped in and, in effect, superseded Stevens.

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PUT IT UP TO IKE—Anderson, according to the former Deputy Chief of Engineers, Maj. Gen. Bernard L. Robinson, Continued on Page 7

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