

The Mississippi Lynching and World Opinion

Every decent citizen in this nation and throughout the world is compelled to be horror-struck at a masked mob's seizure of a jailed Negro in Poplarville, Miss. last Saturday. The bloody manner in which its members beat their victim into unconsciousness with a stick and garbage can, dragged his body down the stairway of the courthouse with his head striking each step and whisked him away to an unknown destination is enough to turn the stomach of all civilized persons. By the time this editorial is read the belief that the Negro has been lynched will probably have been confirmed.

The statement of Sheriff W. Osborne Moody of Poplarville that he had not expected any trouble will be taken with a grain of salt by all those who know the mind of the deep white South. It does not clear his skirts of the responsibility of protecting prisoners placed in his custody. There are too many unanswered questions to give him a clean slate in this most revolting crime which must be answered to by this nation before the world's bar of public opinion.

Also the action of Mississippi's Governor J. P. Coleman in ordering state highway patrolmen to assist the sheriff in his search for members of the mob will fool no one. We will not be surprised that when the truth is known to discover that some of the members of the mob were also members of the state's highway patrol. Likewise, we would not be surprised to learn that the sheriff and even Governor Coleman, himself, were in on the

"know" of this latest national disgrace which now confronts this country.

Reports as to the woman's positive identification of the accused man have differed. At one point they were to the effect that she was not sure he was the man. Later reports had it that she was convinced he was her attacker. Thus there is before us the grim possibility that the mobbists have seized and probably lynched the wrong man. As horrible as the whole affair is we trust that it will not turn out that the Mississippi mobbists, who have set themselves up as judge and jury, have beaten to death or lynched an innocent man.

We don't believe the persons responsible for this probable lynching will ever be apprehended and brought to trial. If they are, we do not believe that there is a jury of 12 white men in the entire state of Mississippi that will convict them. Mississippi does not have that much respect for law and order from its government on down to the most warped mind of its most backward populace.

About the only good to be derived from the whole affair is that it will once again raise the possibility of Congress enacting a stronger civil rights law. The Poplarville incident has stripped southern congressmen of their contention that there is no need for civil rights legislation in this country. The President and the Congress of the United States now have a duty to perform in the Poplarville case that will be watched with unabated interest by every law-abiding citizen in the nation.

Better Than No Minimum Wage Law At All

While the 75 cents an hour minimum wage bill now before the North Carolina General Assembly will not provide a \$30 per week level for workers in many areas where an increase in income is sorely needed, it at least is a step in the right direction. Several areas in which workers are now underpaid will be covered, thus making it possible for them to shoulder some of the economic and civic responsibility which is now carried almost entirely by that segment of our better paid citizenry.

Objection to a minimum wage law appears to us to stem from selfish motives. That there is a single person in the legislature who believes that anyone can live respectably on less than \$30 per week during these times of high prices of food, clothing and other necessities is astounding. It just goes to show that in spite of all the preaching about the brother-

hood of man there are still those of us who have not imbibed one iota of it.

Now that the bill has been given approval by the Senate-Manufacturers, Labor and Commerce Committee, we would like to urge organizations such as churches, fraternities, clubs and other groups, as well as individuals, to send letters and telegrams to their representatives in the State House of Representatives urging its passage. Especially should members of the House Manufacturers and Labor Committee be asked to approve the bill.

Many Negro workers of the state who constitute a majority of the underpaid segment of its society will still be on the outside looking in if the bill becomes law. So far as they are concerned, about the best that can be said of the bill is that it is better than no minimum wage law at all.

Hickstown—Durham's Forgotten Section

In this week's issue of the Carolina Times is an account of efforts now being made by the West Durham Community Progressive Civic Club to improve conditions in the Western section of the city, generally known as "Hickstown." The club cites the lack of recreational facilities, paved streets, sidewalks, street lights, water and sewer lines and regular garbage collection as some of the deplorable conditions of the community. It also calls attention to the many outdoor privies that are still in use, as well as open ditches. All of these its members feel are justifiable reasons for the club's existence.

The Carolina Times feels that if conditions are as bad as officials of the Club contend—and a visit to the Hickstown community will prove they are—then it is truly the forgotten section of Durham. Certainly the good citizens of that area who want their community improved will have the support, cooperation and sympathy of all progressive citizens.

While the members of the West Durham

Community Progressive Civic Club are certainly justified in organizing for the purpose of improving their section of the city, it is our candid opinion that they would be more effective and could realize their objectives more easily if they would work through and with the more experienced Durham Committee on Negro Affairs. Other sections of the city in which Negroes live in large numbers have used the organization in securing much needed improvements in the area of recreation, lights, sidewalks and other necessities.

What the West Durham group needs is a closer affiliation with the CONA whereby it will have the full cooperation of the entire Negro citizenry. There are too many fine citizens in the Hickstown section of the city for them to be denied the modern facilities they should have to make their community what it should be. It is our opinion that the CONA will be only too glad to assist the West Durham group in their efforts to improve the Hickstown section of the city.

Ignorant of the Power of the Ballot

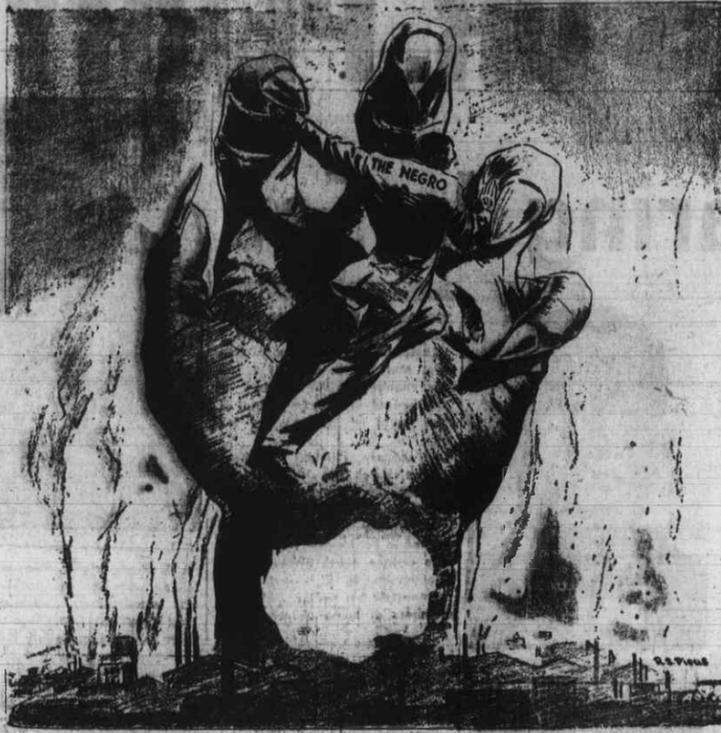
The increase in the number of Negroes running for public office over the state is indeed encouraging. It at least shows that some of them are mindful of their civic responsibility and are willing to serve as public servants. We think, however, that the time has come when Negro aspirants for public office should be taken more seriously by members of their own race. Too often, good men and women are asked to enter a political campaign as a political guinea pig, trial balloon, or as a means of creating more interest among Negro voters and prospective voters, when it is known that they have little or no chance of winning, because of a lack of Negro registrants upon whom they should be able to depend principally for support.

In every city and county in North Carolina where there is a sizeable Negro population, there are far too many members of the race who are not registered. Even in Durham, where the number of registered Negroes is said to be the highest per capita in the

nation, there are hundreds of Negroes who will not register and vote. Their idea of getting better streets, jobs and other advantages that are derived from public funds is to beg and petition for what they want.

Unless some of the Negro candidates can win in elections, the time may come when no qualified member of the race will allow his name to be mentioned for public office. The Negro pulpit, press and other agencies of influence can do a great service by continually urging Negroes to exercise their civic rights by registering and voting in every election.

This year we have observed Negro candidates running for public office in Henderson, Greensboro, Monroe, Raleigh and several other cities. As far as we have been able to discover, very few of them have little or no chance of being elected simply because members of their own group are downright ignorant of the power of the ballot and therefore will not register and vote.



SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

By REV. HAROLD ROLAND

Those Who Work in Spirit of God Armed with Strength for Success



"SENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT" "So being sent by the spirit they went to Seleucia." Acts 13:4

Paul and Barnabas went in the power of the spirit with Christ's message of salvation. In their human strength they would have failed. The power of the Holy Spirit made them a glowing success. With this power men can be moved from sin to righteousness. This power is indispensable for the preachers and the teachers of the message of salvation. Yes, to be an effective evangelistic witness for Jesus you must be endowed with this power. With the Spirit you can do all things — without the spirit you can do nothing.

They went fully prepared spiritually, and thus their success was assured.

The spirit of God is a guarantee for an effective evangelistic witness. Those who go in for their own power court object failure.

With the spirit you can do all things, but without the spirit you can do nothing.

When the spirit sanctifies you, you are ready for the job. The Spirit is a sign of God's sovereign power. This power transforms man's weakness into an unbeatable power.

How can you be an effective witness in a world of sin and evil? Why? It is the power that overcomes evil. And he who would win the victory over sin and evil must be clothed in this power. "Being Sent By The Spirit They Went..."

Jesus asked to be clothed with this power before we go as witnesses for him. Thus, the Risen Christ asks us... "to tarry to be endowed with power from on high." Human power is unable to do the job. Thus, we are asked to wait to be clothed with the conquering power of the Holy Spirit. We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit to be effective

evangelistic witnesses for Jesus. The Holy Spirit, and only the Holy Spirit, can make us fit to do the job for God.

Young Pitkin was clothed with the power of the Spirit when he fell as a missionary martyr in China in the Boxer Rebellion in 1900.

The presence of the Spirit gives us to know that God Almighty is with us in the battle. In the critical move from Ephesus to Jerusalem, it was the spirit of God that gave Paul the basis of saying... "NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVE ME..." It was in the power of the spirit that he could say in "Romans"... "In all things we are more than conquerors..."

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WATCH ON THE POTOMAC



The editors of the "Ohio Penitentiary News" at Columbus are dismayed by some of the things going on behind the big gate. Someone, it seems, has been stealing the inmates' razors, a Parker "51" pen, talcum powder, deodorant sticks, chopped ham and a pair of gloves. Things got so bad the editors recently made this plea:

"We are appealing to each inmate to help eliminate these low-type characters that are in our midst."

Somehow this story seems appropriate in detailing some of the things that have been done—or not done—by the present Congress dominated by Messrs. Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn, the gentlemen from Texas.

It is now almost five months since Congress has been in session. Hundreds of minor bills have been disposed of, but even the writers most sympathetic to Johnson are hard-pressed to think of anything important that has been achieved thus far in the Senate.

So far as Rayburn is concerned, he has managed to get himself into a box in a way that does not do much for his reputation as a master politician. At the beginning of this session the House liberal Democrats, led by Reps. Frank Thompson of New Jersey and Chet Holifield of California, tried to persuade Rayburn to broaden the membership of the House Rules Committee. The Northern and Western Democrats

Rayburn-Johnson Leadership of Congress Giving Demos Bad Name

By ROBERT SPIVACK

said they were fed up with the way the 76-year-old Rep. Howard W. Smith, the Byrd Democrat from Virginia, was tying up legislation.

Rayburn, who sometimes acts as if he thinks Smith is just a bad kid, refused to curb his authority by adding new members to the committee. He did pledge, however, that if any important legislation were tied up by Rep. Smith's coalition with conservative Republicans he (Rayburn) would personally intervene to break the deadlock.

Sure enough Smith has now bottled up the public housing bill, which is opposed by the real estate lobby. Rayburn thus far has done nothing publicly.

The Johnson-Rayburn Pattern Johnson and Rayburn both think of themselves as fairly enlightened, even, liberal Democrats. Their critics now ask: Wherein does their liberality lie?

A few weeks ago Johnson got himself in a jam from which he has not yet extricated himself. The Senate had passed by a substantial vote a bill liberalizing unemployment compensation. The House had passed a more restrictive bill. What happened then?

Johnson let Sen. Harry F. Byrd, the right-wing Virginian, head up the Senate team which met with a House committee to iron out differences between the two bills. Byrd was opposed to the legislation his own House had

passed, so he proceeded immediately to surrender to the House conferees. The result was just what you might expect; the more restrictive bill prevailed.

Why did Johnson let Byrd act as Senate spokesman for legislation he opposed? The supposed reason was protocol. Byrd is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee which originally considered the legislation. This, of course, was patent bunk.

In 1957 when the Civil Rights bill passed the Senate, Johnson by-passed Sen. James O. Eastland as one of the Senate-House conferees, even though he was head of the Judiciary Committee which originally considered that bill. Eastland was just too much out of line. His selection was bound to be construed as an act of bad faith, just as Byrd's was.

The lack of leadership by Johnson and Rayburn could rob their fellow Democrats of the issues they need to win in 1960. Unlike the editors of the "Ohio Penitentiary News" the editors of "The Democratic Digest" probably will not call upon their readers to "help eliminate these low-type characters that are in our midst."

Speeding, failing to give right of way, and driving on the wrong side of the road were the three principal traffic violations leading to fatal accidents in North Carolina last year.

Negro Held Source of Popular Culture

Arraed with a tape recorder, Alan Lomax went into the deep South. With him he also took the conviction that the Southern Negro folk singer was the creative center of American popular culture. But what he sought was the motive and the emotions which explain the power and appeal of this music.

In his introduction to "The Rainbow Sign" which Duell, Sloan and Pearce will publish May 25, he probes the background of the Negro as a slave and as he is today. The recurrent theme in all Lomax heard was the one of rejection. The Negro, he says, unable to speak out in anger at the injustice he felt, translated his plaints into song. This was a socially acceptable way to express defiance, despair, and the hope that ultimately there would

be equality for them too. "The blues is just a revenge," he was told.

Based on Live Recordings Two sections of "The Rainbow Sign" are based on material Lomax recorded, personal stories told by two Southern Negroes—Nora and Reverend Renfrew. Nora, a cook and washerwoman in Alabama reveal her life and her need for song. Reverend Renfrew, past seventy when Lomax talked with him, tells of his call to a Hell in which are expressed the thoughts and aspirations of a people.

THE RAINBOW SIGN, which Lomax calls a "Southern Documentary," is told with sympathy and insight—a story of the Negro whose vast contributions are part of our American heritage.

Objective Report on Integration Struggle

For any mis-informed American person who'd like to know the truth of the integration situation, Donalday printers have just published "The Southern Temper" by William Peters, which unveils the problem very simply and in a very wide scope.

Not confined to one group's thinking, Mr. Peters covers the entire problem with unusual fairness. He makes it a point to show clearly how the white Southerner feels, and then the Negro Southerners have their chance. Thus, it presents a most balanced picture.

He shows the tremendous negroes of hiring competent Negroes in government positions.

It shows how the FBI has been called in to investigate those persons favoring integration; and he shows how well the Negro children in desegregated schools are getting on, and how friendly they and their parents have become.

Written by a native of the north who went South to study the problem, Peter's book is not weighed with hate and years of self-pity. More so he is honest in his approach giving credit to both sides and putting the blame where it should be—in the Federal Government and the administrations which have allowed segregation to grow through the years.

Central High as Seen by Ex-Superintendent

The story of the Little Rock integration crisis, written by Little Rock's former Superintendent of Schools, Virgil T. Blossom, will be published by Harper & Brothers on May 27. The book is entitled "It Has Happened Here."

In 1955, Virgil T. Blossom was elected Little Rock's Man of the Year. In 1957 his family's home was almost bombed, he was shot at on the streets. In 1958, he was discharged from his position with the city schools.

In his book, Blossom tells of what happened after his school board because of the Supreme Court decision, had drawn-up, and tried to put into effect, a plan of gradual integration at Central High School. He details the effects of their plans of hate propaganda planted by die-hard segregationists, whom he says mostly came from outside the city.

DAILY LIFE AT CENTRAL

Blossom writes about the daily life in Central High School, both teachers and pupils, as a howling mob outside the building hurled epithets. He tells of the effect of morale when federal troops with fixed bayonets arrived to escort the Negro students into the building. He describes what has happened to the people and businesses in Little Rock as a result of the crisis which was reported around suggests ways in which the federal government can offer leadership for enforcement of desegregation through civil rather than military processes.

When the Little Rock School board resigned en masse in November, 1958, Blossom was relieved of his job as Superintendent. On July 1, 1959, he will become Superintendent of Schools of the San Antonio N. E. Independent School District, in San Antonio, Texas.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir: I have just completed the reading of the "Editorial section of the April 25 issue of the Times. I should like to congratulate you on bringing the facts to light regarding the lack of participation of southern students in the "Youth March on Washington" parade. It does seem that with all of the educational institutions of higher learning within North Carolina; there should have been a much better representation of North Carolinians than the mere 30 odd who took part in this event.

May I also call your attention to an error in this editorial comment indicating that only students from North Carolina College attended. You may be interested to know that eight of the persons attending were students of Durham Business College. Those attending were:

Nathan White, Durham; Annie Bouyer, Atlanta, Ga.; Claude Daniels, Durham; Robert Mauldin, Asheville; Earle Shaw, Garland; Daniel Smith, Durham; Marjorie Taylor, Kittrell; and Maurice Word, Norfolk, Virginia.

It may interest you further to know that the Youth Chapter at DBC is a very active chapter, and although it is small in number (DBC being a small institution), it has participated in most of the NAACP activities on a student level. Aside from the March on Washington, the group participated in the recent picketing of the Carolina Theater for unsegregated seating.

It is hoped that you will not take offense to this letter since the writer's sole purpose is to set the records straight — to let the "Truth be Unbridled."

J. W. HILL
DURHAM

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