

EDITORIALS & COMMENT

NAACP Membership Increase

The largest civil rights organization in the nation, NAACP, has shown a significant increase in its membership contributions. It reports an increase of more than 21,800 members over the rolls of 1971. There has been growth as well in its special contributions fund. These are indeed good signs.

It is especially fitting that this organization which has been steadily pushing forward for equality and justice—that is civil rights of all minorities—shows the continuing rise in its financial structure, by contributions from many sectors of the public.

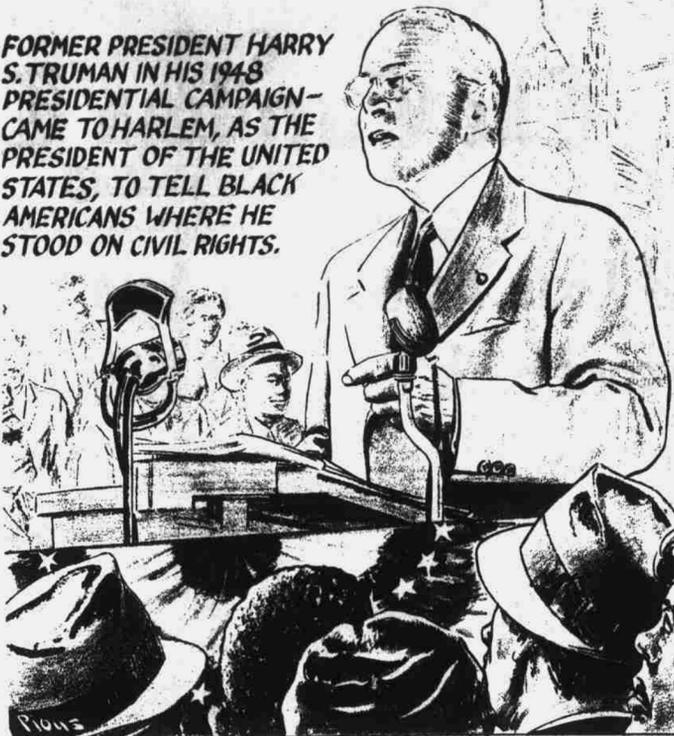
Perhaps even more, has this watchdog of civil rights been known as 'the lean horse such a long race' that

has garnered much strength and has been guided effectively by those many local leaders who keep pushing for new civil rights ground no matter what the national climate of opinion is.

Certainly as all signs of this Administration show that it is now moving from 'benign neglect to overt neglect' this great watchdog of civil rights for minorities and others will and can use even more contributions as the continuing battle gets deeper and more acute.

Let us hope that even more contributions will come in to aid in the cause as all Americans continue to work for equal opportunity and justice for all men regardless of race, creed or color.

FORMER PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN IN HIS 1948 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN—CAME TO HARLEM, AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO TELL BLACK AMERICANS WHERE HE STOOD ON CIVIL RIGHTS.



Memorial For Dr. Martin L. King

The introduction of legislation in both houses of Congress by the Congressional Black Caucus to make January 15, the birthday of the late Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. a national holiday will pay tribute to one who has become a symbol of the struggle to realize the American ideals of equality and equal opportunity.

Dr. King's program of creative, constructive, non-violent action to combat the problems of discrimination and poverty and to secure equal justice for all Americans attests to his great foresight as well as his Christian faith in all men. His inspirational leadership of the civil rights movement effected lasting changes in America and gave new life to the philosophy which should guide our nation.

His tireless activities in both the North and the South were greatly responsible for the landmark civil rights legislation of the Sixties. For

example, his campaign for the guarantees of voting rights in Selma, Alabama contributed signally to the adoption of corrective legislation in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Enactment of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 were also partially the result of Dr. King's dedicated and selfless efforts. His final great effort—the 1968 Poor People's Campaign, helped to bring the neglected plight of millions of Americans into sharp public focus.

It was in recognition of his great work that the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964 was awarded to him. This honor is reserved for the great humanitarian activists of our age.

For the Congress of the United States to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King by declaring it a legal public holiday would be a gesture commensurate with the high esteem in which he is held by people the world over.

Making Your Vote Count

Twenty more Negroes were elected to state legislature in 1972, over and above the 200-odd who had already been elected to such positions. Probably the most interesting election was John Talbert formerly head of the Portland, Maine, Branch of the NAACP, who was elected to the Maine State Legislature from an election district that had only a very few black voters. He was elected on a platform that poor persons needed a representative in the state legislature. He had heard a state legislator in the state capitol denouncing poor people as lazy and unwilling to work without anyone in the state legislature contradicting him and decided

that poor people needed representation. The white workers in his district voted for him and elected him on that platform.

His election is a tribute to the good sense of the white workers in his district. They forgot about race and voted for someone to represent their interest. His election also represents what the NAACP has long advocated namely an effective alliance between the racially underprivileged black people, represented mainly by the NAACP, and the economically underprivileged, in this instance overwhelmingly white, represented mainly by organized labor.

Things You Should Know

Al Jahiz
778-868



THE GRANDSON OF A NEGRO SLAVE,
HE WAS KNOWN AS THE DOBBLE-EYED,
AND WAS CALLED BY MANY THE GREATEST
SCHOLAR OF THE NINTH CENTURY/HE
WROTE OVER 120 BOOKS IN ARABIC, INCLUDING THE FAMOUS KITAB AL-GURAN WA
L-BIDAN, THE SUPERIORITY IN GLORY OF THE BLACK RACE OVER
THE WHITE/HE DIED AT THE AGE OF 90/

Negro History Week

THE IMPORTANT role American Negroes had in the history of the United States will be reviewed and assessed during the annual observance of Negro History Week Feb. 11-17. Organizations, public schools, colleges and other groups planning to participate in this event should have already made arrangements for their part in the celebration. Initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association For the Study of Negro Life and History, the celebration will be helpful to liberate members of both races from the misconception of the role of races in the development and spread of civilization among nations.

The theme of the celebration is "Biography Illuminates the Black Experience." The influence of prominent Negro leaders will be studied and stressed. A statement on the theme says "teaching and study with the 1973 kit will be facilitated by its presentation in five distinct segments or sections. According to the teacher's discretion each section can be used for a separate day of Negro History Week."

The week will see emphasis placed on the influence of "Men of Destiny" like ABRAHAM LINCOLN, FREDERICK DOUGLASS, CARTER G. WOODSON, founder of the Association For the Study of Negro Life and History; DR. W. E. B. DUBOIS, a founder of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People, and other outstanding leaders.

Attention will also be given to black achievements in sports, leading black women in racial progress and the advance of black children in special fields of endeavor and achievement. The personality phase of the celebration will call attention to exceptional American Negroes who have achieved distinction in various vocations and careers.

With some effort and versatility Negro students and teachers can find a wealth of information on the Negro's influence in American history. The Civil War which threatened the United States government and the future of the Nation was fundamentally a test of harmonious race relations. Any study of

American history would be amiss without adequate attention to the agony America suffered during the four years of the Civil War.

Negro history is an intricate part of American history. No American president has had as difficult a domestic problem as ABRAHAM LINCOLN faced over the threat of the South to destroy the Union over the institution of slavery. The national problem cost him his life and no other American president has had to be sacrificed on the altar of freedom in the history of this Republic.

It would be well during Negro History Week to recall the most relevant phases of American history and the experiences of the black man. It was the role that FREDERICK DOUGLASS played in the historical drama that led up to the Civil War. Dr. W. E. B. DuBois and Dr. CARTER G. WOODSON had an important part in that drama. And another distinguished Negro, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, who unfortunately seems almost forgotten, played a most vital role in the life and training of the early freedmen for their survival and future security.

America on parade with its pagantry and floats often gives the impression that this is solely a white man's country. A tour of American cities with visits to the museums and the statues in the public parks often gives the same impression. Until recently, and even now in too many cases, books and materials used in the public schools, colleges and libraries do not give adequate attention to the problems, aspirations and achievements of the Negro people.

Failure to know and to appreciate the problems, achievements and aspirations of a race is not only unfortunate for the race or people neglected, but for other races as well. As civilization becomes more complex and interrelated this situation becomes more acute. The study of races and peoples has always been an important project, and this is why Negro History Week is so important. It is important for Negroes first because it is a highly valuable pursuit for a people who need pride, aspiration and goals to press onward in the historical march of mankind.

The relief that millions in the United States and other nations felt over President Nixon's decision to halt, or rather to suspend, the terror raids against Hanoi and Haiphong has an ironic overtone. Its implication is that the more indiscriminate the weapons, the greater will be the appreciation when they are stilled. It is a policy of so escalating the pain that any let-up gives the appearance of moderation and mercy.

The truth behind that illusion is different. When the President dispatched the B-52's against Hanoi, he changed more than the tactics in an undeclared and, many believe, unconstitutional war. He established a terrifying precedent.

Mr. Nixon has used the instruments of terror, not to defend the United States or its troops against attack but to force an opponent to accept his terms at the negotiating table. The President took this step without seeking authority from Congress or the American people. He ignored the fact that the majority that re-elected him did so with the clear expectation that a negotiated peace was "at hand."

Throughout the long course of this war, each previous stage of escalation has been accompanied by efforts, however minimal, to gain the consent of Congress and the people. This time, however, there was no Tonkin Gulf rationalization nor any explanation about enemy sanctuaries in Cambodia. There was only the Presidential silence which thus proclaimed the concept of an unlimited Presidential power requiring no explanation.

The doctrine of the President's right to turn terror bombing on and off at will comes close to a kind of absolutism that is irreconcilable with the principle of constitutional government. It approaches the point of unacceptable risk in the nuclear age when the unilateral use of force—let alone the use of it at the discretion of one man—becomes a direct affront to the world's safety and sanity.

Such an absolutist doctrine too easily flows from Mr. Nixon's interpretation of America's role as Number One. It is an interpretation with which neither the United States nor the world could live in equanimity. The President's promise of "a generation of peace" will come to naught if it is to be based on the vision of a Pax Americana imposed and maintained by one man's power to launch the bombers and to recall them as his peace-making scenario dictates.

This is the nature of the constitutional crisis to which Congress must address itself. In resolving it, the question goes beyond whether the B-52's will or will not again fly against Hanoi. The question now is how to assure the country and the world that the power of the United States will not in future be placed, lightly and unchecked, into the hands of this or any other President.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

'Where Lies Tomorrow?'

Throughout history men have come to believe, from time to time, that they have mastered the world, are the possessors of this earth and the rulers of the life upon it. And repeatedly the artificial world of their own making has reached a point of arrogance and alienation where it became necessary to find some way back, some answers to the questions "Where are we?" and "Where lies tomorrow?"

One way or another, whether civilizations collapsed, were overthrown or were victims of disaster or failure, the answer always has been that the earth itself, the source of all life, was the eventual reality and the place to find certainty and ultimate truth. The one inevitability was a return to some understanding of and respect for the basic values of life itself.

Nature has no lessons to teach, no moralities to expound. Nature is not in the teaching business. But there is much to be learned from a mountain, a river, a woodland. Nature's purpose, so far as we understand purpose at all, is to perpetuate life, not to destroy it, to strengthen life, not to weaken it, to gild and fructify the earth, not blight and devastate it. These are not lessons. They are basic truths of life, and every time we reach for certainties, there they stand, undeniable as sunrise. As undeniable as the tomorrows already established in the seed, the root and the fertile egg.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Do's And Don'ts



Questions And Answers

Time To Start Thinking About Your Income Tax

(Editor's note: This column of questions and answers on federal tax matters is provided by the local office of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and is published as a public service to taxpayers. The column answers questions most frequently asked by taxpayers.)

Q) My son earned nearly \$2,000 last year. Does he have to file a Federal income tax return?
A) If your son is single,

you are not claiming him as a dependent and he did not have self-employment earnings of \$400 or more, he does not have to file a return because his gross income is less than \$2,050. However, if you or someone else could claim your son as a dependent and he had income from dividends, interest or other types of unearned income, he must file a return if his gross income was at least \$750. He must also file a return if

he had net self-employment earnings of \$400 or more.
Of course, he should file a return to claim any refund due him for income tax withheld.
Q) I have all my records. Can I file without my Form W-2?
A) No. A withholding statement, Form W-2, for each job held during 1972 must be attached to your return.

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