

EDITORIALS

A FRIEND OF LABOR EXAMINES THE RAILWAY BROTHERHOODS

Leo Wolman, for many years a distinguished student of American organized labor, recently discussed in his column in the Washington Post some features of the powerful railway unions. He said that these unions have long been regarded as "model organizations of labor."

"The pity is that all these years of experience have failed to arouse these organizations to their public responsibilities. Like other organizations they seem unable to distinguish between private and public interests."

"This failure is nowhere better illustrated than in treatment of Negro fellow-workmen on several railroads. This treatment is now the subject of litigation before the Federal courts, in an effort by Negro employees to be reimbursed for the losses they have suffered and to have rights restored which they allege have been taken from them."

Mr. Wolman then refers to an agreement made as far back as 1928 between a certain railway and the "Big Four" brotherhoods of operating crew workmen which provided that thereafter only white men would be employed, except as porters. Also referred to was the agreement by which the southeastern railways as a group promised the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen to hire thereafter "only promotable men" as firemen.

The eminent student of labor concludes:

"Only the full record can do justice to the policies and practices called into question in this situation. There is good and responsible authority to support the conclusion that it is not in a capacity to do the work that bars Negroes from these jobs. The record is not one of which the unions in question have reason to be proud. It does them no good to have a Federal judge say: 'This is not a matter of race discrimination in social relations. It is a matter of arbitrary classification in labor relations. The problem... is simply whether a faithful employee who has earned a place for himself... may be stripped of his means of livelihood by his own bargaining agent.'"

Such an indictment by a friend of organized labor and one who in general has a high regard for the railway unions ought to make the unions squirm. That it appeared in so influential a newspaper as the Washington Post is important.

Mr. Wolman exposes, by his own words and by the quotation from a Federal judge's statement, the lengths to which respectable white men will go to protect themselves unfairly and immorally from the competition of Negroes in the labor market. Yet Rankin and thousands of others hold that legislation to protect Negroes from such unprincipled business would be un-American, and indeed, "communistic"!

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TRAGIC NOTE

The happiest of seasons brings tragedies. At Christmas time fatal automobile accidents, disastrous fires, homicides under the influence of liquid Christmas "cheer," and various other calamities regularly mark the holiday which should be a holy day. For the first time in many years, however, North Carolina will report a negligible toll of accidents due to fireworks, thanks to the last General Assembly; but the list of tragedies traceable to carelessness, recklessness and rowdiness mounted day by day here at home and all over the nation.

One of the saddest of tragedies in the news, however, was that of the strife and bloodshed in Palestine. One could not but be shocked by the stories of the patrolling of Bethlehem, the city to which all Christendom looked on Christmas day, by armored cars. The news brought on that day of joy the sobering thought that the world is far from won for the Prince of Peace; that mankind still gropes and bumbles; that the good will among men, of which the angels sang "o'er Bethlehem's plain," is still a prophecy, as it was when it was first proclaimed.

CONFESIONS

The day after the News and Observer published on its front page the story of the arrest and confession of a Negro in connection with the burning of church and school buildings in the Georgia community notorious for the lynching of two Negro men and two women, there appeared on the editorial page a comment on the enormity of the alleged offense. In the same issue as the editorial, inconspicuous among advertisements on an inside page, was an item concerning the repudiation of the confession and an allegation by the accused that the purported confession had been made under duress.

It is the way of newspapers to play up stories of crimes and confessions, and to pass over lightly subsequent news which casts doubt on the identification of the original suspect with the crime. Especially are newspapers prone to give little "play" to a withdrawal of a confession, since in the first place the withdrawal is not as "newsworthy" as the confession, and secondly because once a confession is made a reputation is bound to be regarded with skepticism, to say the least.

In this case, however, it may safely be assumed that about as much credence is due the repudiation as is due the confession, and evenhandedness would seem to require as much publicity to the former as the latter. The probability that the colored man was "persuaded" into a confession is about as great, we think, as is the probability of his actual guilt, considering the total situation. The people of that community, including the peace officers, appeared very anxious to prove to the world that though a horrible lynching could be perpetrated in it, and without the slightest approach to apprehension of the guilty, at least white people didn't burn Negro churches and schools.

Whether the Negro arrested was guilty of the arson or not remains to be seen. If he is, he is blameworthy to exactly the extent of the crime committed, and should be duly punished. But that four Negroes were lynched in that community, three of whom were not even suspected of doing anything the white folks regarded as improper, and two of whom were women inhabitants of the knightly South, is not open to question. Nobody has been arrested for that crime, though it was participated in by a mob made up of a goodly number of men, and witnessed by a resident of the community not a member of the mob. To date there have been no confessions either to repudiate or let stand. To date there has not been a single person to whom suspicion pointed sufficiently to warrant an arrest. Confessions without arrests are rare, whether the confession is genuine or extorted by force and threat.

The saddest confession that has come out of Walton County, Georgia, is the confession that a triple quadruple lynching, a lynching of three persons innocent of any offense, two of them women, can go unpunished.



"A Defense Against Totalitarianism At Home And From Abroad!"



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

During the past decade or more the Roman Catholic Church has definitely taken the lead among Christian bodies in applying the principles of Christianity and the true spirit of the Church of Christ in its dealings with the American Negro. On all sides can be heard, from those interested at least, statements to the effect that the Catholic Church is making great headway among Negroes. Often these statements take the form of more or less quibbling complaints on the part of Negro clergymen and serious laymen, and a few white leaders of Protestant sects.

As a dyed-in-the-wool Protestant I concede that some of the methods used by the Roman Catholics in building their membership among Negroes are a little less than "sporting." But at the same time it cannot be denied that a good deal of their recent success among Negroes is directly traceable to the fact that they take seriously, or at least think seriously, do their profession of brotherhood and justice, and the Church is so organized that what the laodæan proclaim as Christian and Church policy is accepted by the rank and file.

For many years in this country Catholicism had little appeal for the vast majority of Negroes and the Roman Catholic Church seemed little concerned. But more recently Negro clergy have been trained and ordained. Members of the hierarchy have both spoken

and acted against un-Christian practices. Catholic University in Washington and St. Louis University in St. Louis took the lead among educational institutions in following the Mason-Dixon line in admitting Negro students. The parochial schools of St. Louis were this year opened to children regardless of race, over the protest of many of the city's white Catholics, but on the insistence of the diocesan authorities.

As I have said, I am a staunch Protestant, and therefore certain attitudes, tendencies and ecclesiastical policies of the Roman Catholic Church to which I personally shall never be reconciled, but the increasing boldness of the Church in putting Christian principles above race is certainly impressive, and inevitably wins the sympathy of many like myself.

An example of the kind of thinking becoming more and more prevalent among Catholics even in the South is contained in an editorial appearing in a recent issue of the North Carolina Catholic published by the N. C. Laymen's Association. Whether or not the editor is a southerner, the significant fact is that he writes in a southern paper for southern Catholics, and the southern Catholics read what he says. We quote briefly from the editorial, which was on the subject of the Russian United Nations' delegation calling for a UN inquiry into American racial discrimination.

"If there is an Achilles Heel to American Democracy, it is social injustice to Negro Americans. The Kremlin recognizes this, and in keeping with its policy of capitalizing on the weakness of its political enemies it is determined to make our kind of democracy a source of ridicule and discontent."

"Although the UN has decided not to act on the inquiry, the issue will remain a constant challenge to the American conscience. It is regaling an issue to be ignored by conscience, especially a conscience that has been nourished with the principles of Christianity and democracy."

Going on to say that if the UN had taken up the proposal to investigate U. S. practices our nation would have been put in a highly unfavorable light as the "universally acclaimed champion of democracy," even though the Soviet move in proposing the inquiry was "pharisaical," the editorial states that progress has been made in the past ten years. "Heretofore constant dedication and rededication of Negro and white alike to the Spirit of Christianity and the principles of the American Constitution."

We would like to submit that the Roman Catholic Church is doing a great deal of this dedication and rededication, and that it is often in this respect far ahead of any Protestant denomination in the South in this respect.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON By Rev. M. W. Williams

Subject: Beliefs That Matter (Gen. 26:30, 31; Acts 16:11-18; 1 Tim. 4:16; 1 Jno. 3:1-5).

Key Verse: "Whoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and every one that loveth him that becometh loveth him also that is begotten of him." (1 John 5:1).

Sin has left its mark on man so much so that the natural man cannot understand the things of God, nor the tests of the Christian faith. There are those, however, who believe in God, but not His Son, and they firmly believe their salvation is secure.

Saint John's purpose here is to correct their errors and set them in the right direction. The lesson centers on certain facts concerning Jesus Christ, which if believed we have life through him.

BELIEF IN A PERSON "But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that

believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:31).

John picks out several miracles changing water to wine; the lame of the man born blind; the feeding of the 5,000; the raising of Lazarus and the resurrection of our Lord as supernatural acts which attest His Messiahship, the Deity and Saviorhood. Now if you believe in this Person who performed these miracles — life eternal is yours.

CONFESSION — ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION

With the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom 10:10). One of the distinguishing marks of a Christian is the stand he takes for righteousness.

As a result of Paul's preaching on the soil of what we know today as Greece, Lydia, a seller of purple, a resident of the city of Thyra, heard the Word of God, gave heed to the message, confessed his sin, was baptized, as was also her household. She took her

place more of us don't stand up and be counted. Many say "Lord I love you and believe in you," but nobody knows it. They do not acknowledge it, neither do they do anything for the preacher, as Lydia did, nor for the cause which they espouse. Whatever you may say, actions speak louder. Have you confessed Jesus as your personal Savior? What are you doing for Him?

LESSON HINTS

- 1. Do not trust your opinion for your salvation.
2. My belief in God must extend to His Son.
3. With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.
4. With the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
5. I am willing to work for and give to the 'PERSON' I believe in.
6. Essential to my salvation are my beliefs in God, man and myself.

Health For All

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

A great number of people, either jokingly or seriously, approach the New Year with resolutions which border on the sublime or the ridiculous.

But whether you are among those who make resolutions of fact, you will agree that any resolutions designed to insure good health are neither sublime nor ridiculous—they are merely good, common sense.

Resolutions are undertaken primarily to improve a person's habits. One person resolves to give up smoking, another resolves never to touch rum again, still another resolves to refrain from using

his temper every time Aunt Minnie misplaces her glasses.

Then why not a few New Year resolutions in the interest of good health? They are easy to follow and the dividends they pay will be good health.

Here they are: Resolved, to get a sufficient amount of rest every night and to avoid overexhaustion, overwork or overplay.

Resolved, to follow a proper diet which will include such basic foods as milk, eggs, butter and other fats, bread and cereals, fish and meat, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Resolved, to watch my person-

al habits. To bathe daily and always wash my hands before eating.

Resolved, to visit my doctor at least once a year for a physical examination and chest X-ray.

Resolved, to visit my dentist at least twice a year for a dental checkup and to have my teeth cleaned.

Resolved, to spend at least one hour outdoors daily.

Sound health habits insure good health. Anyone can have this insurance by observing good health rules not for one day out of the year, but each and every day. In the next article, influenza will be discussed.



BETWEEN THE LINES BY DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

THE NEW YEAR AND THE OLD HEART

It is quite fitting that as an old year closes and a new one opens, we should have occasion for serious reflection. "Such a time as this," in fact, demands serious reflection, of such as are yet capable of it, in this age of swing music and dollar-grabbing. There can be no doubt that we are living upon the brink of great events, where the scales of fortune are so delicately poised, that the slightest events may tip the scales for peace or war.

War is the big threat to human happiness and survival. Let us make no mistake about this. The war to end war has not yet been fought with any degree of success, and so we must gird ourselves for the catastrophe that another war will thrust upon us, for in spite of our high hopes and our holy preachments, we are needing straight for another war, and the only question is its minded and how? Unfortunately the masters of the world are war-mammon sits in the driver's seat of this world's affairs, and even the victims of the economic systems of the world are thoroughly inoculated with the virus of the materialism that is wrecking the world.

Only one of the "mysterious ways" of God can save mankind from destruction. The Baal-worship of material things is sweeping the world, and whereas we find many who deplore such, we can scarcely find anyone who is willing to break down his idol. And herein lies the danger to the future of mankind. So many to see what ought to be done and how, but so few who are willing to make the sacrifice and breast the tide.

And so the old year passes and a New Year presses hard upon us. But the passing of years means but little where men carry from one to another the same old hates and grudges and prejudices. New Years with the same old evil hearts mean but little, so far as changing the course of human events in such manner as would insure peace among the nations. The heart of the nations has rebelled against the will of God, and we are trying to "climb up some other way." We are busy hunting for some other formula than the one given by Jesus whom we worship at Christmas, if the strait gate.

We all have excuses for the retention of our old hearts in the New Year. Like those hidden to the feast we all can make forthwith our several excuses, but few if any of us have reasons why we should not accept the Christ formula. When Cato, the grand old Roman, who arise in the forum and cry aloud, "Carthage delenda est" (Carthage must be destroyed) he was laughed to scorn, and so was old Jeremiah who sat upon the walls and wept for Jerusalem, and so have been they all who have tried to turn men and nations from their sins. It should stir us to serious reflection to think on what the New Year holds for us and what it might have held. It is man's inhumanity to man that is making countless millions mourn as Bobby Burns so clearly saw and as clearly told in his editorials of bygone days.

And so the old year closes and a New Year is ushered in as in the years past, but we are carrying out of the old year into the new the same old wicked hearts and this very fact makes of the gala spirit of the passing years but a solemn mockery before God and before the Great Judgment Seat of History. As William Knox said, we are the same as the generations that went before, certainly we are no better in spite of our improved advantages. We face the New Year with trepidations as we face a dollar-struck, color-struck world. We can dismiss these Biblical teachings if we will, but it is a fearful thing to treat Sin's Road back.

But such is the road that nations and individuals are treading today as we journey into the New Year. Just as Christ was crowded out of the inn that eventful night, so is crowded out of the inn of the life of men and nations. How long shall we thus spur the only hope for world peace and happiness. What difference does it make when we carry into the New Year the same old sinful heart?

Advertisement for 'THEY'LL NEVER DIE' by Elton Fax, featuring a portrait of Hon. Josiah J. Settle and a testimonial about his life and legal career.

Advertisement for 'Forgotten Inventor' by Eli Janney, featuring a portrait of Eli Janney and a testimonial about his invention of the 'LINK-AND-PIN' coupler.