

EDITORIALS

ON NEGROES AND THE OLYMPICS

The fine showing of male Negro athletes, especially in the dashes and middle distance events and in the broad and high jumps, has been so consistent and over such a long period of time that it has come to be taken for granted. The news created by the Olympic trials was not that there was such a high proportion of colored men among those qualifying, but rather the failure of Fonville and Dillard to qualify in their specialties. Each was the unquestioned best in his specialty, but a combination of circumstances kept each from qualifying in his specialty for the Olympic team. Fonville was left behind, but Dillard made the squad on his performance in the dashes, and more than paid for his boat ride by winning the 100-meter dash, tying the Olympic record in the process.

Women athletes attract far less attention than the men, so it is not surprising that little publicity has been given to the fact that eight of the eleven members of the American women's track and field squad are Negroes. That circumstance is nonetheless remarkable, however, and we think our readers should have their attention turned to the less publicized pre-eminence of Negro women in athletics. It is noteworthy also that 25 percent of the American female squad is from Tuskegee. That is true probably because Tuskegee is one of the few institutions in the United States in which a conscious effort has been made to develop competitive athletics for women along the same lines that other institutions strive for excellence in athletics for men.

While on the subject of Negroes in competitive athletics it may be of interest to note that not a single Negro appears on the American Olympic team outside of track and field and boxing. There are no Negro swimmers, or tennis or golf players, or gymnasts, or winter sports performers, and so on down the list.

It is quite possible that the average American would explain this if indeed he considered it at all, by asserting that the Negro has a natural racial talent for running and jumping and boxing; that his success in these sports is related to some peculiarity in his anatomy. But we think that the explanation lies largely elsewhere.

The Negro athlete has succeeded in those sports in which tradition and social custom have allowed him to compete and to develop, and having succeeded where the opportunity was given, it has come to be assumed that his abilities were confined to those fields. The Negro's excellence in track has in itself become a tradition. As is so often the case it is accepted that he can do what he has done (because he has had the opportunity), and assumed that he cannot do what he has not done (though never given an opportunity).

In general the Negro has gained prominence in those competitive sports in which the competition is on an individual basis, requiring the minimum of association and co-operation with fellow players, teammate or competitor; where every individual is on his own; where individual excellence is unmistakable. Admitted to such competition because of the relative absence of the "social" element, the Negro has succeeded in those sports to a remarkable degree, and his probable talents in other lines have been allowed to go by default. That this surmise of ours is a true expansion is witnessed by the success of Negroes in college football for

many years in those parts of the country in which it has become accepted that Negroes be admitted to competition, and more recently by the admission of Negroes to professional football on the basis of their success in the college game. Something of the same thing is happening in big league baseball, but without the assistance of the college precedent and background as in football. In both professional football and baseball the financial incentive of course is an added stimulus to experimentation in ignoring or overcoming tradition and pre-judgment.

There are lessons in this which transcend the intrinsic value of games and sports, great as that value is. For those who will see, there is valuable evidence that the Negro may achieve creditably in any field of endeavor in which he has any equal chance from scratch with all other competitors, freed from the handicaps of pre-judgment and given a fair opportunity throughout.

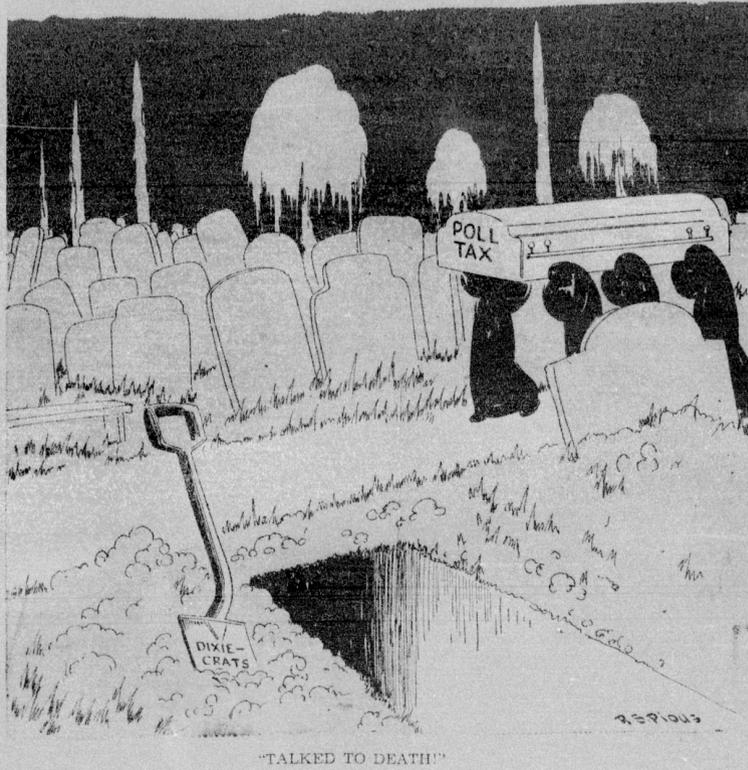
The American people are deeply interested in sports, and at bottom subscribe to the principles of fair play on which all good games and sports rest. As both participants and spectators observe what happens when Negroes achieve in athletics in proportion as the barriers and hobbles and handicaps are removed, to some extent at least they will reflect that the same might happen in other and more fundamental human activities, and what is more important, might conclude that real equality of opportunity for each individual and in every situation is only fair, is the American way.

DOING HIS PART

President Truman, in issuing his executive order of a few weeks ago calling for the elimination of racial discrimination in the Federal civil service, did something which was within his own powers as chief executive. He took steps which had been urged or suggested for a long time, as it was plain that if he was sincere about his civil rights proposals to Congress, he would certainly have to do what was within his own jurisdiction to correct discriminatory and unfair practices within the administrative branch of the government.

Some Negroes were disappointed that the President did not order an end of segregation in the armed forces. It was felt by these critics that as commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy he had ample power to do so and should have exercised it. It should be noted, however, that he did issue orders aimed at the elimination of discriminatory practices limiting the rights and opportunities of colored personnel in the armed forces. Should these orders be carried out a tremendous change for the better will result, and the consequent improvement in the morale of Negro servicemen and civilians alike will be assured. It may also have escaped the notice of many that in a press conference soon after the issuance of the executive order President Truman declared that the ultimate goal of his program is the elimination of all segregation in the army.

The President continues to exhibit his courage, and it is courage whether or not there are political motives behind his actions and statements. And speaking of politics, Truman still needs the electoral votes of the southern states if he has any hopes of being re-elected. There is something more than politics behind his refusal to try to appease those parts of the South which he has not already lost and which are at best only lukewarm toward him. We still hold that whatever President Truman's other limitations, he is sincerely in favor of first-class citizenship for Negroes, and that he is not afraid to go on record as to his convictions. In this respect his performance throughout his term has not been below that of any man who has so far occupied the chief executive's seat.



Second Thoughts

BY C. D. HALLIBURTON

The Dixiecrats and others are making a great deal of the danger that the United States may become a "police state" if certain federal legislation is passed. The Dixiecrats of all people should keep quiet on the subject of the police state, for it is generally recognized that the definition of such a state is one in which government arbitrarily interferes with the ordinary liberties of individuals. In this sense the southern states of the Union are police states and have been for many a day in their official dealings with their Negro citizens. This is over and above the dealings of white individuals with Negroes as individuals.

The essence of Jim-crow is the invasion of the rights of a class of individuals, or the establishment of their status on a different and lower level than that of other citizens. It is the state of which the Dixiecrat candidate for president is now the chief executive which has exhausted all the possibilities of law and law enforcement to dis-

franchise citizens of the United States and of that state.

When it comes to telling citizens what to do and not to do and making them conform to such arbitrary orders the southern states in dealing with Negroes have got the federal government in its actual and proposed control over the general citizenry "skint a mile."

If anyone wants to make a study of arbitrary control by law over the action and behavior of citizens in a "democratic" that person should begin by studying the Jim-crow statutes and ordinances of the South, their strong-arm application by officers of the law, and their enforcement by the courts. Apart from some of the things that have happened to American workers during labor disturbances, more examples of police state methods will be found in the case histories of Negroes in Dixie than anywhere else the student might look.

The state troopers in the Columbia, Tennessee, riot; the Batesburg, S. C., policeman who

blinded the recently discharged Negro soldier; Bull Connor, of Birmingham (by the way, he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, and one of those who walked out and went back to Alabama to help form the party to fight for states' rights and individual freedom against the encroachments of a "fascist" federal government); the officers of the law who can never find who the lynchings were; registration officials and cops who intimidate would-be voters and registrants; — those are examples of the police state, American style.

It would be funny that the governors of South Carolina and Mississippi should be the standard bearers for this new party championing the liberty of the individual against the encroachments of government — it would be funny if there were not so many people who take the thing seriously and don't see the joke. When people don't see the joke, for all practical purposes there isn't any.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Andrew, the man who brought others to Jesus—Matt. 4:18; Mark 1:16-21, 29; 3:18; 13:3-7

Memory Selection — He brought him to Jesus—John 1:42

John Baptist's name has gone down as one of the greatest preachers of all ages, yet it was in the company of just two men that one of his greatest sermons was preached. "Andrew; John, behold, look, there he is the Lamb of God that takes away all men's sin." The result of this cry was, Andrew and John who had followed John the Baptist up to that time turned their backs on him and followed Jesus. They heard, they looked and they followed. Andrew and John went home with Jesus.

After Andrew had come in

WHAT'S NEW?

By pressing the self-starter button on the top of salt and pepper servers molded of plastic, an accurately measured spray of seasoning is mechanically forced from the bottom of the container. Since the plunger button on these servers is white for salt, and black for pepper, they prevent the common mistake of selecting salt for pepper and vice versa.

Insurance papers and similar documents, to be kept for a considerable length of time, get added protection from covers and jackets made of plastic. Made from extruded tubing that is heat-sealed at one end, these covers are transparent, flexible, waterproof, lightweight, oil and greaseproof, long-wearing, non-abrasive, and tear-resistant.

New well-designed utensil handles remain cool to the touch and retain their attractive appearance, despite oven and top of stove heat and frequent washing.

A chemically controlled combination ice pack and hot water bottle that can be carried in a coat pocket or brief case is being introduced. The hot or cold pack, which can chill a fevered brow or comfort a strained ligament, is achieved by the use of a special contained in a plastic bag.

contact with Jesus his greatest desire was to bring others to the Master. Andrew's soul was filled with more joy than he could keep to himself. He went and found his brother Simon, he told him about Jesus and prevailed upon his brother to follow Jesus. Andrew immediately entered upon the task of Christian Missions. He felt himself secure with Jesus. He wanted his brother and others to feel the same.

The same spirit should exist in the soul of every Christian today. When we find Jesus our next move should be to bring our brother to him also.

It is evident the stage was already set when Jesus passed by the sea and called them to be His disciples, they immediately followed. Jesus said come after Me and I will make you fishers of men." Every person who follows Christ is a fisher of

men. Andrew and Simon left their nets where they were and followed Jesus. Every person who truly accepts Jesus will leave their nets where they are and follow Him.

It was Andrew who found the lad with the fishes and loaves when the multitude was hungry. Andrew presented the lad to Jesus. It was Andrew who had the privilege of introducing the Grecians to Jesus.

Today the job of finding and bringing people to Christ has been left in the hands of the preachers. The preacher must play his part, but every Christian must likewise play his part. If every person who is a Christian would bring a sinner to Christ the world would soon be Christian. We must dedicate ourselves to the work of Christ. We must speak of Him wherever we go; we must bring others to Him.



BISHOP MEDFORD Says:

The Christian Index of recent date says that President Truman "stuck his neck out" when he advocated enforcing Civil Rights legislation; that Civil Rights in America mean largely "Negro Rights". We agree with Index in toto and want to add that if there is such a thing as the Negro "sticking his neck out" politically, he ought in turn to stick it out for President Truman in November. The Negro will not amount to a great deal in Politics until he learns to stand by his proven friends with his ballot irrespective of Party.

At this writing the Associated Press is heralding that 35,000 Negroes will vote in the South Carolina Democratic Primary Tuesday, August 10. That being so, a new day's a-dawning for the Negro of that State. The Democratic Primary is about the only election in that virtually one Party State. The only things the Negro needs to do is to look 'em over, examine their record of fairness and friendship for him over the years and cast his vote for the ones he can call the Negro's friends. Later on when enough of them can get together they can elect a member of the Race to State Legislature and still later on to the United States Congress. Illinois and New York have done it, why not South Carolina, in "The Sweet-bye and bye."

Negroes waste too much money attending conventions, conferences, both of churches and secret orders, beauticians, etc. Too much time is spent in making windy speeches and socializing at these meetings, and too little helpful business done, and railroads, bus lines and those who sell gasoline along the way are the chief benefactors as result of these "Conventions". The Negroes and others need many things much worse than a multiplicity of Conferences and Conventions in various sections of the country.

John Wesley AME Zion Church, Washington, D. C. of which Dr. Stephen G. Spottswood is pastor, tendered the writer and Mrs. Medford a brilliant reception in honor of our election to the Bishopric of the Denomination at the General Conference in Louisville, Ky., May 1948. The writer was pastor of the great John Wesley Church 1924-1928 and was elected Secretary-Treasurer-Editor of Foreign Missions Board of the Connection from that pulpit by the General Conference May 1928. Among those who made felicitous addresses were Mrs. Josephine H. Kyles of the Washington Federation of Churches, Dr. D. C. Pope and Dr. R. Farley Fisher General Officers of the AME Zion Church; and Attorney Thurman L. Dodson, President of the National Bar Association.

Bishop B. G. Shaw of Birmingham, Ala., Bishop W. J. Walls, Dr. D. P. Thomas, Dr. James W. Eichelberger of Chicago, Mrs. Abbie Clement Jackson, Louisville, Ky., are delegates from the AME Zion Church to the World Council of Churches at Amsterdam, Holland, August 22, 1948, for its 14 days session at which forty nations will be represented.

HERE AND THERE

That the National Football classic (Tennessee state vs. Wilberforce state, Washington, D. C., Oct. 23) is no gyp promotion project is proved by the disposition of the funds from the event: 66 2/3 of the net to the participating colleges; 6% of the net to the coaching staffs of the colleges; 6% of certain portions of the gross take to the United Negro College fund; balance for operation, promotion and sinking funds. If this squarely promoted project isn't worth supporting, then nothing of its kind ever was. Congratulations, promoters.

Washington insiders are predicting that the committee to raise money for the Truman campaign will get that million dollars. Reasons: (a) Negroes know now that the President will not back down from his civil rights fight, and (b) they also know that they must reward their friends. (God help us if we don't).

The White House will make a grave mistake if a Negro woman is not included on the committee to watch the military's integration procedures, say observers.

Something tells us that Ma Bethune will soon be heard from, all her unmatched way, on the political battlefield. And what she has to say will reach attentive ears, too.

Nomination for a grade A organization exec. H. Council Trenholm (Alabama State), executive secretary of the American Teachers association.

And speaking of college prexy's, Bill Gray (Florida A and M), has no peer in the country in progressive planning. Ever see his building program? That new hospital!

Joe Albright (VA aide) to vets in Atlantic City: "Never forget that Negro vets are as far along the road as we are because of the Negro press. If we fail to remember that, we will be guilty of the grossest ingratitude." He ought to know.

Incidentally, Albright refused to comment on his recent conference with Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, chief of staff, Air force, but it is a safe bet that the conversation dwelt a while, at least, on full integration of Negroes in the service.

Big Joe, you know, was the first Negro in Air force (during the war) to deliver lectures to the entire personnel (white, that is) of air bases. And while you are listening, Albright is all out for Col. Benjamin Davis, whom he greatly admires, and would be very happy to see the famous colonel made a general. (As he should be, Gen. Vandenberg.)

Question for the week: Who will be smart enough to secure the services of the brilliant Ann Mason, now that she is leaving the housing agency? The line forms to the right.

Getting tired of paying so much for your groceries? If congress doesn't do something about price control, you ain't seen nothing yet.

Is the fine hand of Clarence Mitchell (labor secretary, NAACP) visible in the construction of the President's fair employment directive for government agencies?

QUESTION

By JOE SHEPHARD

Do Gods grow tired and weary,
And err as mortal men,
When the end and aim of their labors
Seem to lie beyond their ken?

Do they pause at their work and wonder
If the candle is worth its cost,
And feel an urge to destruction
Counting their labor as lost?

Do they find ease in bitter laughter,
At the end of a futile day,
Or do they shrug and dismiss the errors
As the fault of the worthless clay?

THEY'LL NEVER DIE *By Elton Fax*

99 YEARS AGO HARRISON N. BOUEY WAS BORN IN AUGUSTA, GA. AS A BOY HE LEARNED THE PAINTER'S TRADE - ATTENDING SCHOOL AT NIGHT.

FOR TWO YEARS HE WAS A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER IN AUGUSTA, AND AT 21 ENTERED AUGUSTA'S BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY 3 YEARS.

LATER HE WENT TO AFRICA AS A MISSIONARY - SERVING FOR 3 YEARS IN MONROVIA.

RETURNING TO THE U.S.A. HE BECAME FINANCIAL AGENT OF SELMA UNIV. AND AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE ALABAMA STATE MISSION BOARD. HE WAS ALSO ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF "THE BAPTIST PIONEER"

Harrison N. BOUEY
BAPTIST MINISTER AND EDUCATOR

Continental Features