

## EDITORIALS

### COMMUNITY CHEST, 1948

It sometimes happens that those who talk loudest about their rights and privileges are also those who give very little attention to their duties and responsibilities, or take them lightly. Each of us should see that the Negro citizens of Raleigh and Wake County do not fall into this category.

The annual campaign of the Community Chest offers us an opportunity of an excellent kind to demonstrate that we are as alive to our community obligations and responsibilities as to our rightful privileges, and all the more so when whether one gives, and how much one gives, is a voluntary matter. When we pay taxes we help to furnish ourselves and others with certain necessary community services, but can claim little credit, because paying taxes is compulsory. The Community Chest provides services which tax money does not cover, but which are essential for the welfare and progress of the community. In many cases the services are for those most needy and least able to meet their needs as individuals. In this group Negroes figure prominently.

Over a period of years Raleigh's Negro citizens and those of the county have so increasingly met their responsibilities during the Chest campaigns that last year the "Negro division" was abolished, and the Negro ceased to be a special group for the purposes of the campaign. Instead of taking advantage of this racial anonymity every Negro should make a special effort, even beyond that of previous years, to measure up to his obligation as a member of the community.

Do your best for the Community Chest!

### A GOOD WORK

In a quiet but effective way the NAACP has been working for several months toward the elimination of unfair practices by registrars who seek to exclude qualified colored persons from registering to vote. T. L. Spraggins has taken the lead in this work, ably aided by officers and members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and by the Wallace Progressive party, the latter taking vigorous action not only to increase the possible members of that party qualified to vote, but also interested in justice for justice's sake.

Mr. Spraggins recently received notice from correspondents in Brunswick County showing that some progress is being made in the southeastern area of the state, one of the chief offending areas in breaking down the barriers.

"In Supply Precinct," writes a correspondent, "the situation is greatly improved . . . I have talked with several Negroes who were registered there Saturday, and it is reported that they were the first Negroes to be registered there in 50 years."

But the resistance dies hard. In another precinct in the same country, qualified applicants could find no one to register them. Not finding the registrar, applicants went to the chairman of the county board of elections, who informed them that there was no registrar for their precinct. When asked what could be done about their registering the county official replied, "There is nothing I can do," but added that he had communicated with the state election board about the situation.

It would seem that the registrar had resigned rather than accept Negroes for enrollment on the books. Such has happened in North Carolina. Action has been started against some registrars in the U. S. courts, and that may be related to the existence of the vacancy, and to the

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caution being practiced by those having to do with the election machinery in that locality.

It is time North Carolina ceased to tolerate illegal exclusion of qualified persons from the poll books. The year 1948 is a good year to bring such violation of state and federal laws to an end. All those persons working toward that goal deserve the commendation of every honest citizen.

### A FLOP

Governor Thurmond's campaign is pathetic. A throng of 225 persons turned out to hear him in Raleigh. It is no wonder the audience was small; Mr. Thurmond had nothing to say. The Dixiecrat platform is as sterile as that of the Vegetarian party. There is only one issue, and that issue is presented in such a way as to reduce the Dixiecrat side of it to an absurdity.

For Governor Thurmond in his speeches has been saying in effect that the Progressives, the Democrats and the Republicans alike are under Red domination. "The Democratic Party," says Mr. Thurmond, "has been taken over by the foreign schemers and the pinks and the subversives." That this sad plight has overtaken the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as the already hopelessly enslaved (according to Thurmond and many others) Progressives is evidenced by their support of Fair Employment Practices legislation proposals. Mr.

Thurmond explains his arrival at this conclusion by asserting that Joe Stalin thought up FEPC as a good way to get spies and saboteurs into American industry. If the Dixiecrat candidate is sincere in advancing this theory he has one of the most fertile imaginations now in existence. But people will not turn out to hear such fables told with a straight face.

It is obvious that the proposals to make illegal discrimination against persons because of race or religion originates in a desire for equal justice, which is one of the allegedly basic principles of the American way. It is possible that equality of opportunity for jobs cannot at this time be best promoted by Federal legislation, but certainly such a far-fetched explanation of the origin of the idea as Thurmond offers is entirely uncalled for.

The idea was first advanced and implemented during the late war, as a measure to increase production at a time when open opposition to any reasonable measure to increase production was not likely to be heard, and it was promulgated by executive order of the commander-in-chief. Mr. Thurmond knows all this, and any intelligent audience also knows it. It is not strange that, as the News and Observer reported it, "a light wave of laughter swept across the student audience when Thurmond declared, 'I have no race prejudice.'" (This happened when he spoke at the University of North Carolina.) The only wonder is that the laughter did not persist throughout the address, because nearly everything he said was as funny as that statement.

In his Asheville speech Governor Thurmond held that President Truman's civil rights program would be "a stunning blow to a Southland which has now virtually attained its goal of economic equality with the rest of the nation." It is not explained how the abolition of the poll tax as a requirement for the suffrage, the outlawing of lynching, fair employment practices, or the forbidding of segregation in interstate travel will stun the Southland and hinder its movement toward economic equality with the rest of the nation.

And is it wrong that Negroes should aspire to the economic equality which Mr. Thurmond rightly thinks should be a legitimate goal of the Southland?



## Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

President Truman made a good speech in dedicating the monument in Capitol Square. Not favored with the gift of dramatic oratory, Mr. Truman fails to thrill his audiences, but often there is a ring of sincerity and earnestness which to some extent compensates for ordinary eloquence.

Without saying so directly, President Truman indicated that there were certain parallels between his situation and that of each of the three presidents represented in the monument—Jackson, Polk and Johnson. He said:

"Each of the three men whose fame this monument celebrates held the office of President in time of trouble."

"Andrew Jackson had to face the nullification crisis, which was the first threat of secession. James K. Polk was confronted with the Mexican War. Andrew Johnson was caught in the mass hysteria following a war in which more American blood was spilled than in both World Wars of our time."

"Because they lived through days when reason was overcome by emotion, their acts were misunderstood and misinterpreted. And because they were misunderstood they were libeled beyond the lot of most presidents."

Like Jackson Truman has faced secession, not from the nation as did Jackson, but from his party. He has more than

faced it; he has experienced it, and not on the part of one state as did Jackson, but of several. No one knows yet how many states will give them electoral vote to the seceding States Rights party candidates.

Not just a war with one nation is threatening Truman as was the case with Polk. He has been under threat of world chaos almost continuously during his term. And like Johnson, he inherited the post-war problems left by the death of a man who had gone through the war at the helm of the ship of state, and who by native ability and experience as well as far better equipped to handle them.

Describing Johnson's position in succeeding Lincoln, Mr. Truman might well have been referring to his own experiences. The following paragraph from his speech reveals that most strikingly:

(Andrew Johnson) "came to the presidency by reason of a death that was tragic not only for America but for all mankind. Suddenly, without a moment's preparation he was called on to take up and complete the work of one of the greatest men that ever occupied the White House."

Certainly Truman was in a very similar position, and I believe that the verdict of history will be that he did a surprisingly good job, all things considered—a better one possibly than

Andrew Johnson. Like Johnson he has been handicapped by a hostile Congress, though the hostility has not been by any means as bitter as that faced by the successor of Lincoln.

Probably the most significant single statement in the entire speech was one in which President Truman was referring to an action of Andrew Jackson. The speaker said:

"The bravest thing that Andrew Jackson ever did was to stand up and tell his own people to their faces that they were wrong."

He was referring to the unequivocal stand which Jackson took against the nullification movement and secession threat in South Carolina. Jackson, himself a southerner and a believer in States' Rights, realized that there was a point at which States' Rights must end if the nation was to survive and reach its destiny. I believe that Truman's championing of civil rights, which has made him unpopular with so many of his friends, stems from the same motives as Jackson's action in the South Carolina crisis. It is quite possible that some day when a monument to Truman is being dedicated, some speaker will quote these words Truman used in Raleigh in dedicating the monument to Andrew Jackson, applying them to Harry Truman himself.

## HERE AND THERE

(FOR ANP)

Negro vets organizations in Tennessee sponsoring largest Armistice Day services in history of the State. Nashville will be the scene of occasion, and nothing is being left undone to make the event the best ever. Big fellowship dinner will be staged on the evening of November 10 as a kick-off to the super patriotic celebration the next day. Speaker for both affairs will be Joseph Albright, assistant to the VA chief, Gen. Carl Gray Jr. Invitation was extended to "Big Joe" when the dynamic veterans' fiveball wowed 'em in Tennessee during his last visit.

Incidentally, Tennessee is running far ahead of all southern States in the matter of organizing Negro Vets. (Pst! but keep your eyes on Mississippi.)

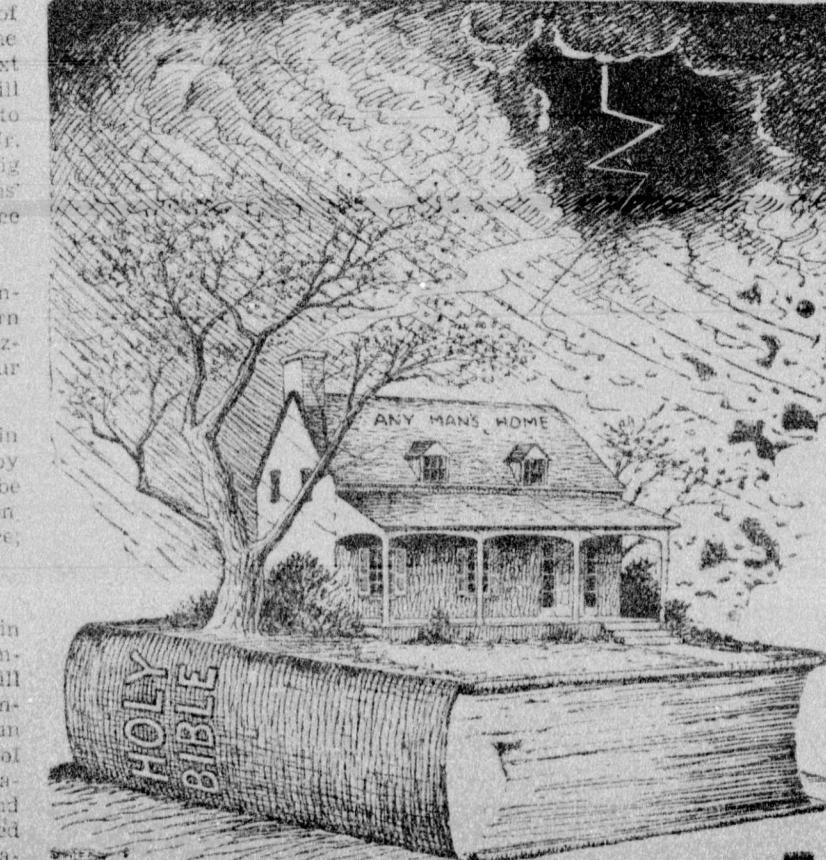
Battle for Senatorial Togas in several key states gets hotter by the minute. Negro vote will be important factor in final decision (Vote folks—this is the big chance, don't miss it.)

That meeting being held in Washington this week on vocational opportunities for Negroes will be of profound significance. Confab being called by the chairman of the Commission on Education of the National Negro Business League (Harper of Tennessee A. and M. College), and will be attended by bigwigs of government, education, Urban League and NAACP.

Testimonial to beloved Julia West Hamilton in the Metropolitan AME Church in Washington was one of the most touching gestures of devotion ever tendered a deserving leader of the group in the Capitol. When the revered matriarch responded to the expressions of fealty and affection from friends every walk of American life, the

huge audience gave her an ovation. Question for the week: Made that literally rocked the historic your contribution to the Community Chest yet?

### The House Built On a Rock



NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

OCTOBER 18-24

Sponsored by Laymen's National Committee

Vanderbilt Hotel, New York 16, N. Y.

"I always have said, and always will say, that the studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better citizens, better fathers and better husbands." —Thomas Jefferson



## BETWEEN THE LINES

BY DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

### A GOOD MAN IN BAD COMPANY

There is something admirable about Thomas Dewey, the Republican presidential candidate. In his previous candidacy he was not a total loss and the vote he won bespeaks the high admiration in which he is held by millions.

When I go all out for Truman it must not be misconstrued as a personal disengagement of Thomas E. Dewey. This writer will go ever further and say that were Dewey surrounded by forward-looking advisers, there is little reason to doubt that he would make the nation a good President. But therein lies the problem. It is—the problem of his advisers. The GOP is a bad bet at best. If they put Dewey in they are going to tell him how to run the government—a perfectly natural procedure.

The whole Republican outlook is reactionary and ultra-conservative. One of the major tragedies of the 80th congress was the utter failure of the Republicans to sense the new day that is dawning. They are looking back to the halcyon days of Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania. When the Republicans took over this writer was even hoping that they had learned their lesson and were ready for something liberal and progressive. Much to my disappointment they proved to be the same GOP that specialized in looking out for the powers that be.

The enactment of the Taft-Hartley act was a case in point. Capital had abused labor through the decades and of this fact there is no question or denial. Under the aegis of the immortal Roosevelt labor was given a chance for its life. The labor government grew and waxed powerful and it is strange that labor became intoxicated with its power even as capital had been intoxicated through the generations. The fight for labor has been an uphill one and this writer appreciates the gains that labor has made. Furthermore he is strenuously opposed to some of labor's tactics to gain labor's ends. This writer appreciates the danger that labor may kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

So when congress took measures to curtail some of the power that labor was misusing so effectively, there was no particular objection on the part of those who are in the least conversant with the issues involved. But the Taft-Hartley act was designed more to break the back of labor than to relieve the pressure on intent on breaking labor's back and if the Taft-Hartley act is not the employers. There were some old line Republicans who were revised it is going to do that very thing. It is my belief that labor could have been brought to accountability without the flagrant attempt to break labor's back. The very fact that there is a movement on foot and even a promise by Dewey to revise the law shows how pernicious its ultimate effects will be.

Nobody wants to see industry destroyed. Nobody wants to see business ruined. Nobody wants to see the employers at the mercy of designing labor leaders. But industry and the employers can be saved without destroying labor and the Taft-Hartley law is designed to do just that.

The open shop is to labor what segregation is to the Negro. The ultimate implications of the open shop is the disintegration of unionism in America. Segregation has the same effect on the Negro. Segregation is a form of elimination and if not abolished it means the ultimate extermination of the Negro. In fact it is an eliminative measure. That it acts slowly makes no difference. The same is true of the open shop. Its ultimate effects will break the back of labor in this country. It should be possible to save both industry and the laborer and there is no good reason why one must survive upon the death of the other.

Dewey therefore has a certain kind of company to keep that will handicap him even if he wants to be liberal and constitutional. The writer is not afraid of Dewey but terribly afraid of the company that he must keep. The willingness of the Republican congress to turn over to private interests, the coastal oil reserves shows what is on his mind. That is a straw that shows which way the wind is blowing. Under our very eyes these same Republicans are playing ball with the Dixiecrats. Give this writer Truman, despised and rejected by the Dixiecrats.

Nomination for a tireless toiler Striving to be fair, is a pretty in the field of race relations: Tomlinson Todd, President of the Institute on Race Relations of Washington, D. C. \* \* \*

Fairness is not immune to mistake, but is willing to redeem itself of the mistakes it makes.

### FEATHER IN YOUR CAP



If you're out to climb a mountain From the base to snowy peaks, Just to rescue freezing parties, That's a feather in your cap; But to earn a bright red feather, Finer than the rest— Give to your hometown Community Chest!

### THEY'LL NEVER DIE By Elton Fox

**HON. MIFFLIN W. GIBBS**  
AMERICA'S FIRST NEGRO JUDGE!

FROM CARPENTER'S HELPER TO WEALTH AND A JUDGESHIP IS THE STORY OF MIFFLIN W. GIBBS, BORN 1828 IN PHILA, PA. WHILE STILL IN HIS 20'S YOUNG GIBBS FOLLOWED THE GOLD RUSH AND SET UP A SUCCESSFUL CLOTHING BUSINESS IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA. HE ALSO FOUNDED THE 1ST NEGRO NEWSPAPER IN CALIF. WITH IT BEATEN A PROPOSED TAX FOR SAN FRANCISCO AT 42 HE EARNED HIS LAW DEGREE AND SETTLED IN LITTLE ROCK, ARK. 3 YEARS LATER, IN THAT CITY, HE BECAME THE 1ST NEGRO JUDGE IN THE U.S.A. /