

EDITORIALS

SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE

In a paid political advertisement in the interest of the candidacy of Lawrence Harris, of Wake Forest, Republican candidate for the General Assembly, appeared the following:

"The great State of North Carolina gave its destitute and aged during 1947, \$15.33 each to live on. This was the smallest payment of its kind of any state in Union. One-half of this amount was paid by the Federal Government, and the Federal Government will pay one-half of such payments up to \$50 a month each. Remember at the same time our state had 171 million dollars in favored banks interest free. The national average old age pension in the United States in 1947 was \$32.00 a month."

Mr. Harris' advertisement went on to imply that to remedy this condition a Republican legislature should be elected. His conclusion does not necessarily by any means logically follow his facts, but the facts cited are striking and depressing. The figures may not be exactly accurate as of today, but the substance of the story they tell is true. North Carolina has been piling up a large and growing surplus in the state treasury for several years, and boasting of the same. The state government is richer than it has ever been, and there is no indication of any falling off of its revenues in the near future. Yet, and in spite of the higher and still rising cost of living, North Carolina's aged and others aided by state funds and federal supplements are receiving very little more than they did in 1940; and even in 1940 these allowances were extremely low when compared with actual needs or with like allowances paid in other states to the same classes of dependents. Meanwhile neither the inequitable sales tax, adopted as an "emergency measure" away back in the 1930's, (and which must be paid even by the aged and those on relief, as well as other poor people), nor any other state tax of any importance, has been reduced.

Why is North Carolina practicing this pinch-penny policy while building up a large and ever-increasing surplus.

Mr. Harris' proposed remedy may not be the right prescription, but he deserves at least commendation for bringing before the people of the county conditions which ought to be widely publicized and which cry for correction. The writer can also say for certain that Mr. Harris has also won at least one vote.

WHAT GOES ON HERE?

We can't make out the details from the brief news item appearing in one of the local dailies but it looks as though something revolutionary has happened in Johnston County. The story is that the grand jury of that county has returned an indictment against the chief of police of Smithfield charging that official with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill a Negro whom he was trying to arrest. The wounded man was still in the hospital at the time of the incident.

An indictment is only a first step, and sometimes no further steps are taken, but for a policeman and a chief at that, to be indicted for shooting a Negro in eastern North Carolina is news. What is behind this unusual piece of news is still a mystery to us here, and the case will be followed with interest.

One familiar feature appears in the otherwise strange pattern. The police officer has alleged self-defense, and reported that the victim of his shooting attacked the chief with a knife as he was trying to make the arrest. Eastern North

Carolina has been long noted for its high death rate among Negroes reaching into back pockets in the presence of policemen. Usually the word of the policeman to the effect that the victim had let his hand wander toward a pocket has been all that's necessary to exonerate the officer of the law. Invariably the dead man has not been in position to explain just what he was doing with his hands, so all the evidence offered has been in defense of the shooting officer.

STATES' RIGHTS OR OLD-FASHIONED RACISM?

A letter published in the "People's Forum" column of the News and Observer of October 27 reveals the thinking of probably the majority of the supporters of the Dixiecrat movement. Though the Dixiecrat campaign was launched and carried on under the abstract principle of state sovereignty, and although many persons were doubtless attracted to the support of its candidates on that issue, the real attraction of the party for the vast majority was nothing less than the old doctrine of uncompromising white supremacy with all its trappings.

The writer of the letter referred to, Wyatt Painter, of Wendell, has stated boldly what is the background and root of the Dixiecrat movement. Mr. Painter puts it this way:

"President Truman has not advocated social equality," said the editor's note in the People's Forum of October 20. But briefly, what is this program if not economic, political and social equality? There is no middle ground. Once we tolerate any form of political and social equality, a crack will have been made in the wall of segregation and the wall will eventually collapse, and soon the white man will be lost in the intermingling process of bleaching the Negro."

To Mr. Painter it is as simple and as awful as that. The ballot, equal protection of the law, economic opportunity — all must be denied the Negro, otherwise racial intermarriage and the disappearance of the white race are certain. It is because some people do not believe that such results will follow fairness and justice and equal citizenship rights for the Negro that they cannot be trusted. Every southern state must therefore be run in its entirety by people who know the kind of "facts" that Mr. Painter knows.

There are millions of Painters, and there are hundreds of thousands in North Carolina and the South — white people, we mean — who know how wrong Mr. Painter is, but aid and abet him, either by silence or by plumping for the principle of States' Rights in such a way as to make Mr. Painter and his friends believe that they are all thinking alike. Then there are some, thank goodness, and a growing number who refuse to be identified with such an outworn and perverted creed.

ANOTHER GAIN

The North Carolina State Nurses' Association voted 52-22 in its recent annual convention to open its membership to Negro registered nurses. According to the news report making the announcement North Carolina was among the only nine states left in which colored nurses were still excluded from membership in the state association, so the action taken so recently did not place North Carolina in the vanguard, even among southern states.

Nonetheless it has been accomplished, and the accomplishment is laudable though belated. Of all the absurdities for which the traditional policy of racial separation has been responsible few are more uncalled for than the keeping of persons apart who by profession have so much in common. The artificiality of such barriers is a constant reproach to those who insist on maintaining them, when every possible consideration would dictate the opposite policy.



His Spell Has Been Shaken And The Doors Are Opening . . .



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

There appeared recently in the Raleigh Times an editorial so remarkable that it deserves extended quotation. Even its title, "Non-segregation is Working for the Navy," appearing in a southern newspaper in these times when segregation is being represented for and wide as one of the cardinal virtues, and at least on a par with the Golden Rule, is arresting. Below we quote the editorial, for which the Raleigh Times deserves great credit and praise.

"It is reported that the U. S. Navy has decided that elimination of racial segregation among its men is successful. . . . This is not an overnight accomplishment, and appears to bear no relation to the election year future over civil rights. The change of policy in the Navy was begun during the War, and has been worked out in general steps over a period of four years. . . . Previously, Negroes were recruited by the Navy only for the top rating in that branch was the upper limit of opportunity for them. In 1944 the first de-

viation from that policy was when Negroes were trained for general service on two small ships with all-Negro crews. This experiment worked so well that mixed crews were tried at sea; again the results were good and policy became common. Now, segregated training has been discarded at the big Great Lakes Training Station, and the Navy regards the elimination of segregation as an accomplished fact. . . . Of course the elimination of segregation in the Navy is not an accomplished fact, and probably will not be for years to come, as any Negro who has served or is now serving in it could inform one, supplying interesting details for confirmation of his views. But there have certainly been changes in Navy policy during the past several years, and the Times is absolutely right as to the low point from which these changes started, as well as some of the things that have been accomplished since the beginnings were made. . . . But we are primarily interested here in the newspaper's attitude toward the actual and

advertised changes. The editorial concludes: "It is by such patient and careful directed efforts that racial prejudices may be supplanted by establishment of true civil rights. Little good can be accomplished by the mere passage or repeal of laws and regulations. And oratory is not a substitute for sensible try-out. . . . The word 'mere' is a saving word in the above passage. Thinking people realize the real and concrete limitations of law-making and law changing, but legislation has its definite if limited part to play in bringing about the establishment of 'true civil rights.' Basic also are a desire for and an approval of the accomplishment of justice, brought about by any fair and sensible means. And that spirit is what we liked so much about the Times' editorial. . . . Here is also another demonstration of the principle that when those in authority have the courage to go ahead and do something that needs doing, in the face of old but unjustifiable tradition, the action will often win the approval of the thoughtful and the fair-minded."

ADVISORY COLUMN

L. P. — I am a great reader of your column. I see where you help so many people and I wonder could you help me. I have been going with a girl for the past 15 years and she's talking about getting married. Do you think I should marry her or do you think I should leave her alone?

Ans: The girl is right — you should marry. You hit it off well together and marriage would give you a chance to pool your earnings and get ahead in life. She'll make you a good wife.

L. M. C. — I have been out of school and working for the past five years. My ambition was to become a nurse but I was forced to quit school in my senior year and go to work. I am now thinking of working as a nurse's aid in the hospital here. I want your advice.

Ans: That would be an ideal set-up since you are so interested in this field. You really should arrange to enter night school

and finish your senior year's work so that you can get your diploma. When you do so, you can enter nursing school and become a registered nurse.

S. C. M. — Last year my husband passed and I find I grew more lonesome by the day. I am seriously considering inviting one of my sister's boys to make his home with me during the school term. I could do a lot for him as he doesn't have many advantages where he lives. Would I have cause to regret this step?

Ans: Never. The presence of a youth in your home will bring a lot of sunshine in your life. The boy will be company and a joy to have around. The money that you spend on the boy's education and other necessities will be a lasting benefit to him.

L. A. T. — Tell me did I make a mistake when I bought this home in someone else's name? Since I signed up, this person isn't acting the same. I am very worried about the whole thing.

Ans: You have no claim on property that is bought in someone else's name—you do have cause for worry. Go to a lawyer and get this matter cleared up right now before you invest any more money in the place. By acting promptly, you may not stand a loss—but if you put it off, you will stand to lose the money you have put in this investment.

L. A. T. — I am in love with a man and he said he fell in love with me the first time he saw me. He says he intends to marry me but instead of him getting his divorce as he promised, he has now returned to his wife. Why did he go back and should I depend on him?

Ans: His wife changed his mind about the divorce. Give up the idea of him meaning anything in your life. You said this fellow found each other amusing but it definitely was not a case of true love. He loves his wife. You can find a mate by choosing friends that are single and unattached.

HERE AND THERE

(FOR ANP)

Nomination for the most stupid people, Negroes who persist in spending their hard earned chance with stores which won't hire other Negroes in any capacity.

When Dr. Arthur Davis was passed by in the selections of Hampton's proxy, the Capital Press club of Washington was fit to be tied. Davis is in high favor with top flight Negro pressmen.

Negro needs are now interfering in Gallinger hospital (D. C.) and another victory over un-Americanism has been won in the Capital Press club. Negro groups really went to bed that time.

All-time high in misstatements: "no qualified students are now being rejected on the basis of race, color or creed" — Board of Regents of the University of Maryland. (Yes, junior, it is fantastic — or something.)

What is being openly said about Stetson Page's inability to conduct himself as he should in the big time is true, the sooner he gets out of big league baseball the

better. Doby, Campanella and Robinson have brought too much credit to the game (and to us) to have their great efforts dimmed by anybody — even Paige. (No player is bigger than the game, folks.)

Don't look now, but that buzzing noise you hear is being made by angry vet who will descend on congress next year with a show-down demand on the housing situation, which by the way, is still abominable. Especially for Negro vets.

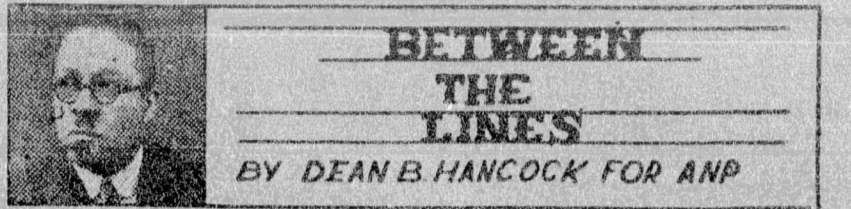
Speculation is still running high in the capital about Joe Albright's continued conference with his busiest hot friends in Defense Army and Air Forces. "Just in line with my official duties" the hard punching VA aide says. Maybe, maybe, but, as to his own old service (AF), one thing is certain: "Big Joe" is recklessly plunging to have Col. Benjamin Davis, Jr., elevated to a general office. As to the army, he has repeatedly said that he is at a complete loss to understand why the interracial goodwill possibilities in Mac. Barrett West (training the Negro WAC) are not being fully

utilized by the service. Having completely sold Veterans administration on the great good to be derived from an honest and sincerely conducted interracial program, the former war-time interracial trouble shooter for the Air Force is no doubt trying to reconvene his service in peace, too. (Bet he'll do it, chum, if they listen.)

In the meantime, vets, Albright continues to refuse offers to leave VA for other jobs (he had 17 years of commercial and industrial administration before enlisting in the AF). "I will stay as long as my buddies, friends and superiors think I can be of service," he says, "and not one minute longer."

Question for the week: Are we ready to WORK and PAY for citizenship, and stop BEGGING for it? Post if we are, we're as good as free.

Blue ribbons were awarded to 19 of the 28 animals entered in the Pitt Co. junior purebred hog show held at Greenville recently.



BETWEEN THE LINES

BY DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

THE STATE-RIGHTERS' GAME

One of the cleverest cut political stands offered to these United States for consideration in the presidential election was that of the State Righters represented by Thurmond of South Carolina. Truman may not be decisive and clear in all his declarations, Dewey may be vague and platitudinous, Wallace may be enthusiastic and sincere, but the State Righters have taken a mountain-top stand and that stand is against the full citizenship of the American Negroes.

They leave no room for doubts or misconceptions. They are not evasive and subtle in their appeals. They are out and out against Truman because he refused to back down on his civil rights stand. To the State Righters, civil rights for Negroes is tied up with white supremacy and to the perpetuation of white supremacy they will give their all. State rights as defined by these State Righters are irrevocably and unmistakably anti-Negro in their implications. This is clearly defined in all that the State Righters do and say.

State rights to them mean the right to hold the Negro down, and they mean nothing when dissociated from white domination of Negroes. It is true Gov. Strom Thurmond declared that this is not a campaign of race hatred and prejudice, but if it were, there would be little difference in the final results. There is a group of whites in the south who are determined that in so far as power in them lies, Negroes shall never come to full citizenship in this country. The State Righters are the champions of this school of southern thought. What Gov. Thurmond says may be well enough, but what he is doing, is trying to forge more securely the chains of political, economic, moral and spiritual slavery for the southern Negroes.

The game of the State Righters then is to destroy a man like Truman who dares to confront them with the idea that civil rights include rights of Negroes. Civil rights as an issue, only refer to the civil rights of Negroes for they have never been an issue for the whites who have always enjoyed them.

Why the more advanced states of the Union make no lamentable cries about "state rights" while the more backward states of the south are weeping and gnashing the teeth about "state rights" is a stimulating question. What the State Righters fear most is that their rights to eternally subjugate and dominate the Negro will be somehow jeopardized if men like Truman are not ham-strung and ruthlessly destroyed and that is exactly what they are out to do! Just as old Roman Cato cried "Carthage must be destroyed!", so the State Righters are crying "Truman must be politically destroyed" if the right to subjugate and dominate and segregate and aggravate Negroes is to be preserved.

The State Righters' game is clear and how well they are playing it is current history. Not only are the State Righters out to destroy Harry Truman but those of the white south who voted for Dewey are just as determined to attain the same results. So far as the Negro is concerned there is really no distinction to be made between the loud-voicing State Righters and the silent bolters who went into the Dewey camp. The object in either case is the total destruction of Truman for his civil rights stand and his refusal to give a damn in the premise. Not only therefore are the State Righters playing the game of destroying Truman, but the bolters who voted Republican are playing the game for them.

This is just as true of the supporters of the Wallace ticket. They had no more hope of landing Wallace in the White House than the State Righters had of landing Strom Thurmond. The Wallaceites are also playing the State Righters' game for them however inadvertently or unwittingly. The same is true of Negroes who voted the Republican ticket. There are through-and-through Negro Republicans who are honest and upright in their political but they must also know they played the State Righters' game — dealing. They must not be reproached for their political choice, the "kill Truman" game.

This writer refused to play the State Righters' game for them. Up or down with Harry Truman, who did not give his damn for the Dixiecrats!

Seek Injunction

OKLAHOMA CITY — Vigorous self Thurgood Marshall made clear, continuing its fight for equalization of educational opportunity day, that an attack was being made and ultimate breakdown of Oklahoma segregation as such and that the NAACP segregation of this student denied him the equal protection of the laws ending segregation of G. W. McLaurin from white students at the University of Oklahoma.

Admitted to the graduate school of the university after a three-judge federal court ruled that the state's segregation laws were unconstitutional and unenforceable insofar as they prevented obtaining the education he desired, McLaurin has been segregated in every way since he began his studies on October 13.

He sits in a small anteroom adjoining the regular classroom; studies at a separate table in a corner on the top floor of the library; and is assigned a separate eating place.

PETITION FILED — In filing a petition seeking to have the court prohibit segregation of McLaurin, NAACP Special Coun-

sel Thurgood Marshall made clear enough to include others who seek admission to the graduate school, and asked the court to include in its case the lawsuit of Mrs. Maud-erlin Wilson, another Negro seeking admission to Oklahoma University. State's Attorney General M. Q. Williamson had ruled that the University need not admit Mrs. Wilson under terms of the McLaurin decision.

Also in Oklahoma City, the officers of the Oklahoma State Conference of NAACP branches met last week, reaffirming their opposition to segregation in any form in public education, and unanimously voting their full support to the fight to break these barriers down.

THEY'LL NEVER DIE

By Elton Fax

EDMONIA LEWIS WAS BORN 1845 IN ALBANY, N.Y. OF A NEGRO FATHER AND AN INDIAN MOTHER. SHE ATTENDED OBERLIN COLLEGE — "PUTTING" WITH ART IN SPARE TIME — AND LATER OPENED A STUDIO IN BOSTON, MASS. A BUST OF COL. ROBERT G. SHAW NETTED MONEY FOR EUROPEAN STUDY. IT WAS IN ROME THAT EDMONIA DID HER GREATEST WORK — BLAZING A TRAIL IN A DIFFICULT FIELD!

EDMONIA LEWIS — PIONEER SCULPTRESS

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