

EDITORIALS

FAIR EMPLOYMENT IN FEDERAL SERVICE

The desirability of federal fair employment practice legislation is open to question, due to the difficulty involved in enforcing such legislation. There is all but unanimous opposition in the South to the idea, and in other parts of the country many are lukewarm toward it, to state the situation mildly.

Though there can be no doubt in the minds of fair-minded persons that the opportunity to work and to prepare for a job or vocation according to one's tastes and abilities should be entirely divorced from race, religion or national origin, it is doubtful that such opportunities can be brought about on a nationwide scale by federal legislation. The idea is too contrary to the principle of free enterprise, which is deeply ingrained in the American system. The law would be relatively unenforceable.

Certainly discrimination in employment is unfair, uneconomical and often highly illogical and inconsistent. Negroes and whites have worked side by side in the South since 1619. Negroes have done practically every kind of work and held practically every kind of job in the South. The South and the nation are making less than the best use of their resources when individuals of any group are barred from the best jobs for which they are capable; and that is wasteful, quite apart from the injustice done the individual so circumscribed. But would a federal law improve the situation? Might it not, because of the deep-seated resistance to it, produce more harm than good?

"FEPC" is working in New York, say the advocates of a federal law. But New York is not typical of the entire nation. For one thing, the very large and influential Jewish and Catholic element in the population of that state is behind the enforcement of the law, and no such aid would be available to it in the South. And there is no question that the traditions of the President's right, but also his duty, Massachusetts and New York and Connecticut are far more amenable to interracial justice than those of North Carolina and Alabama and Mississippi and California.

But there is one area of employment in which the Federal Government may proceed, logically and with complete justification, to enforce fair employment practices, and that is in the Federal Government itself. This can be done without congressional action.

When John Snyder, secretary of the treasury, fired the collector of internal revenue in Birmingham for failure to obey President Truman's Executive Order 9989 forbidding racial discrimination in the federal civil service, he established a pattern that can be strictly adhered to in all federal departments, bureaus and offices in every part of the country. It is not only the Presidents' right, but also his duty, especially in view of his advocacy of federal legislative action, to insure fair employment practices, to enforce to the letter his executive order, and to do whatever else is necessary to eliminate discrimination in federal employment. He has the same right and duty as regards all holders of government contracts.

The protest of Senator Lister Hill that fair employment policies on the part of the United States Government in certain sections of the country are contrary to local custom and traditions is entirely beside the point. Under the Constitution of the United States all citizens are on equal footing, and if white persons do not care to work under conditions in which Negroes are dealt with fairly as citizens, then the white persons should resign. Enough

Negroes can be found to take over. As a matter of fact plenty of white persons can be found who will accept an equitable federal employment policy in practically any locality in the South.

One of the things that must go is the insistence that whatever adjustments must be made must always be made by Negroes, and to their disadvantage, in order to protect white people in their prejudices.

So, regardless of the fate of FEPC legislation, there is much the Federal government can do, as it has always done to some extent even in many localities of the South in connection with post office employment to be fair to all its citizens, and to set a good example to other employers. It is free to eliminate discrimination in employment where it is the employer. And the federal government is the biggest single employer in the country, by far.

BETTER THAN ACQUITTAL, THOUGH

Not long ago a white man was sentenced to eight months on the roads on a charge of assault on a Negro woman. It is a rather cynical commentary on southern chivalry and southern civilization in general that this conviction and sentence should be noteworthy, for noteworthy it is.

The man was originally charged with attempted rape, and according to the story told at the time the crime was committed that is what he was guilty of. But the man, who was a produce salesman, and had been a resident of Roanoke Rapids and North Carolina for only a matter of months, was admitted to bail. Furthermore, the original bail of \$5,000 was reduced to \$1000. Then somewhere along the line the charge of attempted rape was reduced to that of assault on a female. Finally we have the sentence of less than a year's imprisonment.

The Negro in the South has been so conditioned by the outcome of such cases in the past that he perceives regards even a conviction and an eight months sentence as something pretty fine and promising. But at the same time he cannot but reflect: Suppose this had been a Negro salesman, and from Maine at that, and a white woman whom the Negro assailant had tried to push down on one of the pool tables in her own establishment. Bail. Reduced charge? Eight months on the your own answers.

LET'S BUILD A STADIUM

A campaign has been launched by a group of Raleigh citizens and the Alumni Association of Shaw University to construct a stadium adequate for athletic contests staged by and for Negroes. Anyone who has attended games in Raleigh will realize the great need of such a facility, and there is no necessity for going into great detail on that subject here and now.

In most cities in North Carolina having a municipal stadium the stadium is available to responsible Negro parties for the staging of athletic events. Not so in Raleigh. The city authorities have persistently refused to permit Devereux Meadow to be engaged by and for Negro events. They have taken the stand that Chavis Park was constructed for Negroes, and that Negroes are restricted to the use of that facility, regardless of circumstances. That Chavis Park is distinctly inferior to Devereux Meadow does not seem to disturb the city authorities. The field becomes a quagmire after a heavy fog. There are no field houses. There is no covered grandstand. There are not sufficient seating accommodations. All these facilities exist at Devereux Meadow.

The city authorities, under the present as well as previous administrations, have taken the position that the two Raleigh colleges have no inherent right to first-class facilities furnished (at a price) by the city, though other North Carolina cities make their best municipal facilities available as well as cities in other states not so "liberal" as North Carolina. But we notice that Washington High School, which is a public institution of the city, has not been invited to use Devereux. It should be added for the enlightenment of the public that the fee charged the colleges for the rental of Chavis Park was increased 50 per cent this year over last by the city authorities.

The obvious solution to the problem, so far as private institutions and parties is concerned, is an adequate privately owned stadium available to all responsible parties. Let's get behind the project to build one. It will be for the benefit of all of us.



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

"We take these rights — to include equality before the law, and freedom from any discrimination, be it by law or by custom, freedom of expression, freedom of movement, freedom of access to all institutions supported by taxes for the public welfare, schools and hospitals not excepted, equal pay for equal work, and equal opportunity to acquire abilities, and to gain employment, freedom of movement and location, and the right to assemble in unsegregated groups."

The above is not a manifesto drawn up by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or any other Negro group. Nor is it a declaration representing the "meddling" or "outside interference" of northern whites, though the writer of a letter to the Raleigh News and Observer expresses the belief that such a statement must have been concocted by northerners who have come South and have not yet been converted to the southern way of life. No, the statement came from a group of more than 200 educational and professional leaders from southern states, mostly white. It was drawn up at a meeting held at the University of Virginia under the auspices of the Southern Conference Educational Fund.

An analysis of the declaration, part of which forms the first paragraph of this piece, given the reader an effective and stimulating antidote to the unpalatable

and depressing effects of the Dixiecrat campaign and the forces of reaction in the South. It recognizes, along with those southern statesmen and publicists, enlightened enough to feel the necessity — for southern apologists, "the historic conditions that gave rise to our present plight," but adds: "However, these conditions long ago ceased to exist, although their effects endure." In a like vein, the declaration states: "Looking at the road we have traveled, we are gratified at what progress has been made. However, past achievements should serve as an incentive to greater progress and not as an excuse for our failure to meet present obligations."

Many white southerners will characterize such a statement as radical and revolutionary, and the signers will be lumped together as Communists, or worse. But an unprejudiced reading of it will reveal that it declares for no more than our federal constitution and the spirit of American Democracy call for. Although some will think or pretend they see in it such things, there is no advocacy there of racial intermarriage. It does not call on white people to begin inviting Negroes to their parties, or vice versa. It declares for equal access only to public, tax-supported facilities. It does not endorse the enforcement of fair employment practices by law.

The declaration does outline a plan for implementing what it advocates — a simple one, which includes legislative action at federal, state and local levels. It advocates the repeal of "existing laws in violation of these principles, notably all laws that force public distinctions based on color, religion and national origin," and "new legislation on all three levels to 'serve as a shield to the civil rights of the citizens'."

Equally important, however, if not more so, is the challenge of the signers to voluntary action both individually and by groups, to speak out against discrimination in particular cases, to guard against one's own prejudices, and to educate others — in other words, to take positive action against discrimination and prejudice, instead of a passive attitude on the whole thing, except when gauged into negative and resentful words and deeds by "outside interference."

This is the kind of leadership that is needed, and there are millions ready to follow. The ranting anti-Negro forces have already been largely discredited. The next forward step is to take leadership away from the pussy-footers — the self-seeking politicians and the timorous publicists who cannot get beyond the "more" this and that, and the "better" this and that, and the pointing out of what has been done already.

THE ROAD TO HEALTH

UNDERNOURISHMENT

By MYE HADDOX, M. D., Sirevort, La., For ANP

Mrs. Weaver was shocked and plainly disbelieving when I told her she was suffering from lack of nourishment. She had come to my office, she said, because she felt constantly tired and her digestion had been poor too good. After a thorough physical examination, including a chest X-ray and a blood test, I discovered that her body was not getting the nourishment needed to keep it supplied with sufficient good, red blood.

When I explained this to my patient, she protested that she ate plenty of food and that it was hard to believe that her eating habits might have something to do with her lacking enough good blood. Ever in the last few weeks when she was not feeling well, she said, her husband continued to joke about her "enormous appetite."

Mrs. Weaver went on to list the kinds of foods which she said she ate in great quantities. It was plain that her favorites were either starchy foods or those with little nutritional value.

"Many people eat sufficient quantities of food," Mrs. Weaver, but when they don't eat the right kinds, they can actually be starving themselves as far as building blood and tissues is concerned," I told her. "The body needs protein, vitamins and minerals to build it and keep it in repair. It can't operate the way it should if they are not included in your diet in sufficient quantities."

These necessary food elements, I told her, can be found in meat, fish, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, milk and milk products, bread and whole grain cereals. Mrs. Weaver asked me about the vitamin pills and preparations that could be brought at the store.

I pointed out that while such preparations have their place, a well-balanced diet containing the necessary food elements ordinarily doesn't need to be supplemented by vitamin pills.

Mrs. Weaver was interested in just why her poor blood would make her feel "all dragged out" even after one of her heavy meals or after a good rest. I explained that the blood plays an important part in keeping the body in satisfactory work condition. When the blood isn't rich and red enough, many important body functions are slowed down and the entire body is weakened.

Therefore, the "blood-building" foods are among the most important. For Mrs. Weaver's diet, I stressed vegetables and fruits rich

in vitamins and minerals — turnip greens, spinach, kale, carrots and peas. She also needed to add milk and fruits, including citrus fruits, to her daily foods.

When I mentioned that fresh lean meat was a source of necessary protein for the body, Mrs. Weaver interrupted to point out that fresh meat is often difficult to get and is usually very expensive. I told her then of other foods that were rich in protein, such as soy beans, navy and lima beans, peanuts and dried yeast.

Meals that are well planned to include a good supply of protein, minerals and vitamins mean less expense, in the long run, and most important, the building and preservation of a family's good health.

ADVISORY COLUMN

P.N.C. — I bought a cafe here in better go apartment hunting. this city last spring and I have H.L. — I stay in a strain all of done pretty good. For some reason the time. This friend of mine helps the people here just don't seem to want a little, but when he doesn't like me and I am dissatisfied. I want to, he don't. He knows I am read your column and you help good and won't do anything about others. Please help me. Sometimes, He's married but he knew he I feel like making a change.

Ans. Make some friends. Bud- place without him. He wants me to act like I am his in "that" line and some of the other organiza- and I think he ought to act like I am his in the money line. He isn't friendly. You haven't been very home to his wife through the week you any encouragement. With a little conscientious effort to 200. Ans. Because she's his wife and friends you can make a success of your life. All you will ever get is what he dribbles out to you as he sees fit. The woman who sets her feet for a married man generally will help you immensely.

F.C.M. — Do you hear Wedding holds the bag. You must take the bull, for I. A. and me some? Imbitter with the sweet.

Ans. Sometime during the Xmas R.D.C. — Will the course in bar-Holidays if all goes well. You haddering I am thinking of taking af-



BETWEEN THE LINES

BY DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

THE FORTHCOMING FILIBUSTER.
The advocates and friends of civil rights as espoused by President Truman, may as well reconcile themselves to the fact that the opposition is bound to resort to the filibuster, so long the instrument of obstruction of reactionary southerners. None but the rashly optimistic has ever imagined that all was over but the shouting, as respects the civil rights program.

The defeated southerners are in a vindictive mood and will resort to many subterfuges and expedients before they finally succumb to the inevitable. Negroes must not lose heart therefore if Truman's civil rights program runs into a snag. And above all Truman must not be blamed for the specious tactics that the die-hard Dixiecrats are bound to employ. Dixiecracy is not dead by a long shot, and if it is, it does not know it.

What we have won thus far amounts merely, to the first skirmish in the fray. Nothing tangible can be accomplished unless an effective cloture measure can be introduced and approved. Such bill must not only run the gauntlet of the vindictive democrats of Dixiecratic affinities and affiliations, but it must pass muster before the deceitful and designing republicans of southern sympathies. Truman's great glory and victory was in bringing it into the forefront of the world's attention and wherein it fails to advance will redound to the disgrace of Congress and not our courageous president.

The greater victory consists in making such gains in this field of human relations that it will take a filibuster to stop it; and when any measure gets to the place that a filibuster must defeat it, it has won a signal victory. Lynching has lost favor in this country to the extent that it has taken filibuster after filibuster to save the lynching prerogative of the mob-ridden south.

This writer would not be averse to seeing an orthodox southern filibuster such as would hamper congress in the enactment of necessary legislation. Such filibuster would more than any other one thing call attention to the scourge that is race prejudice in this country. The filibuster takes away the cloak of respectability from prejudice and exposes the club foot that makes decent people sick at heart. The cause then is bound to be well served whether we get cloture or whether we are treated to an old orthodox southern filibuster. The sicker the country can be made of Dixiecracy the better, and the sooner the better.

There is one thing of which we all may be sure and that is, the south is getting sicker and sicker of being the target of the world's accusing finger. The Dixiecrat may blow and bluster, but at his heart the average southerner is a sensitive creature; and it gives him no pleasure to be singled out as an advocate of lynching and other anti-social practices. The spotlight of public opinion is playing too pitilessly upon the south for it ever to be again on good terms with itself until its greatest joy comes from other things than "lording it over" poor and underprivileged Negroes.

The better elements of the white south are even now "sick and tired" of everlastingly apologizing for the depredations of their less circumspect fellows. And then too, when a Mississippian begins to talk of "compromise" on the civil rights program, we have something really new. It is like the man biting the dog when a chronic Mississippian shows willingness to "compromise" on anything but the utter subjugation and domination of Negroes. Yet this is the latest in civil rights discussions.

It is fervently to be hoped that the chronic Negro Republicans will not chime in with the Dixiecrats and commence a heckling war on Truman. Of course Truman does not care, but we should! There is no way to prove that if Dewey had won the election we would not be face to face, as at present, with the possibilities of a filibuster such as may mean postponement of the long waited day when civil rights will be the portion of every Negro even those who fought against us on the bloody field of battle. The forthcoming filibuster need not occasion alarm. It is a proof of defeat!

Sentence Sermons

Giving people the "hard way to go" simply makes your garden of life more difficult to hoe.

The thorns and thistles you sow each day ensnare wanderers' feet and keep good folks away.

No one can make it hard for an innocent neighbor, without himself falling into some of his handmade pits he forgot to cover.

Providence sees to it that men pay up some day for the tricks they perpetrated to hurt a brother on his way.

Life wasn't given to man to trick a single soul, but for every man to help his brother make his coveted goal.

When individuals give in to their "bent to sinning," then everybody must endure their low type of living.

The strong and the weak must live together, but the strong must do the lifting, to help those who are drifting, that the world might become better.

Men then who are strong should thank God for this high assignment and not murmur against Him as one being placed in solitary confinement.

For anybody can simply live here from day to day, but it takes a real man or woman to warn careless souls to think and pray.

With only 70 years at best to live, a man is mighty foolish who doesn't learn to give, until his time is almost up, in this world to live.

Treating people roughly and giving them a hard way to go, may sometimes hasten victims to their graves, but it is a sequence almost certain that the end of such persons is very hard and slow.

Life, for us all has its traps set with attractive bait; it is only those who can control their human cravings who thoughtfully choose between success and ill-fate.

Such persons as these would not have the other fellow to know his thoughts to be so shallow, thus he comes a bigger hypocrite by trying to pretend to the other fellow.

There is still a lot of foolish men and women in the world today who take up more of life's precious hours talking about "fifths," than of the Heavenly Father's eternal gifts.

ter the first of the year be a wise man. I am a married lady.

Ans: It surely will. And you can get some mighty good practice on your four little boys. You can drum up an awful lot of trade as there aren't any barber shops conveniently located to serve the folks in your section.

S.M.C. — I am engaged to a man whom I love dearly but I am being glibbing to think that our ideas are not similar at all. He seems to have old fashioned ideas — a man earning the living and a wife running the home. I don't want a man to spread" on his table every evening.