

EDITORIALS

WORTH CAREFUL STUDY

In his column, "The Common Defense," appearing weekly in many Negro newspapers, the Rev. William C. Kernan recently gave a report on the operation of state "FEPC" laws, with especial reference to the State of New York, which now has had nearly four years experience with a strong fair employment practices law.

The experience of New York, New Jersey and possibly a few other states with the operation of laws intended to eliminate racial and religious bias in employment is very enlightening, and beyond that, quite encouraging. Few indeed have been those anywhere who have attacked the fundamental principle and the purposes behind fair employment legislation. The right to work is coming to be recognized as a basic and essential right. The chief objections to "FEPC," whether at national or state legislation, have been that the principles of free enterprise would be violated by the enforcement of such laws, and that there would be undue and odious interference by government with the rights of the employer.

In this connection it is of great interest to note some of the comments on the operation of the state FEPC laws as quoted by Mr. Kernan. According to him, the Yale Law Journal of May 1947 observed: "None of the predictions made by its original opponents have proved valid." The experience of a number of New York employers was also cited. The head of a statewide organization of retail merchants wrote to the New York State Commission which enforces the law: "Surely the present law imposes no hardships on the employer. It simply applies penalties to acts of discrimination when those acts deprive an inhabitant of our state of the fundamental human rights which he has; namely the right to earn a living."

Mr. Kernan quotes the superintendent of personnel administration of Western Electric Company:

"It is my opinion that the administration of the Fair Employment Practice Law in the states of New York and New Jersey has been fair and reasonable and has not entailed any undue hardship on employers who are trying to do a conscientious job in their employee relations situations. We have not experienced any difficulties in meeting the requirements of these laws and so far as I know, they have been accepted generally by our employees."

It should be noted here that the New York commission uses persuasion and enlightenment in preference to coercion, just as the Federal Trade Commission does in enforcing the fair practice code of the Clayton act and similar laws. Employers often want to be fair, but they are frequently afraid of the reaction of their present employees and of the public. Also they are often as much blinded by ignorance of the facts about people of other races and religions, and so are their employees, as by prejudice. Again, it is often only the inertia of tradition and habit which maintains the pattern of exclusion. A law is educational, and may also be emancipating, not only to those discriminated against but also to those practicing the discrimination.

It is true that 100 per cent effectiveness can be expected of few laws, ways will be found by some determined souls to circumvent any law. It is also true that bias and tradition against fair employment is stronger in many sections of the nation than it is in cosmopolitan New York and New Jersey. But the experience of these

states, and the relatively little difficulty and friction produced by the enforcement of their fair employment practice laws, seem to be surprisingly encouraging. The rest of the nation may well study the demonstration with care.

REGRETTABLE FAILURE

Now that Congress has passed the housing bill the failure of the 1949 General Assembly of North Carolina to enact legislation which would have enabled Raleigh and other cities of the state to take advantage of the slum clearance provisions of the law is more serious and more regrettable. North Carolina localities can take advantage of the aid provided by the bill for low cost housing development, and other provisions of the law, but they cannot get the Federal money that would otherwise have been available for slum clearance.

The slum clearance provision makes it possible for cities in other states to secure funds for purchasing slum areas for resale, lease, or use other than slum dwellings. The value of slum dwelling areas is often high, because the areas are often near the business section. Those owning such property frequently are waiting for the business district to expand sufficiently to include their property so as to make it profitable to sell on the basis of the land value. Meanwhile they do not find it profitable to improve the houses located on the property, nor do they propose to demolish them while they are still bringing in some income from rentals. The purpose of the slum clearance part of the federal housing bill is to enable the municipality to do something about this stalemate by assisting the city to acquire title to such property.

The 1949 legislature failed to pass the necessary legislation enabling cities to take advantage of federal aid for slum clearance. It would not have cost the State of North Carolina a penny. But that is the kind of legislature we had in North Carolina in 1949.

MAKING THE GRADE

There are many signs in this country that the color of a man's skin means less than it used to — that a man's abilities, accomplishments, merits, are more important than his pigmentation. The color line is so often and so unwarrantedly and injuriously drawn that when that line is properly ignored it is news. The ideal will have been reached when it will no longer be news.

The Negro press has taken particular notice of two recent happenings in the academic world. Prof. J. Saunders Redding has been appointed a visiting professor of English Literature at Brown University, from which he was graduated years ago, and where, by his own account in one of his books, "No Day of Triumph," he was none too happy as a student. Redding is professor of English at Hampton Institute, and formerly taught at State Teachers College, Elizabeth City. The book referred to above, part of which is autobiographical, won the Mayflower Award for a book by a North Carolinian, some years ago.

Now Mr. Redding goes back to Brown as a visiting professor, not because he is a Negro, but because he has something to offer the Brown students. He will have his "day of triumph," after all. It must be a great satisfaction to him to return as a professor to the college in which he did not feel too much at home as a Negro student years before.

A great honor was paid recently also to Dr. William A. Hinton, long known to the medical profession for the tests he perfected for detecting syphilis. An outstanding medical man and already for many years a member of the faculty of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Hinton became the first Negro to hold a professorship at Harvard. He has been named professor of bacteriology and immunology.

Wherever men have the fairness and the required courage to place considerations of merit above those of color, Negro individuals can make the grade. There are more opportunities today than ever for making the grade on merit.



Passing Of The Housing Bill Should Help Remove These Vicious Practices.



Second Thoughts

BY C. D. HALLIBURTON

It becomes clearer every day how fortunate it was that Jackie Robinson should have been the first Negro to become a member of a big league baseball team. This year the greatness of Jackie has been unequivocally established. In his first year with the Dodgers he might have been a flash in the pan. He started his second definitely under par and there were those who were eager to write his obituary as a big leaguer. In the end he did have a good season in 1948. But this year he has been a real first magnitude star.

Robinson currently is leading or near the lead in so many departments of individual performance as hardly to be believable. As of July 11, when this was written, he had the highest batting average, not only of the regulars of his own but of both major leagues. He was tied with a teammate in that important department, runs batted in. He had made more hits than any player in both leagues, and was the first to amass 100 hits. He was only one run behind another teammate leading the league in runs scored.

At the beginning of last season Robinson had "sloved down," and was not getting bases at anything like the rate he had his first season. This department of individual performance, which had pretty much fallen into neglect since the advent of the slugging era in baseball, was to a great extent revived and revitalized by Robinson. It is important in manufacturing runs and that is what was gained because it puts the runner in position to score in the event of any one of several things that may happen next, and it greatly lessens the hazard of a double play.

Robinson began to regain his skill at stealing bases long before last season ended. At present he is not only leading both leagues

in stolen bases, but with 20 has almost doubled the record of any other player. A striking commentary on how the art of basestealing has declined in general, and how good Robinson is by comparison, is that he individually has stolen more bases this season than any one of five TEAMS in the National League. My friend, Dr. M. L. Watts, tells me that he heard on a sports question-and-answer broadcast that Robinson had not been thrown out at second base this season.

Yes, the Brooklyn management made a smart move when they decided to give a Negro a chance. The club has reaped great benefits from that move. People go to see Jackie play. At first they went, attracted by the novelty of a Negro player. They go now to see a great player perform. By pioneering with Negro players Brooklyn gained another benefit. The club now has three excellent Negro performers. Colorful fans got a great thrill one day not long ago when all three Negroes were in the lineup — a third of the team, and all three played great ball. The Brooklyn club also reaped the benefit of the good will created throughout the nation among the great throngs of true lovers of good sportsmanship for taking the lead in founding a tradition which had nothing but a lack of it but prejudice.

And, as we said in the beginning it was fortunate all around that the first Negro to make the grade was Jackie. He is an excellent athlete. He is intelligent. He proved his character and his competitive spirit by weathering all the natural and intentionally placed stumbling blocks incident to his peculiar position at the beginning. He demonstrated "courage tempered with prudence, and tact which was not vitiated by a weak complaisance. And is he playing ball!"

SENTENCE SERMONS

BY REV. FRANK CLARENCE LOWRY FOR ANP

Choosing the right course in life is no easy task, but it can be made by moving thoughtfully and not too fast.

One must move cautiously upward to any high seat, and be not easily frightened when storm clouds meet.

The way may be rough and ever so steep, but the higher one goes, the path becomes less thorny.

The compliments too, at low level may not be so profuse, but when the top is reached there is little or no abuse.

Things are always brighter at the top, for only fog fathers there and no immovable impediments to force a stop.

This is especially true, when to God, man draws near; he then finds in the going there is nothing to fear.

A man absolutely makes of himself a cast-away when he fails to know God, and how to Him earnestly pray.

He then passes in and out of an uncertain door, and to him there is no safe path and many an unsafe floor.

As a prelude on his trials are many and his pleasures fade away as the dew, until in close correspondence with his Maker, he starts out to live anew.

It is then God takes his life in hand and suddenly his stubborn will regenerates his sinful heart and scatters every ill.

Thus lightened of every burden and his weary soul set free, he can really for the first time sing: "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see."

Truly, every man some day, will have to recognize not only way, and it will be to his everlasting undoing if not in this heavenly way he is found pursuing.

IN THIS OUR DAY BY C. A. CHICK, SR.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS

Discussing the pros and cons of the gubernatorial campaign now in process in Virginia, a news article in the Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News related in part the following: "Against the organization's work for Battle for 32 years a member of the state senate, is the realization that Miller will get a large share of the labor vote, one that the Negroes are better prospects in Miller than in Battle. Then there are the liberals and other restless people who would like to see a new political deal in Virginia."

In other words, the article admitted that Negroes are playing an important role in the gubernatorial race and that they might be a strong factor in determining the winner. The fact that Negroes are taking such active parts in politics throughout the South is most encouraging for Negroes in particular as well as for the South in general. This writer feels that the Negro's participation in public affairs of the South will eventually greatly lessen the present tremendous influence in Southern political life of the white political demagogue. If the past there have been some Southern white politicians who, during their campaign speeches, delighted in making inflammatory and derogatory statements regarding Negroes. There are two principal techniques by which people strike back at politicians, namely

economic pressure and the vote. The white politicians know that Negroes are on the bottom rung of the economic ladder and, therefore, cannot strike back very effectively economically. As long then as Negroes were barred from voting, there was no effective way by which they could "punish" the political rabble rousers. But, thanks to a series of Negroes are now voting in large numbers throughout the South.

Some Southern whites have fought and continue to fight the Negro's endeavors to participate in the affairs of the State. Eventually they will realize that the Negro's participation in the political affairs of the South will

ELMER HENDERSON PROTESTS JUDD BILL

WASHINGTON — Limitation on immigration into the United States from the British West Indies was protested last week by the American Council on Human Rights as a discriminatory act against a people who have contributed greatly to the defense and well-being of our country.

The protest was made by Elmer W. Henderson, director of the Council, in a testimony before the Senate Judiciary committee on the Judd bill, which has already passed the House of Representatives. The bill removes racial barriers to naturalization and permits immigration on a quota basis to certain Asiatic Pacific peoples previously

prove to be a blessing for the South.

In one of my columns several months ago I pointed out in part the following: "It is highly possible that as a result of our persistent and intelligent desire to become active in politics and the rulings of the courts upsetting many of the white man's schemes to keep us from voting that the Democratic party of the South will be divided into a Progressive and a Conservative Democratic party. . . . And when this shall have happened, as I surely believe it will, Negroes and whites will join in one loud chorus: 'What a blessing it was on that day when the white primaries of the South began to fall!'"

Under present laws Negroes in Jamaica, Trinidad and other British colonies in the Caribbean sea are permitted entry under the annual quota of Great Britain which is 25,000. The British quota is rarely filled, however, and immigration from the West Indies was relatively free.

BETWEEN THE LINES

BY DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

SAINT OR SANTA CLAUS?

When Negro worshippers of former years sang "It's got my brother but me my Lord standing in the need of prayer," they may have had premonitions of what was to come upon our nation. This nation of ours stands in need of prayer and deeper sympathy, if not indeed pity. The reactionary anti-Negro elements in Congress are giving this country some very unwholesome advertising, in the eyes of the world. The things which are happening before our eyes are known in the innermost parts of the earth and we cannot escape the opportunity that comes of hypocrisy.

President Truman's civil rights program has been scuffed. Every Congressional measure designed to obliterate segregation lines is voted to defeat even before the vote is taken. We may as well face the fact that racism and fanaticism are ruining the government of the United States however repugnant their course to the common people. And for one to imagine that these congressional reactionaries are representing the will of the people is to disregard common facts to the contrary.

The heart of this country is on the right side of the reactionary Dixiecrats and wretched Republicans would give it expression. If there is congressional aid for education it is going to be conditioned by Dixiecratic influences. Any housing program that finally promises a non-segregational aspect is doomed even as other civil rights measures have been and will be doomed. Talmadge and his Georgia assembly would make as good a showing in the eyes of the world as the current Congress is making.

In fact, it is safe to say that the Georgia sentiment is the sentiment of Congress, if its reactionism on racial matters is made the criterion. The Washington of today and the Georgia of today are about equal in their bad impressions on the civilized world. They lynch physically in Georgia and they lynch spiritually in Washington. Race prejudice is running at large in Georgia with its club foot in full view. In Washington it masquerades with a certain degree of respectability because it is incubated in the capital of the United States.

It is true we cannot stem the

tide of Dixieism that is flooding Georgia and Washington; neither can we stem the tide of disrespect and suspicion that we are facing because the nations of the earth are secretly spurning our vaunted hypocrisy. They are asking the broad of justice and decency and democracy and this nation is offering the stone of national hypocrisy by preaching one thing and living another.

If we are to pursue such a course in this critical period of human history and must abide the consequences, and these are not different from those which have come to mighty nations in the past, it is a historical tragedy that what ever a nation departs from the ideals that made it great and powerful it declines in spite of its power and pomp and grandeur. It is a super tragedy that we who could be the standard bearers of a new world order are figuratively casting away the greatest opportunity ever presented to a nation. The matter is serious and it is later than we think.

Our nation is in position to be canonized among the nations as a saint but we are instead becoming an international sinner class. The nations love us for what they get out of us and not for what we are! Better a thousand times that we were a pauper nation with our soul saved than the richest nation on the face of the earth with our soul lost.

When we think on what we are giving in exchange for our national soul, our position becomes more pathetic. Of course we must not blind ourselves as Negroes to our own faults, intra-racial hypocrisy and deceitfulness and duplicity and jealousy are quite as bad as that of the dominant white man who through Congress is thwarting the ends of justice and democracy.

Negroes must never forget that the white man's sins however glaring do not prove our own righteousness. Every jealous underling, envious double-dealing Negro is an ally to the forces which are destroying our nation's influence for good in the world. Every Negro demagogue who would subvert his influence to gain place and preference is allied with the reactionary cohorts who are scuttling the civil rights program.

Our nation is a *santo claus* when it ought to be a saint.

The Road To Health

SUMMER ACCIDENTS

BY CLARENCE A. LUCAS, M.D. INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., for ANP

A doctor's life is, for a busy one, but one midsummer day last year seemed a particularly busy one for me when a continuous stream of patients, all suffering from various kinds of mishaps came to my office.

Old Mr. Bailey had sunstroke while mowing the grass in the middle of the day. George Graham had a severe case of poison ivy. Phil Smith sprained his ankle playing tennis. And victims of other accidents continued to come.

It occurred to me then that the summer seemed to bring more accidents than other times of the year. With vacation time at hand, chances of catastrophes both minor and more serious ones, seem to increase.

Cuts, scratches and small wounds are common these days among children, now playing almost constantly out of doors with little protective clothing. No matter how small the wound, it should be cleaned carefully with mild soap and covered with adhesive stipes or ointment to prevent infection.

Suburn is severe, the doctor should be called immediately. But the application of a good disinfectant for minor burns or of petroleum jelly will relieve the discomfort of ordinary sunburn.

A serious case of heat stroke or sunstroke demands the prompt attention of a doctor. While waiting for the doctor, however, a person can help the victim of sunstroke by placing him on his back in a cool, shady place and putting cold applications to the patient's head.

Outdoor swimming accidents are, of course, most frequent in the summer months. The lives of many victims of drowning have been saved by artificial respiration.

When a drowning person has been rescued and his breathing has stopped, artificial respiration must be started immediately if it is to be effective.

During the summer months poison ivy, oak and sumac bloom are frequently in areas where children play and people hike and picnic. If the poison plant gets in contact with and irritate the skin, the affected parts should be washed immediately with soap and hot water. This will remove the oily resin left by the plants which irritate the skin and cause it to itch.

For all severe accidents, or minor ones which might lead to complications, the doctor should be called immediately. But it is well to be prepared, particularly during the summer, to meet emergencies and to know what to do until the doctor comes. A knowledge of first aid can help prevent serious complications of many types of accidents and even save lives.

This article is co-sponsored by the National Medical Association, under the National Tuberculosis Association, in the interest of better health of the people.

THEY'LL NEVER DIE By Elton Fax

MAJOR TAYLOR

THANKS TED CARROLL

Continental Tires

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