

# EDITORIALS

## HAVE A HEART!

Some critics both inside and outside of Congress have been sniping at President Truman because he has taken time out for a little vacation in Florida. Sometimes one wonders how captious politicians and other people can get. TIME magazine, certainly no rabid partisan of President Truman, says that it is the first vacation Mr. Truman has had for almost a year.

Everyone indulging in this petty sniping at the President knows, or should, that when he is away from Washington like this he is in constant touch with the affairs of his office; that indeed he simply moves his office and takes it with him. Nearly all of these carping critics also know that he is always ready to hurry back to Washington in a matter of hours in case of emergency.

It seems that lots of people think that all is fair, not only in love and war, but also in politics. Every well informed person, whether a political friend or political foe of President Truman, knows that the presidency of the United States is a terrific job in ordinary times; that in times like these it is literally a mankiller. No fairminded and intelligent person could really begrudge the President a little breather away from the Washington scene. Anyone who carps about Mr. Truman's vacation in Florida is either ignorant or pretty spiteful.

## AMAZEMENT IN ORDER

"The chairman of the Hertford County Selective Board expressed amazement today when he was informed that only six of 50 Hertford men had passed mental examinations for Army duty."

So read an AP item in the NEWS and OBSERVER recently. Nearly everybody else will surely share the board chairman's amazement, especially those who read a little further and learned that most of the 50 rejectees were in the "19 and 20-year groups." The chairman observed that the ratio of rejections in Hertford County had been running better than 50 per cent, but the 88 per cent ratio of the last 50 knocked him out.

Obviously something is wrong. People from Hertford County certainly are not mentally inferior inherently to the general population. There is no reason to think that Hertford County schools are inferior to those of the typical rural North Carolina county. On the face of it, it would appear that either the school attendance practices in Hertford must be worse than the generally bad practices throughout the state, or else there are more Hertford boys playing dumb at the induction center examinations than from other parts of the state. Or possibly, as some argue, the examinations are too stiff.

In any case it is shameful that only six out of 50 men, most of them youths, who are supposed to have had schooling opportunities in the most progressive state in the South educationally, passed the mental-educational tests for Army service.

## SOME ANSWER IN THE OFFING

Governor Byrnes of South Carolina has followed Governor Talmadge of Georgia in threatening that the public schools of South Carolina will be closed should a decision of the U. S. courts demand an end of segregation in the schools. Georgia so far has gone farther than South Carolina in that the legislature of the former state has backed up the governor by tying up the appropriations for public schools with the

commitment to close them if "necessary." But the South Carolina legislature is still in session and it is not impossible that it will pass legislation similar to that passed in Georgia.

The basis of Governor Byrnes' statement is a suit pending in a South Carolina county which is aimed ostensibly at the abolition of segregation in the schools rather than the inequality of facilities as between the two races. Governor Byrnes is publicly committed to the principle of "substantial equality" in school facilities, and has recommended a \$75,000,000 bond issue for school building purposes, a good part of the proceeds of which would go toward this equalization. He advocates "substantial equality" not only as a matter of expediency under the pressure of the U. S. Court decisions, and as a measure to head off any possible abolition of segregation because of continued gross inequalities in public school facilities between the races, but also as a matter of right.

In other words Governor Byrnes' position is that the time has come to recognize the "equal" part in the separate but equal doctrine which has long been incorporated in the state laws in those states maintaining separate school facilities but that the "separate" part of the equation must be maintained at all costs, to the extent of abolishing public schools, if "necessary."

It is unfortunate that a man of Governor Byrnes' prestige should give the weight of his influence to the doctrine that public schools are a lesser value than segregation. As a former member of the Supreme Court, not considering the other high offices he has held, his stand becomes very influential. That doubtless helps to explain why he made the public pronouncement he did.

For we do not believe Governor Byrnes seriously thinks the Federal courts are going to insist on the abolition of segregation in the public schools. Nor do we think he believes that those who instituted the suit expect any such decision. We believe that the pattern of discrimination has become so fixed in the South that some strategists felt that the quickest (if not the best) way to attack it in public education was a frontal attack on segregation, the basis of the discrimination. At least the problem is thereby dramatized, and the result has been that complacency over the discrimination has been rendered impossible.

It is obvious that, whatever the answer is to the question as to whether equality is possible with separation, the answer must be sought by trying to attain the equality, or separation must be given up, or, as Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Talmadge say the public schools must cease to be.

## NO IMMUNITY

Regular readers of the column, "Incidentally," in the Sunday NEWS and OBSERVER know that Miss Nell Battle Lewis, its writer, is an ardent advocate of World Federation. They also know that she has been pretty tough on a lot of people she has regarded as too easy on persons alleged to be Communists, Communist sympathizers and dupes of Communists. We have admired the vigor with which he has cracked down on professed and known Reds, but believe that at times she has jumped the gun in getting after good Americans who did not deserve association with the Red cause at all.

Well, recently some irresponsible party or parties let loose the insinuation that the World Federationist organization somehow is promoting Stalin's interests. No thinking person would have any good reason for believing there is any truth behind that insinuation. All indications point to the conclusion that the World Federationists are about as far from Communist sympathies as anyone could be. It just goes to show that in these days anyone may find himself living in a glass house without knowing when or how he moved in.



"STRUGGLING AGAINST EVIL FORCES FOR A BETTER BALANCE."

## IN THIS OUR DAY

BY C. A. CHICK SR.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EASTER

At this writing it seems that Mother Nature will provide the Easter Doves splendid weather in which to parade in their

the newspapers and the radio commentators there will be a plenty of new suits in which to parade. Morelons are reporting that Easter sales are the highest they have known for many years.

On the more serious side of life Easter comes at a very appropriate time of the year. The season of the year is very fitting for the occasion which we celebrate — the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Mother Nature which has been asleep for several months is now awakening; birds are singing their harmonious songs; trees and flowers are putting on their Easter finery; the dead plants, as it were, come to life again at this season of the year. All of which are very fitting atmospheres in which to have a spiritual celebration.

Moreover, the incidents around the Easter story are so true to life. Today we are sad. Let us go back a few days before that first Easter morning. Jesus had proclaimed that the kingdom of God was at hand. The disciples had been sure that He was the one to redeem Israel. Then they saw Him betrayed, seized by His foes, treated with the worst indignities executed as a common criminal with the most shameful and terrible death. But now on another day, in this same city of Jerusalem, we watch another scene. Sorrow has given way to joy, despair to hope. The scattered disciples of yesterday are together in our company joined in a common faith and love and loyalty, filled with a new spirit. And they have a new courage; they are ready to go out and face the world which put their Lord to death. They now have a confident hope for the future.

We know what caused this miraculous change — for it was indeed a miracle. Jesus had appeared to them. Earth's gladder day had followed earth's saddest day — just three days apart! Always, when we think of Easter, we think of joy and rejoicing of music, of flowers and symbols of the new life that comes each spring after the death of winter. But we must not forget that the cross came first. Obedience, devotion, self-sacrifice, suffering, death, without these no Easter. And these must go with Easter today. Easter will have a meaning to each of us in proportion as the spirit of Jesus is resurrected in our souls and in proportion as we re dedicate our lives to the principle of which He died!

C.D. Halliburton's  
**SECOND THOUGHTS**

Dr. Robert M. MacIver, long-time professor of sociology at Columbia University, is the author of a book published in 1949 entitled "The More Perfect Union." It is a study of inter-group discrimination in the United States. Although Professor MacIver is a theoretical sociologist, this book is the author of a goodly number of books, nearly all of them have been within the field book is certainly the only extensive treatise he has produced on the subject of race and group discrimination. But it is one of the best available, and that is mainly because he keeps his treatment of the subject dispassionate and objective, and because he offers the book as "A program for the control of inter-group discrimination in the United States" — the sub-title of the work. It is an extremely practical approach which Dr. MacIver takes. He not only talks about conditions but about methods and measures to attack the same conditions. Following this in the closing chapter of the book offers "Some Conclusions." One of these has to do with strategy. The first strategical point Dr. MacIver makes is:

"The primary attack on discrimination should rally to the cause of National welfare and national unity."

That point is in complete harmony with the title of the book. His thesis is that discrimination and its results are bad, first of all because of their effect not on the discrimination against, but on the people of our country as a whole — the nation. He says:

"The national benefits of inter-group discrimination have not received adequate attention. The distinctively inter-group culture that has developed in the United States and that is reflected in its national tradition and its political structure is threatened by the growth of inter-group tensions and by the prevalence of inter-group discrimination. The consequences to national unity, to the strength and integrity of American nationhood, are ignored or disregarded."

What Dr. MacIver says here is receiving growing recognition as a truth and a very important one. Many people have said pretty much the same thing, but I doubt that anyone else has expressed the idea more clearly and directly.

Now is an especially good time for the nation to think on Professor MacIver's words, and to act on them, for certainly unity is a prime need at this point in our national history. Practically everyone will agree as to the need for unity. The unfortunate thing is that the old pattern calls for the Negro to promote this unity by making all the adjustments and concessions to bring it about. Instead the Negro and his friends must show that "the cause of national welfare and national unity" is served inevitably better by lessening discrimination than by a policy of "discrimination as usual" the Negro believe told in the meantime that "this is no time" for pressing the struggle against it.

Even and anon even the casual observers of passing events are reminded of some of Booker T. Washington's homely philosophy. He was going to the back of the matter when he told the southern white man that you cannot hold a fellow in the ditch unless you stay there too.

Serious and studied attempts have been made to belittle the meaning of Washington's pungent reference to a serious situation where whites are committing themselves to eternalizing a situation that ultimately means their own as well as the Negro's undoing. Washington's statement was just another way of saying that America cannot survive half slave and half free.

The hope of the interracial situation in the south lies in the fact that more and more southerners are aware of the seriousness of the situation, and are willing to do something about it. At heart the south is forging ahead daily, threatening to forsake traditionalism for moral heroism, such as these critical times demand.

There is no advanced program to any sphere where we do not find broad-gauged southerners ready to lead the way. It may truly be said that the bark of the south is much worse than its bite. Just a few days ago this writer was riding some of the best trains through the South and the dining car service was entirely devoid of discrimination. No curtains, no particular tables, no attempts at herding all Negroes to one table.

Just plain first class service and a good time was had by all. This happened in Alabama and Talmadge's Georgia where young Talmadge promised to stop the trains at Georgia's borders and haul every Negro from his pullman seat.

The motivation of this article stems from a recent editorial in the Raleigh Times; the editorial was captioned "The Rejection of Southern Draftees." It was enough to make the south sick at heart for it was outlined in rather convincing fashion that the current effort at recruitment is seriously handicapped by the high incidence of rejection of draftees throughout the South. It was pointed out that 40 percent of the draftees of the South were being rejected with 25.7 percent unqualified for mental deficiencies, whereas the national average for the nation as a whole on account of mental deficiencies was 10.8.

The highest percentage of these rejections were found in South Carolina where 65 percent was rejected with 25.7 percent unqualified for mental deficiencies, whereas the national average for the nation as a whole on account of mental deficiencies was 10.8.

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E. C. Lawrence's  
**MY OPINION**

### THE DANGER OF BEING AT EASE

In an article a week or two ago, the writer briefly referred to the thought, that too many people are too easily satisfied. Under the caption, "My opinion" we wish to discuss this thought more at length. If there is any one besetting sin that is more undermining than another, it seems to the writer, that it is the awful mistake of becoming complacent, satisfied with what one knows, possesses, or can do. Many individuals, families and social groups, never come to, or contribute their best to a world-order which offers so much, and in turn demands so much. Obviously in many cases, not for lack of opportunity, but rather for lack of vision, thoughtfulness and purpose.

While inclined to concur with the old adage, "There are exceptions to all rules," the writer is still strongly inclined to believe, that more often than not, failures are the result of a lack of vision, initiative and persistence. Almost daily one may observe cases in which the less well educated, and otherwise, less talented, succeed where the more talented seem to fail, or at best, are less successful. One or two reasons may account for these apparent upsets in the everyday struggles of life. First, there is the danger that the man of talent, natural, or acquired, may rely too much on his own work, and in most cases, bring success. Another possible reason why the talented individual is not more successful, is the fact that he is sometimes misinterpreting talent as success within itself, rather than as a means to an end.

Permit the writer to refer again to the three characters whose names appeared in the article of last week, "The Ditch." They were Father, a Washington George Washington Carver and Abraham Lincoln. There was little in the life of either man that was indicative of any surplus talent. But in each case there were inescapable evidence of persistent hard work. Neither ever gave evidence of being at ease, or complacent. To the contrary, each was known for the dogged, persistent application of the utmost energy he possessed. Invariably he took of his singular success, these qualities stand out.

Certainly, in the onrush of modern life, complacency has no legitimate place. Today, life is fuller, and therefore, more demanding than during any previous period of world history. This means that the individual or social group that lacks the vision, initiative and quality of persistence, must continue to bring up the rear, or worse, fall out of the line of march altogether.

As today, ominous signs of disintegration excite, confuse, and therefore disturb the otherwise peaceful relations between men and nations, who can dare allow himself to become complacent, or feel that anything less than his fullest and best, is enough? And this, not for one day, but rather for every day.

It is important that minority social groups keep ever alert for while they are in every nation, and we think particularly so in America, those who are liberal-minded, and want to see individuals regardless of race or color, set to their feet, and get on with the business of living. There are many more who persist in blocking the way of others whom they fear might become their competitors, and make it so difficult for them to rise and go forward, so selfish maneuvering can make possible. To overcome such arbitrary handicaps, minority social groups, and especially their leaders, maintain a constant awareness of selfish opportunism, with national, but resistance must defend the rights of the less fortunate followers. A leadership that is too short-sighted and dangerous.

Such condition is the inevitable concomitant of state righteousness which means for the most part the right to hold the Negro in the ditch. It is one of the direct products of the current demagogic — republican congressional alliance which is threatening to defeat the will of advancing America.

The alliance is becoming a stumbling block in congress, but it is also becoming a matter of great pride to the allied political parties. It insures traditional white domination in the south and it guarantees the defunct republican party a semblance of political power, which has almost become extinct under the impact of moral forces that are undermining the obsolete forces of reactionism.

The rejection of southern draftees is a revealing phenomenon and should drive home with devastating conviction the truth that a man cannot be held in the ditch unless the holder stays there with him. It must however be borne in mind that it is not alone in the matter of rejected draftees that the hold the Negro-down policies are handicapping the south; but it is rather in the curtailed production of so large a part of its citizens that these out-worn policies are proving such a handicap; to say nothing about the moral deterioration that results.

If some means could be found for measuring this moral deterioration, results would be even more alarming than the rejections among the south's draftees.

**Between the Lines**  
BY HOWARD HANCOCK for ANP

THE HIGH COST OF DITCH-HOLDING

Ever and anon even the casual observers of passing events are reminded of some of Booker T. Washington's homely philosophy. He was going to the back of the matter when he told the southern white man that you cannot hold a fellow in the ditch unless you stay there too.

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**SUCCESSFUL PARENTHOOD**

Practical Instruction in Child Training

In This Newspaper

FIGURES IN AN OLD CRIB PRESERVED IN THE LANG FAMILY OF OBERAMMERGAU ARE ACTUAL MODELS OF PASSION PLAY PLAYERS OF 100 YEARS IN THE COSTUMES THEY WORE.

Live doves nest in the hands of the statue of St. Francis, the hands of the Angels cloisters, Assisi, in S. Maria degli Angeli, placed there when it was carved two years after his death.

4000 YEARS OLD RECIPE FROM THE TOMBS OF THE PHARAOHS, EGYPT, HAS BEEN USED TO RESTORE THE FAMOUS VAN EYCK ALTARPIECE IN ST. BAVON'S CATHEDRAL, GHEENT BELGIUM.

The cemetery for Venice is on SAN MICHELE Island 2 miles away. MICHELE ISLAND WATER GARDENS ADORNED WITH ANGEL FIGUREHEADS LAST YEAR WAS THE DEAD RESTING PLACE.