

COMMENTS

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS

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L. E. AUSTIN, Publisher
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THE PLATFORM OF THE CAROLINA TIMES INCLUDES:

- Equal salaries for Negro Teachers.
- Negro policemen where Negroes are involved.
- Equal educational opportunities.
- Negro jurymen.
- Higher wages for domestic servants.
- Full participation of Negroes in all branches of the National Defense.
- Abolishment of the double-standard wage scale in industry.
- Greater participation of Negroes in political affairs.
- Negro representation in city, county, state and national governments.
- Better housing for Negroes.

Our Health! What Are We Going To Do About It?

Recent figures released by the United States Bureau of Census show that diseases of the heart are taking a terrible toll on the Negro population of this country. It is now revealed that this ailment has even surpassed syphilis and tuberculosis in destruction of life among Negroes. The latest figures available are those of 1940 which are certainly close enough to us in this generation to give some idea of what a havoc diseases of the heart are playing among Negroes of the United States.

It has been the common belief by those in medical circles, as well as the ordinary citizen, that tuberculosis of the respiratory system and syphilis (all forms) were the enemies within the race to fight. It now appears that we have got to add another deadly foe to the rank opponents of the health and lives of Negroes, and we think the sooner this is done the better.

We quote below some of the startling facts taken from the report which shows that diseases of the heart caused 32,613 Negro deaths in 1940 or one-sixth of the total number in the United States:

"The total number of Negro deaths resulting from diseases of the heart was nearly double the total number of Negro deaths resulting from tuberculosis of the respiratory system and more than four times the total number of Negro deaths resulting from all forms of syphilis.

The Negro death rate for diseases of the heart was 253.5 per 100,000 enumerated population in 1940. In that year Negro males of all ages had a death rate of 276.4 while Negro females of all ages had a death rate of 231.8. Mortality rates for diseases of the heart for Negro females of the age groups one to four years, five to fourteen years, and fifteen to twenty-four years were higher than the mortality rates for the same cause among Negro males of corresponding ages.

Mortality from diseases of the heart is commonly thought of as being directly associated with old age, but this is not so true for the Negro population as for the white population. Nineteen percent of the Negroes who died of diseases of the heart were less than 45 years old, but on the other hand only 6.4 percent of the total number of white persons who died of these diseases were less than 45 years of age.

A comparison of the death rates for diseases of the heart among the non-white population (includes Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese and other non-white races, but chiefly Negroes) of cities of different sizes and rural areas indicates that mortality from diseases of the heart was highest among the Negro population of cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants. The nonwhite population's death rate per 100,000 enumerated population for diseases of the heart was 327.3 in cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants; 297.0 in cities of 10,000 to 100,000 inhabitants; 302.3 in cities of 2,500 to 10,000 inhabit-

ants; and 187.3 in rural areas of the United States. Negro deaths from diseases of the heart represented a large proportion of the total number of Negro deaths resulting from all causes in practically all of the States. For example, in the State of North Carolina Negro deaths from diseases of the heart represented 14.4 percent of the total number of Negro deaths occurring in that State. The Negro death rate for diseases of the heart was 167.8 per 100,000 enumerated population.

From the increase of 9.6 percent in the Negro's death rate for diseases of the heart between 1930 and 1940 it appears that mortality in the Negro population from these diseases will continue to mount, yet it is not probable that the Negro's death rate for diseases of the heart will increase in the near future at such a rate as to equal the white population's death rate for such diseases. The white population's death rates in both 1930 and 1940 were higher than the Negro's death rates, and the rate of increase for the white population was higher, being 39.7 percent for the decade.

It is also pertinent to note that some of the disease given as causes for the Negro's mortality for diseases of the heart are preventable and that even if they are contracted proper medical treatment will lessen their effect on the heart. Among these diseases are infectious diseases of childhood, influenza, pneumonia and syphilis. Two other factors which seem to contribute to the Negro's high death rate for diseases of the heart but which cannot be controlled are the cityward movement of the Negro population and the effect of hard manual labor in the early years of life.

We think that our pulpits, schools, literary clubs, missionary societies, political clubs, fraternal societies and every other organization should be called upon to take a part in the fight against these three main enemies of Negro life and health. The physicians of the race can do very little unless they have the full cooperation of every agency within the group, and we are of the opinion that a national organization for the preservation of Negro life and health should be organized for the intent and purpose of a 'wake up and live' campaign among Negroes. Many of the organizations among Negroes make absolutely no contribution to the economic or physical welfare of the race anyway, and this would give them an opportunity to do some real service for all Negroes.

Sermons, lectures, papers and literature should be made available to Negroes on how they may avoid these diseases and how they may be treated if they are affected with them. We think this would serve a far greater purpose than that of the average organization today.

Between The Lines

BY GORDON B. HANCOCK

THE NATION PAYS

Ever since the War Between the Sections, the nations has sought to appease the south on the color question. The south has long enjoyed a kind of racial relational autonomy. The nation's indisposition to interfere with the race relational processes of the south is proving one of the national perils. This can best be seen in the filibuster tactics of southern congressmen on sundry occasions. When ever the southern bloc wants to carry a point themselves or keep the opposition from carrying one, they resort to the obstructionism of the filibuster.

Today we are in the throes of a national agony when the wheels of democracy must turn now or be forever stilled; yet we had the inevitable filibuster over the poll-tax legislation designed to free the ballot in a free country. This bill was only proposing to make democracy a fact, rather than a mere preachment, by unfettering the voters of eight southern states. Everybody knows that the designs against the bill are grounded in the fact that Negroes will secure the right of suffrage for which they are dying daily. The fact that only eight of the 48 states of the union are committed to the poll-tax qualification for suffrage and the fact that these are southern states makes it obvious that the opposition to the bill hinges about the Negro question.

Strangely enough the census bell of the block does not mention the race relational implications of the bill but are merely holding out against certain constitutional prerogatives of their states. Even the southern bloc realizes that we need unity and

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"WE'LL REMEMBER - AND YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO FORGET!!"

manitarianism. A new order is in the making and a bigger spirit is breeding upon the face of the moral waters of the world.

Let us keep the records straight therefore and see the African campaign as the third front that it really is, and not the long desired second front. The marvelous way in which Negroes have responded to the nation's call in the face of the second front tactics of certain elements in this country marks the Negro as the world's only super-patriot. This world will sooner or later reward him according to his deserts. Those whose designs are to keep the Negro down are going to be disillusioned. There is something big going on in this world and during this world war and the groups or individuals who cannot see it are irretrievably out of step with progress and hu-

manitarianism. A new order is in the making and a bigger spirit is breeding upon the face of the moral waters of the world.

Louis, Paul Robeson and innumerable colored artists, writers, athletes, lawyers, doctors and editors are worthy of anybody's respect and admiration. Negroes should be helped and encouraged in these activities—and also in the more utilitarian matters of equal breaks for jobs in all parts of the country and a fair show in politics. We should all get firmly fixed in mind the fact that a normal Negro, like a normal white or yellow or red man, is a good citizen in direct proportion to the strength of his belief that the society he lives in is giving him a fair deal.

READ CAREFULLY

The colored people, on the other hand, would be well advised to remember the ancient truth that Rome was not built in a day. It gets you nowhere to blame your own troubles or shortcomings on the fact that your ancestors — cruelly and unjustly, it is true — were brought to this continent 200 or 300 years ago against their will, what you do or don't amount to in your own generation.

CALVIN'S DIGEST

BY L. BAYNARD WHITNEY

TOLERANCE

That the conscience of white America is awakening with more clarity day by day, is seen in a recent editorial on Collier's weekly magazine, which ran a down-to-earth editorial on the Negro question. With a net paid circulation of over two million (which means nearly six million readers), it is an invaluable asset to us at this time. Perhaps Collier's ALSO sees the handwriting on the wall...We consider this editorial of such value to white and colored people, that we quote it here in full:

The Negro Question, solemnly so-called, is adding to some Americans' worries about the war. Lynchings are on the up curve. There are disputes and near riots here and there about colored people moving into public housing developments. Now and then, a Jap agent is caught trying to make medicine among our Negroes according to the "Why fight the white man's war?" formula. All these things stir up ancient hates, fears and prejudices, and a serious blowup could result sometimes.

Here is what we think about it. We expect extremists of all sorts to damn us for these sort of remarks, but we're used to that and we're disappointed when, as sometimes happens, our expectations don't pan out. We think, for one thing, that all sensible Americans should set their faces sternly against the aforesaid extremists. We refer mainly to (1) the domestic Communists who, while claiming to be all out for an Allied victory, are not above making some home-grown hay for themselves by spreading discontent among all the Negroes they can

TYPICALLY AMERICAN

Public and private agencies by the score are striving to teach consumers how to stay healthy as they are deprived of an increasing amount of edible products from farm and factory that must go to the military forces and our allies.

Nutrition is a most important phase of the war. The record of our mass merchandising systems along this line deserves recognition. The chain store industry, against which it was long political sport to levy special destructive taxes, has always worked toward greater distribution of necessities at a smaller and smaller unit profit. It has engaged in producer campaigns to move surplus commodities. Millions of people in remote corners the land benefited by these drives to move fruit, vegetables and meats to the consumer's table, which would otherwise have gone to waste. Thousands of farmers, from the citrus growers of California seaboard, have good reason to recall those campaigns. In many instances they were saved from ruin.

We may not be faced with the problem today of moving surplus food, but the same chain stores which deluged the housewife with recipes and products that made for better living five years ago, are still in business. And they are doing a far bigger job. They are working with government to the utmost in the gigantic task of holding down prices. They are emphasizing as never before, with suggestions and recipes, the needs for efficiency in the culinary departments of our homes. In many instances they were saved from ruin.

The facts about American Negroes in this generation are that they are getting better breaks in our social system all the time; that the Negro has more well-wishers every day among American whites; that the old-fashioned Negro-hater is shrinking swiftly in size, influence and public respect. Witness the Georgia white voters' recent scarping of Governor Eugene Talmadge.

The happy condition shows signs of continuing and broadening out until the Negro Question is solved to the general satisfaction — if both Whites and Negroes will let matters develop naturally. If either group lets itself be nerve-racked by the war into some sort of extremist hysteria, the consequences can be disastrous all around.

CAN HE BREAK THE LOG JAM?

