

# COMMENTS

# EDITORIALS

# OPINIONS

## The Carolina Times

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### THE RIGHT SOLUTION

Threats, editorial attempts at intimidation, and distorting the truth with the hope of whitewashing the serious blunder made by a thoughtless officer of the law, will get nowhere in the effort to get at the underlying cause of the deplorable calamity which befell the Negro section of this unfortunate city last Saturday evening. The effort to misguide the public into believing that the soldier who was attacked in the liquor store on Fayetteville street, drew a knife on the officer who made the attack is entirely out of line with the procedure that should follow an incident of this kind. It is distasteful to respectable citizens of both races in this city who are desirous that peace and happiness prevail between persons of all races here.

THE CAROLINA TIMES has never put its endorsement on mob violence in any form or by any group. The record of this newspaper has always been one of utmost contempt for those who permit their passions to become so inflamed that they overrun the law, which act usually jeopardizes the lives and property of innocent citizens. We wish to emphasize here and again our condemnation of all forms of mob violence and disrespect for law and order by Negroes with the same zeal that we condemn it in these other groups.

Mob violence is a crime and cannot be confined to any special race or group, as was evidenced a few nights ago when it was necessary to block off a section of Parrish street while efforts were being made to quell a riot that started in a dance hall between white citizens and white soldiers. The subtle attempt to bestir the ire and inflame the thoughtless segment of Durham's citizenship because of last Saturday's upheaval, merely because the Negro participants in it acted in the same manner as those of the Parrish street brawl, cannot be looked upon as the kind of influence that is conducive to peace. We condemn both of these incidents, because we are interested in the safety of the lives and property of not only Durham's Negro citizens, but its white citizens as well. We are for sane, sensible and a just solution of the problems which arise here, we refuse to offer even the semblance of a suggestion to the contrary.

It is the duty of an officer of the law to endeavor to prevent citizens from getting into trouble rather than to see how much trouble they can get them into. Any officer of the law who on the least provocation wields his fist, black-jack or pulls his gun appears to us to be encouraging disturbances rather than preventing them. Eliminating this type of officer from our law enforcing bodies seems to us the bounden duty of those who have to do with their employment.

An uncontrollable temper seems to be the main requisite for employment on Durham's AEC squad. As a result the record of this smallest of Durham's law enforcement agencies will show that it has done more killing, black-jacking and fist mauling than all the others put together.

Sensible white and Negro citizens need to face these issues fairly and frankly with an honest desire for the truth, Durham or no other city can continue, without serious consequences, to employ persons on any of its police forces, whose record will show that they have been rank violators of the law. We need to search the records of some of those hot tempered officers before we draw a conclusion as to the actual cause behind many of the undesirable occurrences in this city.

We think the efforts to quell the rioting last Saturday on the part of civilian police, and the military police, both white and Negro, are worthy of commendation, as well as those of the Negro commissioned officers, who should be given the lion's share of the credit for bringing the nasty situation under control. The whole affair warrants the serious consideration of Negro police for Negro sections of Durham. The plan is being successfully carried out in other cities of North Carolina and the south, and we see no reason why it cannot be a success here. The selection of the right type of men for the job would do much to guarantee the safety of the lives and property of all of Durham's citizens, as well as prevent a recurrence of such a flare-up as that of last Saturday.

### BETWEEN THE LINES

By Dean Gordon B. Handcock

Recently I met three Negro boys, messengers for Western Union. They were finely uniformed and seemed on the alert and their appearance was commendable. As I meditated on their new opportunity, I saw in them a symbol of the Negro race during these war times when manpower for war or work is at a premium. Under ordinary circumstances the very idea of Negro messenger boys for some regions of this country would have been spurned contemptuously. But these are not ordinary times and so the Negro now as during World War I is moving into newer realms of opportunity. His prayer for larger opportunity is being answered at long last.

There are two things the Negro must do and the first is to save some money. I put it bluntly on purpose. Nobody can tell what will come forth at the conclusion of current hostilities, if the same determination to keep the Negro out of the picture is directed at throwing him for a loss when the war ends, we are in for a bitter struggle to hold our gains. In any event the Negro is going to need some of the easy money that is passing around. It is true we cannot save it all; but it is equally true that it would be unwise to spend it all. We have seen many instances of men who received fabulously high wages during the last war wind up in the alms house. One such person told me that he had earned as much as \$10.00 the day.

Then too, if we are to put in to practice more thoroughly the doctrine of the Double Duty Dollar we must first of all have the dollar to do duty at all. It is incumbent upon the whole Negro leadership to stress the importance of saving during these years of fatness. The lean years are just around the corner the near corner and not the far corner around which Mr. Hoover's prosperity was lingering. There can be no economic advance without saving and the time to talk about saving is when we have something to save. Now is the time when the average man has something to save. Let's spend some but for goodness sake let's save some.

Then too there is the matter of impending displacement that must be faced. The women who are entering the various pursuits are going to bid for a place of permanence in the scheme of

things. With a slackening demand for workers and with an abundant supply of white labor, the pressure is going to be put on the Negro as always. The Negro therefore who makes good is going to be cast off into outer economic darkness.

The Negro who survives as many did at the conclusion of the last war will not be the Negro who "makes good" but the Negro who "MAKES BETTER". That the Negro must make better than others to hold his given place is a deplorable fact, a disheartening fact at times but withal a persistent fact. We must face it. The Urban League's campaign to orient the Negro's attention on these matters is most commendable. The Negro who survives the cut-throat competition for places and jobs at the conclusion of the war is the Negro who not only makes good but who makes better-makes best. We wish it were otherwise but wishing even when heavily implemented is not always effective in critical situations.

#### A SICKENING SYMPTOM

Churchill's speech of recent date was not assuring. There are signs that the democratic nations are working at cross purposes. We are beginning to wonder what the united nations are "united" on. England's attitude toward India as seen in its handling of the Gandhi episode and more recently in Churchill's speech is disquieting to say the least.

When Churchill tells the world that no nation or combination of nations must interfere with Britain's handling of England's colonial policies he complicates a complicated problem. Were it not for China and the United States, England would have no colonies, but she, herself would at present be a vassel of Germany. But Churchill knows that the kettle cannot call the pot black.

The most unhappy aspect of the whole situation is that these democracies are not in a moral position to correct one another. The United States is not in position to put on the pressure for the reason the policy towards its Negro citizens muffles any voice of protest it might raise in behalf of India. On the other hand England can make no suggestion for race relation in this country. It is a sickening symptom. The hope in the situation is winning the war not forfeiting it.

### Walter White

(Continued From Page One) has not yet been utilized because of racial prejudice. He cited the bill's failure to compel employers to accept all workers who volunteer or are drafted regardless of workers, race or color as one of its most glaring faults. White added that the bill contains no adequate safeguards to protect workers from arbitrary action by employers or local draft boards.

Charles H. Houston, attorney, spoke for the National Non-Partisan Council of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and supplemented the testimony of Mr. White.

The bill provides that the President through the Chairman of War Manpower Commission, may issue a call for volunteers specifying the number of persons required with their qualifications and the place where their work would be performed. "But" said White, "it creates no obligation on the employer to accept such volunteers."

"The underlying assumption of S.666," continued White, "is that workers are not volunteering for service in war industries and must therefore be

drafted. This assumption is belied by the facts. There is already a vast reservoir of Negro man and womanpower today begging for employment at their proper skills and levels, but to whom the doors are tightly closed and bolted.

"In a recent War Manpower Commission estimate there are still 600,000 Negroes who are outright unemployed. There are 2,000,000 farmhands working on cotton crops when we have a two years supply on hand. According to John Beecher, former regional representative of the FEPC there are 2,000,000 seasonal farm workers whose services could be entirely utilized to meet manpower needs.

"We are also opposed to this legislation," White declared, "because it contains no safeguards to protect the worker against arbitrary action on the part of employers or local draft boards. This bill is entirely silent on the obligation of an employer not to discriminate on account of race, creed, or color, to properly assign and upgrade employees, and to use safety appliances, and to establish reasonable wage, hour and health regulations.

"The bill requires compulsory service but does not guar-

antee employment. For example S.666, 10,000 white workers could be drafted and transferred to a southern community even though there were already present there 10,000 Negroes capable of filling the job. A prejudiced draft board at the behest of a prejudiced employer who refused to hire available Negro labor could then order 10,000 Negro workers to pick cotton though they possessed the skills to work in industry.

"The bill gives an employer the right to reject a batch of drafted labor without assigning any reason for doing so and then permits him to call on the United States Government to provide more batches from which he can choose those he wishes to employ. The worker would not have even the protection provided by the Civil Service where the employer has to choose from the top three on the list. In short omnipotent controls are placed in his hands to compel servitude without the correlative obligation to protect the servitor."

Asked at this point by Senator Austin, Republican of Vermont, if the insertion into the bill of a requirement that workers would have to be selected without regard to race or color for assignment to war industries, would meet Mr. White objections, White said that such an inclusion would strengthen the bill.

White, citing the deplorable treatment of Negro soldiers in the South, argued, "even with ample laws on the statute books the federal government has failed to protect the Negro from intimidation, coercion and abuse while he is theoretically unfettered and free.

"What can be the prospect for cowered domestic, agricultural, industrial, and defense workers living in the South and faced with compulsory service legislation which in most instances will be nothing less than government approved peonage?" White asked. "What chance would a qualified Negro machinist living in Mississippi have if he appealed the decision of his draft board denying his application to go to Detroit to work in an airplane factory when such board had previously classified him to work as a common field hand? I believe the answer is obvious.

"The Association feels," White concluded, "that compulsion will not eliminate the confusion in the manpower problem for it is but a part of a bigger problem which constitutes authority is unwilling to

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## PLAIN TALK

BY ELMER A. CARTER

### A BLUE PRINT FOR VICTORY

The United Nations can win the war, and we can lose. And we will surely lose unless here and now we are capable of planning and executing an intelligent and comprehensive program to meet the conditions we will have to face when the war is over. There will be no great change in our situation after the war. The outlines of our picture are being sketched in now and the structure of the post-war world is already being built while the conflict grows in intensity and moves towards its bloody climax.

Those of us who have eyes to see are becoming alarmed by certain tendencies which if permitted to continue will spell disaster and set us back for a hundred years. And we are not fooled by those who whisper let us wait until after the war to contend for rights and privileges which should be ours.

This is an indefensible attitude which our history in America does not support. Only as a war measure after the pleading of Douglas and the intimidation by the abolitionists in Congress plus the humiliating defeats of the Union Armies did Abraham Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation. And if we had waited until after the Civil War for freedom we would have been the victims of some form of slavery now organized capital does not surrender its rights to profit during a war, but fights not only to preserve these rights but to extend them. American industrialists demanded every form of legal safeguard of their profits before they would consent to convert their plants from peace time industry to the manufacture of tanks and planes and guns, even though the enemy was at our gates. Organized labor does not abandon its right to contend for higher wages and shorter hours and decent working conditions when the enemy goes to war. It wages a stubborn and sometimes a bitter battle to protect labor standards and to insure a wage that keeps pace with the rising cost of living. John L. Lewis, representing the United Mine Workers of America, may be more spectacular than other labor leaders in his methods. But his goal is no different than that of the other labor leaders who press their demands upon employes with greater intensity during war than at any other time.

The reason for this is not hard to find. A nation at war is apt to subordinate group interests to so called national interests with the result that hard won social gains are obliterated and the rights of the less powerful crushed by the juggernaut of necessity and expediency. The little people then must be on guard lest they lose even that even that which they have.

The blue print for victory of the American Negro must be a plan by which all of us everywhere can aid in strengthening the race from within so that it may be able to wage an increasingly effective fight for every right that is ours as citizens of this Republic, not when peace comes, but now.

A great fighting army must be strong from every angle. A fighting race like a fighting army can only be successful when it has power within, power and will to plug up the gaps in the ranks and strengthen every individual member of that race. Racial power like military power can only be developed by training. A powerful army must be a highly trained (Please Turn To Page

### Heroic Soldier

(Continued From Page One)

before the ship was entirely under water. Watson, according to Mr. Hawson, was soon pulling men from the wreckage, placing them on debris and freight from the sinking vessel. He says that when the ship finally went down, Watson was seen to go down with it.

Among the survivors of the ill-fated ship were other Negro soldiers. Eye witnesses claim that of the casualties resulting from the bombing, two were colored, Watson and one Pvt. Ike Tolliver. The latter was drowned when caught in a deluge of freight from the sinking vessel.

It was learned from Mr. Hawson that all the passengers conducted themselves very orderly and were well under control. He stated that they had been alerted the previous night.

Pvt. Warren H. Phillips, Little Rock, Ark, in an interview, gives a vivid account of his experience in the sinking of the ship: "A bunch of us were down in the hole playing cards while others were on deck. When the bomb struck we didn't know what was wrong. We got out life jackets and came up top. After we got up there we could see planes flying away. We started letting life rafts and boats down, but the captain told us to let them stay up. We had taken tarpaulins off the hatches to cover the rafts. These were orders we had received earlier in case the ship was sunk. After the ship started sinking I believe everybody got off but the captain and Watson.

"Some of us were floating on rafts, freight boxes, that had been aboard the ship. Others were swimming.

When asked whether he was afraid, Pvt. Phillips replied "I was more excited than frightened."

Fifteen Japanese bombers, escorted by fighter planes, were believed to have made the attack. American and allied planes arrived on the scene shortly after the bombing.

