

WHILE DURHAM SLEEPS

Durham Negro leaders should read the third annual report on "Equal Job Opportunities" of the President's Committee on Government Contracts submitted on October 1 to President Eisenhower. In it they might find some food for thought on several matters about which they are dragging their feet in a city that boasts so much progress in the field of Negro business and so little in job improvement. In Durham even the job of driving the city's garbage trucks is "for whites only," to say nothing about clerks, stenographers and office workers in the Democratic controlled city and county courthouse and city hall.

While Durham's Negro leaders sleep on this important question, the President's Committee on Government Contracts reports from July 1, 1955 to June 30, 1956, substantial progress "in extending equal economic opportunity for all persons employed or seeking work done under Government contracts," that is, the federal government. Just how long officials of Negro business hope to continue the upward climb in assets they have been enjoying with-

out joining in the forefront of struggle to open up new opportunities for the masses, upon whose backs all Negro businesses are riding, it is hard to say. As it now stands, sooner or later they are bound to reach the saturation point.

It might be that in Durham we have become so blinded by the glare of what little success we have had that we cannot see our own shortcomings. We cannot see that the Durham post office has only a token number of Negro employees. The city hall, the courthouse and the fire department have none. In Durham, Negroes are even denied the job of reading water meters. In spite of this, on November 6 thousands of Negro voters will trek to the polls and vote with canine loyalty the Democratic ticket.

So much for city and county government employment. Now let's take a look at employment in some of the smaller businesses and industries of Durham, for instance the soft drink bottling firms and beer distributors. While Durham Negro leaders sleep, several soft drink firms and beer distributors of the city have vowed that Negroes will never be employed beyond

the capacity of helpers on their trucks, however efficient, loyal and honest they may be.

As we see, it Negroes do not have to gobble down their throats the products of such firms to live. The example of equal employment opportunities for all persons has been set by the Eisenhower administration, and any firm that does not follow it should not be patronized by respectable Negro citizens. Not only should this be done in Durham, but in every city in the South.

The time has come for positive action in these matters, action without violence, anger, bitterness or hatred, but ACTION, so help us. Whatever the federal government is doing, there is also a job to be done by each and every self-respecting Negro, and that is to refuse to spend his money with firms who refuse to give him employment the same as other people. To do this most effectively calls for no boasting, loud talking, but quiet and positive action. The American tradition of equality must become a reality for all its people if we are save this country from its enemies.

defiance and revolt, in the end make a shambles of our constitutional liberties, not only those of Negroes, but those of their white brethren as well. It is tragic that the Justice Department has not faced up to the issue and labelled these neo-fascist groups subversive and proceeded to prosecute them with the zeal it has shown in prosecuting communists. For the White Citizens Councils and its neo-fascist brother groups constitute the real fifth column in America today. Their members are the ones who have infiltrated the fabric of our society, who hold down the judgeships, the police jobs, are city officials and respected citizens.

As we have pointed out, the danger that these groups pose to this country is not merely to Negroes. Negroes have lived dangerously since they got off the boat on these shores 200 years ago. We have not long had more than a spiritual and some well worn prayers to sustain us. The danger that these groups pose to this country is to the basic, constitutional liberties of every man. For if one part of the constitution can be defied, no part of its stands in respect. Already these groups have created a climate in which eight or nine southern states have defied the other forty. But even greater than the national danger is the one that faces world peace. Surely, the Western way of life is on trial now all over the world. Nations are choosing sides every day. And the West is banking heavily on its best argument, the United States, to carry the day. It would be worse than tragic if the West's cause were lost by default of its best argument.

THE KU KLUX KLAN MAY BE DEAD, BUT . . .

In a farmer's field in Cumberland County last Friday night, the ghost of the once awesome and feared Ku Klux Klan bestirred itself from its well-deserved grave to flex its muscles one more time. Compared with former Klan extravaganzas, often attended by hordes and starring respectable, "solid citizens," resplendent in flowing robes and hoods, Friday night's show was a pitiful performance. Gone were the big name stars, the upstanding citizens; gone was the eager, excited throng; missing was the huge cross, blazing defiantly in the night. In the place of the big stars were a few bad actors. Where there were once big crowds was a motley gathering of the curious. A small, economy sized cross flickered fitfully in the place of the huge standard which marked meetings of the Order. Despite feverish attempts of a few to revive the lifeless corpse, the Klan is apparently a dead organization. It has lost the hold it once held over the "solid citizen." It is no longer fashionable to be a Klansman.

But the program of the Klan is far from dead. Simply because fashions change and it may be no longer respectable for a man to don a bedsheet and prance around in the night, there is little indication that its program of racial and religious intolerance is also dead. For while the Klan does not exist as a potent organization, the Klan mentality still lives and thrives, and its program has been bequeathed to its heirs, the White Citizens Councils, the Patriots and allied organizations. It is in these neo-fascist groups that one can find today the former Klan stars to continue their program of

"solid citizen" now indulges his racial and religious hatred in this fraternity. In the place of the hood and the robe, he now wears a very respectable gray flannel suit. He and his brothers no longer prance the tobacco and cotton fields at night. They meet in well-lighted school buildings, churches and town halls. But the doctrine they are preaching is the same one thundered by the Klan. There is one notable exception; the respectable citizen in the gray flannel suit has given up flogging and intimidation by naked force to implement his program. He now resorts to inciting others to violence and to such legal nonsense as "state's rights," "interposing," and such illogical appeals as "purity of the race."

These heirs apparent to the Klan kingdom have been permitted to occupy the field in racial issues in the South simply because of inaction, or what has become in our time "moderation." There are the only white voices heard on the issues pertaining to race relations. The small but growing number of liberals who once spoke in the cause of justice and human decency have been frightened into silence or discouraged by lack of support from the governing officialdom, from the municipal to the federal level. Whenever a national leader has spoken out against the mounting intolerance, he has either been "trumped" by his own actions or shouted down by his compatriots of the South.

Just as the Klan grew into a lawless frankenstein which threatened not only the liberties of Negroes but also of whites, the White Citizens' Councils, etc. will, if allowed to continue their program of

WORKING FOR THE LARGER CAUSE

A wonderful display of unity was demonstrated here last week by the Durham Business and Professional Chain's observance of Trade Week. Durhamites were traded to a week of outstanding public interest programs, including a memorable address by the inspiring young Rev. Martin Luther King. From all reports, the many business units and individuals who are members of the organization pooled their efforts in a commendable fashion to make the event one of the most successful in recent years.

In addition to this evidence of internal cooperation, the organization demonstrated an ability to work together with

outside groups. For a number of years, the Chain and North Carolina College Homecoming planners have tried to combine their parade efforts. Despite some confusion which was attendant to this year's parade, we believe we saw in the parade the seeds of even greater community-college cooperation, a situation which is long overdue.

FACING THE ISSUE

By DR. A. H. GORDON



Eisenhower, Friend Of Talmadge!

The caption to this column this week may seem far-fetched, even of doubtful validity to the reader at first glance. Before I complete this brief discussion I think you may agree that we have something here. We base our implied assertion that President Eisenhower is a friend of Herman Talmadge, senator-elect from Georgia, on the premise that "he who is not against one is for him." We use the name Talmadge as representing all the die-hard reactionaries of the southern wing of the so-called Democratic party, people such as Eastland of Mississippi, Ellender of Louisiana, et al.

Here we propose, to explode the argument of those near-sighted leaders of our, those naive politicians of ebony hue, who contend that a vote for Stevenson is a vote for Eastland and Talmadge. The news for you gentlemen is that a vote for Eisenhower is also a vote for Eastland, Talmadge, Ellender, et al. You may recall that very recently Senator George of Ga., another one of the fraternity of the southern oligarchy, or slaveocracy, was counted by President Eisenhower as one of his best friends in promoting the President's so-called bipartisan foreign policy. You recall, gentlemen, that when George was defeated for the senatorial seat by Talmadge, the President helped save the old senator's face by appointing him to a job with much reward in the form of money and prestige but no opportunity for any real service to our republic.

Yes, perhaps the best friend freshman senator Talmadge will have when he enters the Senate and starts fighting against the implementation of the desegregation order of the U. S. Supreme Court will be President Eisenhower. Eisenhower is and will continue to be the best friend of "Talmadge" because he will continue to refuse to punish them for fighting the government of the United States. He will continue to let the southern rebels go on their merry way of rebellion against this country without raising a little finger of Federal authority and

power of the chief executive to hinder them in any way. In all this friendship with the rebels he will hide behind the fiction that desegregation must depend upon "a change of heart" of the people of our "wonderful, dear Southland." The refusal of the President to use the power and prestige of his office against the operations of these latter day rebels raises the question as to whose friend the President is. His words say he is a friend of the loyal citizens of the United States who believe that a decision of the Supreme Court is the law of the land which the executive department is required to enforce but his actions, or negatively, his inactions, show him to be a real good friend of the "Talmadges" who refuse to recognize the validity of a unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court. The Good Book says "ye cannot serve God and Mammon." This applies to the President in this situation.

This cowardice on the Part of our militaristic President is inexcusable since he continues to require, not request, our young men to offer themselves as a potential sacrifice on the altar of militarism which he and Dulles are using to say to the rest of the world "you must do as Uncle Sam thinks best for you and the rest of the world or else," and "else" means if you don't dance to our music we will blow your simple heads off. A really great President of a few years ago, Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president, was not a friend of the rebels of his day. He told them that you must obey the law of the land and not rebel against its authority or else all the power of the Federal Government will be used against you. The rebels of that day were thoroughly whipped. If the rebels of today are whipped it will not be by Eisenhower. We hope that the voters of the country may elect Stevenson and see whether he will DO anything or just talk about what should be done. Let us hope for the best.

Dr. A. H. Gordon

THE LINE CROSSER... MORE OFTEN THAN NOT

THE COLOR LINE



Spiritual Insight

"GO FORWARD"

By REVEREND HAROLD ROLAND
Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church



"Tell the people to go forward." Ex. 14:15.

God called to the faint hearted in the dark hour of the crisis to take heart and go forward. Egypt, with its burdens of slavery, is now left behind. God gave the people a great victory. God had delivered them from a cruel system of slavery. They prayed in agony and God had answered their prayers. Now they are marching on the path of freedom that was leading them to the Promised Land. And yet they now begin to falter, waver and doubt God and his leader.

Some would give up. Some would turn back. Look at them afraid of the demands and the responsibilities of the path of freedom. Some are unwilling to pay the price of freedom. Some of us now, like the Israelites of old, are afraid to walk in the new path of freedom and dignity which is opening up to us in this great moment. Thus, in the crisis when the way looks dark and enemy pursues, God says to Moses, "Tell The People To Go Forward."

however, calls for discipline, sacrifice, courage and faith in God. Some would share the privileges of freedom but they are afraid of the responsibilities of freedom.

Some would run away from the new, untried path of freedom with its demands. Some are afraid of the new responsibilities of freedom and would go back to Egypt. In this critical hour of transition in human and race relations some of us would go back to Egypt. Why? We are fearful of demands of

(Continued on Page Nine)

Registering And Voting In N. C.—IV.

Local and State Conventions

By Reverend S. F. DALY

The three Previous installments of this series on Registration and Voting in North Carolina, discussed Qualifications and Dates for Registering in North Carolina; Voting, Elections and Primaries; and Political Organization on the Precinct Level. This installment, Political Organization on the County, District and State Levels, concludes the series.

County Political Organization

The Precinct, it should be remembered, is the keystone and basic organization of politics. Immediately above it, in its expanding order, is the County Convention. The following headings and summaries, it is hoped, will succinctly but clearly delineate the structure of the County Democratic Convention. The Republican is essentially the same.

1. Time: The state Executive Committee meets in Raleigh on or before the 10th of March of even years and sets the time and day for the county conventions, usually on or about the first Saturday in May of even years, that is, election years.

2. Membership: The membership consists of one delegate or alternate from every precinct in the county, and elected in the precinct meeting, for every twenty-five votes cast by the precinct for Governor in the last election. (This precinct meeting for election of officers and delegates is held usually on or about the last Saturday in April of even years at the precinct polling place. The County Convention is usually the following Saturday, which in turn, is followed by the State Convention in Raleigh the next Saturday.)

2b. Plus the County Executive Committee which is composed of every precinct chairman in the county. Ahem, these are the "big wheels" in the County Conventions, and one of them is usually elected chairman of the

convention.

3. Officers: A chairman, first, second and third vice chairman and a secretary. Plus the County Executive Committee composed of the precinct chairmen of the county. The first vice or the chairman must be a woman.

Functions Of Conventions

Incidentally, since the delegates or alternates from the precincts often do not attend and the Executive Committee and officers do, the power usually resides in the Executive Committee and officers. Also, the power of delegates who do attend the convention is out of proportion to their number.

4. Functions: The functions of the County Conventions may be summed up as follows:

1. Executive Committee: To recommend to the State Democratic Executive Committee the Democratic members of the various county Boards of Elections.

To certify to the State Convention the delegates from the County Convention.

To appoint precinct Executive Committee or precinct delegates when any precinct fails to do so.

To transact any pertinent business not otherwise delegated nor inconsistent with the Democratic plan of organization.

2. The Convention itself has powers not otherwise designated nor inconsistent with the Democratic plan of organization; such as,

To approve or disapprove candidates for public office.

To act on requests or complaints of its members, from its precincts or from Democratic voters of its precincts.

Place For Complaints

There is no reason why where registrars have been unfair, Negroes who are already registered should not go to the precinct meetings, get themselves elected to the county convention and present documented complaint against these registrars both in the precinct meetings and in the county conventions. This procedure, were Negroes registered in those precincts and county conventions, would achieve far more results against these registrars than has been achieved against them through the courts. These are things our people could do for themselves. And it is surprising how much help would be offered "under the table," if used discreetly. No people can be helped much, indeed, no people are worth being helped until they, as far as in them lieth, are willing to underwrite their own risks and assume their own responsibilities in the commonwealth or life. This, to me, the Negro has not done.

"Two things our people must learn to do
If we would make our citizenship full and true,
Register and vote without abatement,
And participate in the precinct and county conventions."

The District Convention

On the basis of population, North Carolina qualifies for twelve U. S. Representatives. Accordingly, the one-hundred counties of the state are divided into twelve districts, called State Congressional Districts, each electing a representative to congress. This division forms the boundaries of our twelve district conventions.

The district conventions are a bit peculiar, in that no regular elections are held for them and they cannot meet within their respective districts until they have first met and organized in Raleigh.

1. Time: Earlier (about 10 a.m.) on the same day that the State Democratic Convention meets in Raleigh (usually about the Second Saturday in May of even years at noon) the delegates to the state convention meet according to districts. This is the organizational meeting of the respective district convention. From this meeting the members go to the state conven-

tion in the Raleigh auditorium at noon. Afterwards, the district conventions may function in their respective districts for the next two years.

2. Membership: The respective county conventions elect one delegate for each 150 Democratic votes cast in the last election for Governor by that county to go as state convention delegates. Meeting in Raleigh first by districts, they automatically become members of the district convention.

3. Function: The big job of the district conventions is to organize for the state convention that convenes at noon. They do by a lot of rapid-fire elections. Here are some of the elections to state convention positions that each of the twelve district conventions does:

1. One member to the committee on Resolutions and Platform. (important).
2. One member to the committee on Permanent Organization, Rules and Order of Business, which nominates the permanent president and secretary for the state convention.
3. One of the twelve vice presidents of the convention.
4. One district assistant secretary.
5. One member on the committee of Credentials and Appeals.
6. Nine men and nine women as members of the "State Executive Committee. (Very important).
7. Two members from each county for the Congressional, Judicial, and Solicitor District Executive Committees.

Machine Ready To Operate

With these elections over, the major business of the district conventions is over, and usually they then adjourn to meet in the state convention at noon. Beginning with the district conventions, the machine takes over, and everything is already cut, dried and well licked. Organization and strategy count

here. Two years planning has been transacted in less than two hours! "First-timers" will do well to look, listen, learn, vote; then go home and come back two years later with plans.

Back in the districts, the major work of the district convention officers is to nominate, two years later in the May primaries, candidates who will be successful in the ensuing November elections.

State Convention

State convention summarized: Just before twelve the district meetings dissolve and their delegates assemble at noon in the Raleigh Auditorium as the State Convention. Its major work is to approve what the district conventions and the state executive committee have already decided on, and to hear the "big gun." Voting is largely by county, through the county chairman, and the individual counts for little. It is here, as in the district meetings, the machine that counts. But it is worth attending, at least once.

Strangely enough, all that is done at the county, district and state conventions is predicated upon support by the precincts, and will mean little if the voters back home do not sustain in the precinct ballot box what was done at the conventions. And that's where you and the individual voters count.



What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?—(I Corinthians 6, 19.)

St. Paul reminds us that the Heavenly Father created us in His image, that He dwells within us as our souls.

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