

THE PRICE OF TOKEN REPRESENTATION

Negro leaders of Durham are putting much thought into the selection of a successor to R. N. Harris who announced several days ago that he would not be a candidate to succeed himself on the City Council. There are two reasons why the selection of a successor to Mr. Harris poses a most momentous problem to the Negro citizens of Durham. In the first place, Durham's first and only Negro councilman, a man of unusual ability and experience, has given the city a brand of service in his four years on the Council that is not easily matched. In the second place, the Council will have no other Negro member, which makes it unusually hard in that whoever is elected must attend every meeting in order to keep properly informed as to what is going on that might be of vital concern to his constituency as well as to the city as a whole.

We think, however, the time is not too far away—thanks to Mr. Harris' fine record on the Council—when it might be possible to elect a man to such an office from any ward on his ability and fitness without regard for his racial identity. It appears to us that it would be no more unusual for a capable Negro to be the councilman from a predominantly white ward than for white person to be the councilman from a predominantly Negro ward. Durham is beginning to become of age, and what yesterday seemed an impossibility on tomorrow may be only an every day occurrence.

Whatever happens Negro citizens must point toward the time when they will have more than token representation on city councils, county, state and national boards of importance. Such representation is entirely too exacting of one representative's time, energy and ability, and it is not in keeping

with the pattern of the national government — where each state has two senators, and several congressmen — our state government where each county has one or more representatives, depending on the population.

The same applies to appointive positions, especially by the governor. The custom is to appoint one Negro, or at most three, to important boards or committees on which more often as many as a hundred or more white persons are serving. The one or two Negroes are supposed to represent or speak for the more than one million Negro citizens of the state while the 50, 75, 100 or even more white people are spokesmen for the rest of the population which amounts to about three million. This, of course, makes the Negro representation way under proportion and most of all ineffective in a group that so vastly outnumbers them.

Such a condition is the reason Negro leaders are being forced to weigh with unusual care every prospective candidate to succeed Mr. Harris. So far as ability is concerned there are numerous members of the group in Durham who are qualified. The big question is will they have the time to attend every meeting of the council as was done by their predecessor. Whatever is said and done, a lone Negro member on the Council, even though coming from the Third Ward, must be concerned about and conversant with the problems of all the people. Likewise, he at the same time cannot escape the fact that being the only member of his race, he is to a large extent the representative of the entire Negro population of the city. It is the price that we must pay so long as only token representation is our lot.

OLD AND MODERN TECHNIQUES IN EDUCATION

Last week we came across a sixth-grade student in one of the public schools of Durham who knew absolutely nothing about just ordinary subtraction, to say nothing about multiplication and division. At first we thought the discovery was one of those rare cases that might turn up in any classroom in spite of how careful a teacher is in trying to get over to her pupils the fundamentals of education that are sometimes referred to as reading, writing and arithmetic. Upon investigation we discovered to our surprise that it is no unusual occurrence to find students as far advanced as the sixth grade who cannot do subtraction, multiplication and division.

Now we lay no claim to being experts in the field of education, certainly not the kind that is often referred to as modern methods and that is practiced in our schools today. We only know that the average high school and college graduate we come across in these days is no match, when it comes to spelling, punctuation and just plain grammar, with graduates of the old schools whose teachers had no such facilities and fine buildings as are found in a majority of our school systems today.

In talking with several teachers, some of whom have lived through and been exposed to both the old and modern teaching methods, we have been told that a majority of our public schools are putting their emphasis on such things as art, physical education and other courses that are not directly connected with the fundamentals of education. No longer are students taught the alphabet, the multiplication tables. No longer are they required to know parts of speech, analyze and diagram sentences and do many other things

required of their parents a quarter of a century ago. Little emphasis is put on spelling, punctuation and plain reading.

We are told that in many instances modern education methods, sometimes referred to as "progressive education," demand that a child advance with his class in spite of the fact that he might not have done the quality of work to justify promotion. When and if too many students are retained, the teacher AND NOT THE PUPILS are held responsible. Thus, often out of pure fear of criticism or fear of losing his or her job, a teacher will promote a child when there are all reasons for it to be retained.

Probably we have no professional right to stick our nose into the kind of work that from all evidence is being done in our average public school of today. But when graduates of such schools are hired on the basis of having finished high school or college and are paid perfectly good money in accordance, only for it to be discovered later that they are sadly lacking in the fundamentals of education, we feel that we have a right to squawk.

This newspaper happens to know where there are several business executives who would shout for joy if they knew where they could obtain secretarial and clerical help such as were turned out of our schools before the days of modern techniques in education. They long for the time when they will not have to check every letter, or other piece of work in detail for errors in spelling, punctuation and sentence structure. If someone will start a school that would teach such subjects and retain students until they had absorbed them, its graduates would be in a great demand and could name their own salaries.

WHAT HE FORGOT

"No sir," said Eustace Coleridge. "It's all wrong. What with the latest medical discoveries and the newest inventions, a man dies just through sheer carelessness. Not for me. I'm going to watch my step, and live forever." So—

He brushed his teeth twice daily with the right kind of toothpaste. He had a complete physical examination every three months. He always stayed inside when it rained. He stuck to his diet—with plenty of proteins and fresh vegetables. He had his tonsils taken out and traded in several worn-down glands. He played golf, but never more than eighteen holes at a time. He took ocean trips, but only when the weather was good. He never smok-

ed, drank or lost his temper. He wore arch preservers and white socks. He never worked under a strain or drove himself. He never worried.

The funeral of the late Eustace Coleridge will be held next Monday afternoon. He is survived by eighteen specialists, four health institutes, six gymnasiums and numerous manufacturers of antiseptic appliances and sanitary foods.

(He had forgotten about not driving too fast.)

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A. H. GORDON'S



Dr. Gordon

Facing The Issue HAS EISENHOWER PERJURED HIMSELF?

Ever since Eisenhower took the solemn oath twice in as many days to "execute faithfully," etc. and was officially inducted into the great office of President of the United States of America this writer has been wondering if he did not thereby perjure himself. At first I thought I would push this question out of mind as being, perhaps, impertinent coming from one in my position to or about one in such an exalted place. Then the idea came to me that, as a citizen of the United States, although an humble and "black" one, I, nevertheless, am one of Eisenhower's bosses. Also as a firm believer in democracy involving the theory that all men are equal, it does not seem presumptuous to ask whether a fellow citizen who has been promoted to the highest office is really fit for the obligation of this office.

All Of Constitution

The more I think about this question the more I seem inclined to believe that Eisenhower was not sincere, not really serious, when he swore to Defend the Constitution of the United States. I remember that this constitution includes the Fourteenth Amendment, not to mention the First and the Fifth, and I doubt seriously whether Eisenhower intended to try honestly and seriously to defend these parts of the constitution during his tenure of office. Yet, the oath he took does not obligate him to defend or, in other words, enforce the constitution but all else. Considering the glaring fact that Eisenhower has not even declared that he would even try to defend that recent interpretation of the Constitution which declares that segregated schools and buses are unconstitutional. In fact, Eisenhower has declared that he positively will not try to enforce the parts of the constitution on which these decisions are based.

During his first administration Eisenhower flagrantly repudiated his oath in connection with these amendments but he had, perhaps, the excuse that when he took the oath, the Constitution was not interpreted to mean that segregation was illegal, especially in reference to public schools. However, he does not have even that flimsy excuse now.

Not Sincere

A dictionary which lies open before me as I write defines the word perjure: "to render (oneself) guilty of swearing falsely, or of willfully making a false statement under oath or solemn affirmation"...if one applies Eisenhower's own slogan of "Deeds not Words" as proof of whether he was sincere in promising to defend desegregation through the power and prestige of his office, he is, we believe, found guilty of perjury in this connection. The only reason I can give that would make him free of this charge is that he was not a witness in a court room. To add to his perjury religious hypocrisy, Eisenhower, added a statement which George Washington added to the original oath: "So Help Me God". We do not believe, on the basis of his actions so far, that Eisenhower was sincere in asking God to help him enforce the desegregation of schools in the South.

If the actions, deeds not words", of Eisenhower prove in the months ahead that he really did perjure himself in taking the oath to defend the Constitution, the whole constitution, including all its amendments, our studied opinion is that he should be impeached. A special election should be called and a man put in office, Democrat or Republican, who has the "intentional fortitude" and the sincere belief in democracy which will compel him to Defend the Constitution of the United States in all its parts. (Please turn to page 2)

"THEY'RE ENTITLED TO PROTECTION FROM MOB RULE, MR. PRESIDENT"



Spiritual Insight

"OPEN MY EYES"

By REVEREND HAROLD BOLAND
Pastor, Mount Giload Baptist Church

"OPEN MY EYES" "What do you want me to do for you? Lord let me receive my sight." Luke 18:41

We all need to pray with the blind man on the wayside. "Lord let me receive my sight..." Yes, for we all are lost in the darkness of some blindness. In some respect we all need our eyes opened. We are blind to the light of some essential, needed truth that would make life richer and fuller. The man in this story was made able for a fuller life when his blinded eyes had been opened. We too would have a fuller life if we could escape our blindness. We are blind to our highest good. We are blinded to God's way of blessedness as revealed in Christ Jesus our Savior.

A human being must recognize his blindness before his eyes can be opened. Pride and selfishness keep us from recognizing our blindness. You must want to escape the terrible darkness of your blindness. The question comes to

us all as it did to the blind man of old... "WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?" And the wise human being answers with blind Bartemus... "LORD LET ME RECEIVE MY SIGHT..."

The light of God's spiritual truth will open our eyes and banish our darkness. God in Christ has come to open our eyes. He has come to restore us from the primary source of human darkness and blindness—SIN AND EVIL. Evil blinds us to the wisdom of goodness. Why is evil so falsely glamorous and fascinating to us human beings in this age of mass destruction? It blinds us. It pulls a smoke screen over our eyes—it leaves us in the prison cell of moral and spiritual darkness. The spiritual truth in Christ Jesus can open our eyes to the spiritual and moral beauty of God's way of joy and blessedness. Let us ask the savior to open our eyes... "Lord let me receive my sight..."

Pride is a dangerous source of human blindness. It has been a human problem since it wrecked Adam and Eve in the Garden. We all are blinded by pride. All around us we see the agonizing effects of pride's blindness. It has wrecked individuals, homes, institutions, races and nations. The blindness of pride is the heart of the world's problems in this historic hour of crisis facing us humans. It is at the heart of the struggle to build the new and much needed pattern of decent race and human relations. Thus, each needs to join the prayer of Blind Bartemus. "Lord let me receive my sight..." Yes the blindness of pride threatens humankind.

We need to be healed of the perilous blindness of pride that we may be saved from the pitfalls of our times. Thus, let us be honest within ourselves and ask the Savior to open our eyes that we may see in time the wisdom of his way of blessedness.

By Robert Spivack

Watch on the Potomac



Mr. Spivack

THE BIG SQUEEZE

Do you drive a car? If you do, then you know that the price of gasoline has gone up one cent per gallon in most parts of the country. But do you know why it has gone up?

If one were to believe the press releases of the big oil companies, it's because of the Middle-East crisis. But a little checking by some inquisitive congressmen, including Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon and Rep. Charles Vanik of Ohio, discloses some information that would indicate there's more to it than meets the eye. This is what they have found: FACT NO. 1—There is no oil shortage in this country, there is a surplus.

FACT NO. 2—In Texas, where 45 per cent of U.S. oil comes from, the regulating agencies have ordered a cutback in the production of oil for February, 1957.

The pieces in the jig-saw puzzle all begin to fit together when one translates into dollars and cents just how much a one cent per gallon increase in the cost of gasoline (plus a two and one half cent boost in fuel oil) nets the international oil cartel.

It comes out in the next twelve months to \$658,470,000. That's a neat profit by anyone's calculations. By coincidence it almost equals the amount the oil companies would have made last year if the President had not vetoed the "natural gas" bill. He vetoed it, the President said, because of the oil companies' "arrogant lobby-

ing". To reap this year's quick profit, no lobbying was necessary. In fact no legislation was necessary. The federal government, at the very moment the President is speaking out against increases in the cost of living, is standing idly with no serious action contemplated to call a halt to this deal.

THE SMELL OF OIL

It's no secret that the oil companies have tremendous influence in Congress. They have demonstrated time and again their ability to get what they want when they want it.

Congressman Vanik, a Cleveland Democrat, who also happens to be a specialist in oil matters, thinks the Administration is keeping hands off in order to repay the oil companies for their huge campaign contributions. He has called it a "built-in bribe" to the industry.

"It's a down payment to the oil interests," Vanik said, "to make sure they use their influence in Congress to assure passage of the administration's budget."

Sen. Morse has called it a "paste in the eye" for the U.S. consumer.

Oddly enough not all the oil companies are happy about it, either. It was the Humble Oil and Refining Co. of Texas, a subsidiary of Standard of New Jersey, which started the ball rolling.

to buy the smaller European cars, like the British Morris Minor or the Volkswagen, which get anywhere from 30 to 40 miles to a gallon of gas.

The Cleveland, Ohio Gasoline Dealers Assn. has called it a "gouge in the pocket-books" that was totally unwarranted, even if we are shipping surplus oil to Western Europe. A top officer in that association disclosed that Standard of Ohio circulated a private letter to its dealers only three weeks ago, disclosing an oil surplus of 7 billion gallons in that state alone.

EMBARRASSING QUESTION

The administration is acutely embarrassed by the "invitation" extended Jan. 11 by Negro ministers in Montgomery, Ala., for the President to come South and speak out against efforts to flout the Supreme Court integration decisions.

This exchange took place at the last White House press conference:

REPORTERS—"Earlier this month the Negro leaders of Montgomery, Ala., appealed to you to come South and speak out against the growing violence of the pro-segregationists there. Have you responded to that appeal?"

THE PRESIDENT

"The message came in and, I believe that—Did Gov. Adams make a—(conferring with Mr. Hagerty)—Yes, Gov. Adams merely stated that the point had been turned over to the Dept. of Justice for study and advice to me."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

There seems to be a wave of propaganda sweeping the country, aiming to discredit Mr. Eisenhower's interest in the Negroes' struggle for first-class citizenship. One reads and hears such slogans as: "Throwing bread at the Hungarians and bombs at the Negroes", "They (the Negroes) must think that they are Hungarians" in asking for consideration from the President, etc., etc. It is strange indeed, that such contemptuous terms would be hurled at the President in the face of the fact that under his Administration more substantial progress in the area of civil rights has been made in four years than in all the years since the enactment of the 14th Amendment.

The President has made it crystal clear that he intends to crusade against second-class citizenship, not only in America but through out the world. Those who have not heard this from his own lips need only to read his civil rights proposals to Congress. And those who do not take time to read need only to look about themselves and see the already tangible results of this great crusade.

It is regrettable that the President's interest in the wholesale slaughtering of the freedom-seeking Hungarians, the Middle East Crisis, and the drought-stricken areas of our country is interpreted, by any one, to mean that he is not interested in the welfare of the Negroes in the South. (A strange sort of sectional isolationism in the midst of a rapidly growing world-mindedness.) By comparison, the struggle and sufferings of either the Hungarians or the farmers in the drought-stricken areas, would make the struggle and sufferings of the Negro in the South seem less significant than they really are. But, to keep the records straight, the President did send the Vice President into the South and other parts of the country, as head of a committee, to study and report on the unjust treatment of the Negro, long before sending him to study and report on the conditions of the Hungarians.

These recent "attacks" against the President to "speak out against the outbreaks of violence in the South" sound like soldiers on the firing line telling the general how to win the war. The President has long since spoken out, in his own way, in no uncertain terms. It is the effectiveness of his strategy that has resulted in these sporadic outbursts of violence. They merely represent the pains of the birth of freedom for the Negro from the womb of white supremacy. And, the operations of the Department of Justice and the federal courts will be far more effective and lasting in soothing these pains than the audible voice of the President.

And suppose the Vice President were sent into the South to take note of the progress being made in this crusade against segregation. What would be his report? He would probably find a half dozen or more situations where integration is proceeding without incident to every one where there are acts of violence. He would find the Negro as a whole enjoying a greater degree of prosperity and freedom than ever before in the history of the nation. And to our lasting shame, he would find Negroes spending by far more money to support segregated places of amusement than they are spending to support the NAACP and other agencies working to break down segregation.

And so, why all of this criticism of the Administration, with so much to be done on our part, and yet with the signs of victory already clearly written across the sky? Is it propaganda, or grandstand play?

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Be glad in the Lord; and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart. — (Psalm 32, 11.)

Living a righteous life, being filled with God's love and good which are ours for the seeking and accepting, is not a grim, solemn, sour experience. It is the only real and lasting happiness, something of gladness and joy that is kindly, unselfish, eagerly shared with others.

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