

A Source of Progressive Leadership

In an editorial of Sunday, February 16, captioned "Voting in Georgia," the Atlanta Constitution of Atlanta, Georgia, probably the South's leading and most influential daily newspaper, points to some interesting and pertinent side glances at the voter registration campaign being waged in this section of the nation. The editorial is reprinted in its entirety elsewhere on this page and we trust will be read thoughtfully by all readers.

It is indeed refreshing to read or listen to a new voice from a responsible southern source that encourages acceptance rather than condemnation of Negro voting in the South or that at least treats on the subject as a natural and expected development. By its progressive editorial policy, on the South's present most perplexing question, the Atlanta Constitution is doing a service in leadership for this area that cannot be measured in terms

of dollars and cents. The South is truly indebted to such leadership without which there would be little, if any, industrial progress and pure social stagnation.

As foolish as it may seem now North Carolina, which boasts of its progressive attitude on racial questions, may awaken in the very near future to discover that it has surrendered its supposedly first place to the state of Georgia that, under the influence of the Atlanta Constitution, is moving at a more rapid pace in the direction of equal opportunity for all its people without respect to race, creed or color.

Likewise, such states as Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama may awaken ere it is too late to discover that, in the words of the late Booker T. Washington, you can't hold another fellow in the ditch unless you stay in there with him.

The Efforts to Halt Street Demonstrations

Efforts on the part of Capus Wayne, Governor Sanford's chief racial adviser, to halt street demonstrations are to be expected. Mr. Wayne is highly respected by Negro citizens of North Carolina as well as its white citizens. We think, however, that along with his invitation to Negro leaders of CORE, NAACP and others in the forefront of the civil rights struggle, Mr. Wayne should include leaders of the Ku Klux Klan, the Citizens' Council organization and various other groups of whites who are determined that Negroes will never be accorded their full rights as citizens.

The street demonstrations were resorted to after every other peaceful means had failed to get the message over to leading white people that Negroes were tired of being kicked in the teeth on account of the color of their skin. For nine long years after the U.S. Supreme Court public school decision of 1954, Negroes implored, begged and pleaded to no avail for compliance. Instead, about all they got were empty promises, evasions and criticism.

The past record of North Carolina's non-compliance with orders from the U.S. Supreme Court will, therefore, raise grave doubt in the minds of all Negroes of this state that

the governor or his chief racial adviser is in position to deliver when it comes to bargaining on the matter of civil rights for Negroes. The prevailing feeling of every intelligent Negro is to cooperate with all state officials in their efforts to preserve the peace and dignity of North Carolina. We think, however, that there is likewise to be expected some bearing, forbearing and a change of attitude on the part of those who oppose Negroes being accorded their full citizenship.

We therefore caution against any agreement being made that will deny Negroes of this state or any other state the right to peacefully seek their rights as citizens in this country. We would remind the leaders of CORE, NAACP and others, that the progress made thus far in the direction of Negroes obtaining their rights, has not been achieved through voluntary action on the part of state officials of North Carolina but by dedicated Negroes who have been willing to sacrifice time, money, go to jail, suffer beatings and even place their lives on the altar. To enter into any agreement now that is not forthright is to break faith with such martyrs as Emmet Till, Medgar Evers and others of the race who have given their lives for the cause.

No Time For Rejoicing About the Civil Rights Bill

Passage of the civil rights bill by the House of Representatives in its present form is fine so far as it goes. We would remind our readers, however, that the bill does not become law until it is passed by the Senate and signed by the president. This being the case we will not join those who are rejoicing at the action of the lower house. Having observed Congress in action for nearly forty years, we are satisfied that southern senators, including both from North Carolina, will be in there doing everything within their power to either kill the legislation entirely, or pull all of the teeth out of it.

Frankly, we are of the opinion that President Johnson is honest in saying that he desires the passage of a bill that is sufficient to guarantee all American citizens their rights in this country. We are satisfied, however, before the bill becomes law in any form that the southerners in the Senate will give an ac-

count of themselves in their efforts to oppose it. President Johnson, therefore, may find before it is all over that his former running mates in Congress have deserted him in one of the most important moments of American history.

In the meantime, we would urge Negro citizens to continue their efforts at increasing their voting strength. Crying, complaining and criticizing southern opponents of the bill will do absolutely no good. The language best understood by all politicians is that of ballots and more ballots. Once the Negro establishes himself as an important political force in the South the picture with regards to the civil rights bill and all other legislation favorable to him will change. Every Negro who is not registered should be looked on with contempt by all citizens who wish to see America truly the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Christian Church A Two-Way Street

We salute the members of the Calvary United Presbyterian Church of Asheville in not allowing race to enter the selection of a minister. Too long the church has lagged behind in pointing the way instead of leading the way to interracial goodwill and brotherhood. Certainly a Negro church which would refuse to call a white minister for pastor solely on account of his race is just as un-Christian as a white church that will not accept a Negro as a member.

Frankly we look on the average white Christian church, clinging to its "white only" philosophy, with righteous indignation, if not contempt. The same goes for the so-called YMCA, YWCA and the Salvation Army organizations in the South all of which are still bowing before the South's god of segregation and race hatred.

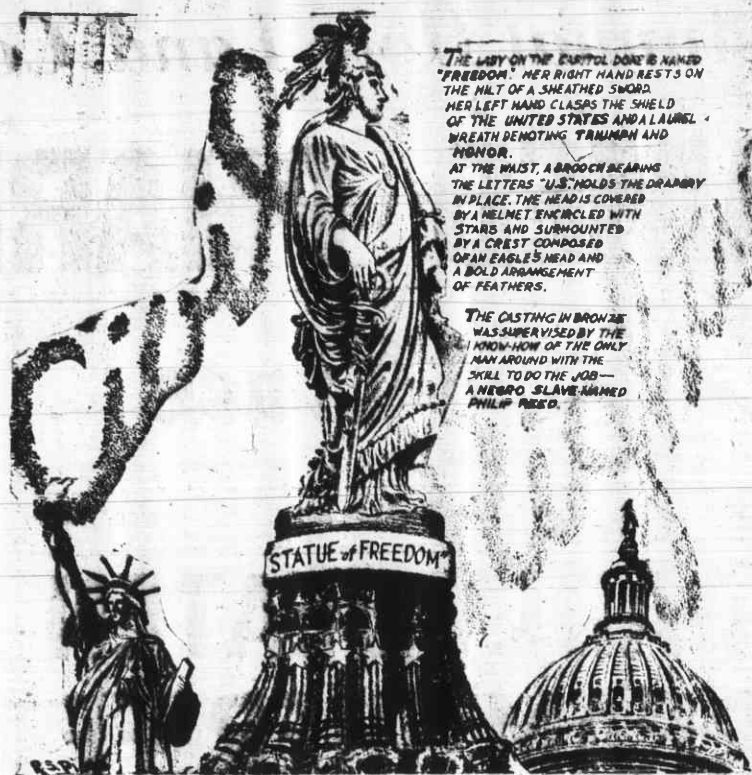
When such Christian organizations are measured by the yardstick of Christian brotherhood they are more damnable than the Ku Klux Klan, the Citizens Councils and other Negro hating organizations. Hiding behind their religious gowns, long prayers, hymns of praise and their solemn assemblies they continue to generate the deadly poison of race hatred in the name of Jesus.

Real Christianity is a two-way street traveled by men of all races, creeds and colors. God is no respecter of persons and when man acts or lives otherwise he is destroying rather than building goodwill and brotherhood among men. The Asheville church is to be commended and above all the white minister who accepted the call is to be commended. Both are traveling the highway of truth and by so doing are pointing to a new day of peace among those of the human family.

ROUND-TO-BE-SUCCESSFUL young men are so rare that everybody does his best to make them succeed.

IF THE DRAMATIC CRITICS paid money out of their own pockets to see shows and if literary critics dipped into their tobacco money for books, the public would get the low-down on a lot of stuff.

AMERICA THE INCREDIBLE



SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

REV. HAROLD ROLAND

Man Represents the Most Prized Creation of Our Heavenly Father

"We found brethren and carried with them." Acts 28:14.

Man is the masterpiece of God's creation. People, therefore, represent the most important thing in God's creation. Men through the ages have been tempted to forget this great truth of the creation. It is unfortunate when we forget this great basic truth. Biblically speaking, people are important for they are made in the image and likeness of the eternal God. And this stamp of Divinity makes human beings important. Some would forget and give place, power, money and other fading worldly possessions the supreme place in life. But we should ever remember the supreme importance of people in the Divine scheme of things.

People, therefore, should not be misused. We remember some of the violent, bloody struggles of labor in its rise to a place of dignity and importance in our nation. Ruthless profit seekers who laborers down in the streets as

was the case in Homestead, Pa. some sixty years ago. The greedy profit seekers thought about nothing but their big profits consequently, they could misuse an abuse labor on account of its just aspirations. People are important and should be treated with justice and fair play. Let us remember that people represent the ultimate value in the creation. Consequently, people should not be misused and abused. Even in the Church we can get so deeply involved in organizational red tape that we forget the primary importance of people in God's plan as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christ gave human beings a place of supremacy. There was the social outcast at the well that he raised again to a place of dignity and importance in the community. One of the hated tax collectors wrote the fullest of the Gospel records—the Book of Matthew. Jesus found Mary Magdalene who had been possessed with seven devils and healed and restored her to a

place of respectability in the community. With Christ let us never forget the supreme importance of people. Why? They are precious in the sight of the God who gave His Son to redeem a lost world.

The great world revolutions going on in our times are recognizing the importance of people. The downtrodden, the oppressed and abused masses are given a new sense of dignity and importance in keeping with the teachings of Jesus. Jesus says each human being is important. Yes it is the Biblical concept of the dignity of man that is triumphing. The Bible has been printed in more than a thousand dialects and languages. And the word of God is bearing fruits in a new importance of the masses of men throughout the world. God said His word would not be in vain. People are important for they have the stamp of Divinity and are just a little lower than God and the Angels.

Know The Negro

By ALFRED DUCKET

Tampa, Florida—Soaking up sun in this gorgeous, broad-avenued, tree-lined gay city, one is struck by the irony of the paradox of the race relations situation in the South. I am here with fellow-columnist Jackie Robinson who is combining a golfing vacation with some projects on which we are working, just before he plunges full strength into the political wars, carrying the standard of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

We are living in a dream of a hotel-motel. The International Inn, which is one of Tampa's integrated establishments. We are learning much about the ongoing and ever-progressing struggle for racial justice here from two of the dedicated leaders most responsible for winning the relentless battle. They are C. Blythe Andrews, Jr., crusading editor-publisher of the successful Florida Sentinel Bulletin and Robert W. Saunders, lifelong Field Secretary for the NAACP in this community.

The third day we were here was a city-wide holiday, a fun day which is observed here annually. This day is dedicated to the memory of a roguish and bold pirate, Jose Gaspar. In days of yore, Gaspar, operating from the Caribbean area, systematically and ruthlessly invaded Tampa with his crews of blood-thirsty pirates, took over the city and ransacked Tampa in order to fill up his coffers with gold. The swash-

buckling pirate maintained a harem here in Tampa. Every year, about this time, a wealthy and powerful group of business men, bands together as the Gasparilla organization, costumes itself as pirates, stages a mock invasion of the Tampa Bay and the entire city, swarms throughout the community, fired with joy juice and firing blanks. So much a part of the city's tradition has this become that schools are closed and the city administration and the United States Navy join in the fun making. In the afternoon, a spectacular parade is held, following the brilliant water show of mock invasion of the bay.

Floats, resembling in miniature California's Parade of Roses, carry unique displays and beautiful girls and advertise the wares and services of the city's industry. In years gone by, the considerable Negro population of Tampa has, of course, been among the hundreds of thousands who turn out, lining the city's downtown area to laugh at the clowns, pat their feet to the sound of marching bands and to applaud the drum majorettes and the rank after rank of marchers. And, in years gone by, this fun parade has been lively-while.

This year, community leaders like Blythe and Bob accomplished the first step in changing this. At the head of the line of march was a Negro band which did as creditable

a job as any of the other participants.

I went to the parade and enjoyed it immensely. I'll remember all the color, the splendid showmanship, the carnival air which pervaded the city and delighted the 800,000 persons who turned out to be a part of it.

I'll also remember the young Negro mother with her boy tottler on her shoulder. She had come to the parade a few minutes after it had begun and had missed the Negro band. She tapped me on the arm anxiously: "Where are they?" she asked. "Where is the colored band?"

I assured her that they had been there and done their bit. This relieved, somewhat, the worried frown on her face. But not altogether. I knew what the frown had meant. It was a symbol of the frustration of my people in America. The entire Negro community had been alerted and were delighted to learn that there would finally be a Negro band in this parade. That frown signified for me all the black men and women whom the American parade has by-passed, all the broken promises which have been as loud and as empty as the blank cartridge pistols fired by the merry-making admirers of Jose Gaspar.

The frown was not as deep after this young young Negro mother learned that one token promise had been kept. Yet, I knew she was wishing there

What Other Editors are Saying

VOTING IN GEORGIA

Almost overlooked during more dramatic action in Congress and on some sidewalks, Negro voter registration in the South has proceeded at an impressive pace.

Some parts of the region continue to successfully prevent Negro registration, and the gains in those areas are very small. But elsewhere there is a different story.

The Atlanta-based Voter Education Project now reports that during a 21 month period ended Dec. 31 the organizations cooperating with its registration program added 327,588 names to voter lists in 11 Southern states. Most of these are Negroes.

In Georgia 46,347 people were registered under the project's auspices. That brought Negro registration in Georgia to almost 222,000—15.7 per cent of Georgia's total registration.

In five other Southern states the percentage of age-eligible

Negroes who are registered is higher than in Georgia. But the day obviously is passing when Georgia can be correctly accused of depriving Negroes of the right to vote.

In no other Southern state is the Negro registration as high a percentage of the total.

We may see from this latest report that those portions of the civil rights bill designed to speed the end of voter discrimination would be much less applicable in Georgia than in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. In those states, as a whole, the most formidable barriers remain when a Negro seeks to register.

Georgia will have come a long way when the last of its local obstacles are gone and voter registration—though limited by a reasonable literacy requirement fairly applied—is not limited by race.

The Atlanta Journal and Atlanta Constitution

Heroes of Emancipation

WILLIAM STILL

William Still was born free in the State of New Jersey about 1821. His father was an ex-slave who had purchased his freedom. However, Still's mother was a fugitive who had escaped from slavery in Maryland with her elder child and was reunited with her husband in New Jersey, where William the youngest of eighteen children, was born.

As a child William worked on a farm in New Jersey until about 1844 when he went to Philadelphia and began work as a clerk for the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society. It was during this time that he became corresponding secretary of the Philadelphia Branch of the Underground Railroad. Still maintained a continuing record of the experiences of all the fugitives who came to the city of Philadelphia. In addition to his activities as corresponding secretary, he also served as an agent for other Abolitionist groups, including the American Anti-Slavery Society. Eventually, Still became the principal conductor of the

Underground Railroad in the State of Pennsylvania.

One particularly dramatic episode in which Still participated involved Henry "Box" Brown. It is said that Brown enlisted the aid of a sympathetic white merchant in Richmond, Virginia, who nailed him in a box which contained biscuits and water and shipped the box via the Adams Express Company Lines to Still in Philadelphia. Still opened the box and found Brown unharmed after the rugged two-day journey by steamboat, wagon and rail.

In 1867 Still led a successful campaign against segregated street cars in Philadelphia. In 1871 he assembled records on the fugitive slaves which he had been maintaining, and published them under the title of "Underground Railroad." This became an outstanding reference work for both black and white leaders.

After the Civil War, Still devoted his life to fighting racial discrimination and to welfare work among Negroes. He died in 1902 at the age of 81.



Just a few nights back, Rae and I found a really marvelous way of celebrating our eighteenth anniversary. Along with our dear friends Marian and Arthur Logan, we spent an evening at the American Hotel's Royal Bandbox where Ella Fitzgerald was holding court.

I use the phrase "holding court" deliberately because, if there is any such thing as genuine royalty in show business, Ella is it. Rachel and I along with the Logans agreed that it was a great evening. For one solid hour, this fantastic artist held the entire room spell-bound. I can hardly find words adequate to describe her performance. Really, in order to know what I mean, you would have to catch it yourself. All of us had known, for many years that Ella fits fully that extravagant show business description: "the greatest." But, if it is possible, the "greatest" has become even greater.

With all the infectious charm and that incredibly versatile talent which she has had for years, it seemed to us that this was a new Ella, with new and deeper dimensions. Some of that lovable shyness seems to be gone and, in its place, there seems to be a kind of pixie mischief. Ella's personality, always very warm, comes over in such a tremendous way that you just can't resist loving her.

It was delightful to note the way she and Roy Eldridge and his fine quartet carried on a joyous competition to see if to see which one could outdo the other. Yet, it was a harmonious, "working together" kind of show which vitified in the very best to the audience.

Talking with Ella, after the

show, one sensed that she was seeking approval for what she had done; that she wanted to be certain that she had pleased and given her best; that she wanted to know what our compliments and praise were sincere, not the routine thing which people go backstage to say.

What a great human interest story the saga of Ella Fitzgerald.

She came right out of Harlem, a natural, unspoiled girl, to begin her climb to fame as an amateur on the Apollo Theatre's Wednesday night amateur hours. She rode to glory with the old Chick Webb orchestra. Then she struck out on her own. Today, virtually every artist of consequence in her field, will tell you without hesitation that she rates at the very top. To make the story even more glorious, she hasn't changed in her attitude toward people, in her compassion and in her naturalness. Think in spite of a life which has been sad at times. Remember too, that there has never been one breath of scandal about her from any reputable source or from any source at all, so far as I know.

Leaving the Bandbox, I felt I hadn't said enough to Ella to thank her for a great experience and a rich evening.

I don't think the world has said enough to her. How tragic that this undeniably superior talent, acclaimed as it is, is not presented more often from the screens of our television and our moving pictures. When will lustre and good taste become the order of the day, not only at lunch counters and ballot

See ROBINSON, 6A

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