

More About Bankers Fire and Casualty Co.

This newspaper does not intend to be moved from where we stand about the sale of Bankers Fire and Casualty Company of this city to the Magnadyn Financial Corporation of St. Petersburg, Florida. As we indicated in our editorial of last week we will not stand by and see this terrifying tragedy imposed upon the race by those who should be exerting every effort within their power to save and preserve the corporation for our future generations. We look upon the whole scheme with the same horror we would view one bent on committing suicide by placing a revolver to his own head and pulling the trigger in an effort to blow out his own brains.

We again call upon every Negro of intelligence to come with us as we continue our stroll through the proverbial graveyard of Durham where, as we mentioned last week, are buried the remains of many of this city's once proud and flourishing Negro corporations. One we did not mention in our last week's editorial was Southern Fidelity Mutual Insurance Company.

Southern Fidelity, and Bankers Fire Insurance and Casualty Company, were organized in 1921 and 1923, respectively, by sincere, dedicated men whose purpose was to build a future for their race. Many of them had never seen inside a college or university except when they went there, as the late beloved and respected C. C. Spaulding often humorously remarked, "to deliver a commencement address, attend a board of trustees meeting," or otherwise.

Such men looked to the day when

our corporations would be entrusted into the hands of our posterity, who by virtue of their having had college and university training in the fields of business, would carry them on to higher heights.

Added to the name of C. C. Spaulding, Sr., are those of the late John Merrick, John Avery, J. E. Shepard, R. L. McDougald, George Cox, Sr., W. D. Hill, W. G. Pearson, L. W. Wilhoite and many others who have left the challenge and cry out from the past to those of the present generation, "Boys don't let us down."

We don't believe we can't believe and we will not believe that this awesome act is unavoidable. It is our feeling that if additional capital is needed and the proper leadership is provided, Bankers Fire Insurance and Casualty Company can be saved for the race and its future generations. Certainly if the Magnadyn Financial Corporation, the proposed purchasers of Bankers Fire, is willing to raise a million dollars to purchase a company, now owned and operated by Negroes, who are primarily its customers and are certain to no longer feel it their bounden duty to patronize the company because of the change of ownership into white hands, it stands to reason that another way out of the difficulty facing Bankers Fire and Casualty can be found.

So, we call upon those into whose keeping the future of Bankers Fire and Casualty now rests to not betray the sacred trust of our forebears. We call upon them to keep the faith, to stand up like men and save the company for our posterity.

Hunger Victims In Land Of Plenty

\$22-MILLION TO AID THE HUNGRY IS RETURNED TO TREASURY UNUSED.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 4-25-68

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT IT HAD MONEY AND FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE BUT THE BUREAUCRATIC CONFLICTS WITH COUNTY OFFICIALS OFTEN BLOCKED THE DISTRIBUTION MACHINERY. THE REPORT SAID THAT 10 MILLION WAS PROBABLY A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS SUFFERING FROM A SHORTAGE OF FOOD AND THAT THE SHORTAGE WAS ACUTE IN 256 COUNTIES.



A Short Letter To My Dearest Friend Martin Luther King Jr.

Delivered By Dr. Ralph David Abernathy Sunday, April 7, 1968

To My Dearest Friend Martin Luther King
In a City called Heaven:
Martin, I miss you, and it has just been a few days. I thought I would write you a short letter. It is probably more for my good than it's for yours. I hope it will not be too long before you read it. In heaven I know you have so much to do, so many people to see, and I know many of them have already been looking and waiting for you. It wouldn't be a surprise to me, Martin, if God didn't have a special affair just to introduce his special activist black son to so many others like you that have gone on ahead.

But look up those black friends and talk to the ones you and I have talked about and the ones that you and I led and the ones who so gallantly followed our leadership.

Say thanks to those prophets we quoted from all over America and everywhere else that they asked for us. Give a special word from me to Peter, the man who was once said but Jesus made him a rock;

give my warmest felicitations to my favorite apostle John who loved my Master so much until he stood with his mother at the foot of the Cross; pass my greetings on to Isaiah who had the prophetic vision to see the coming of a Savior whose name would be wonderful, a mighty Counselor, an ever-lasting father and a Prince of Peace; stop by and find Ghandi, the man who inspired us so much in our struggle to free black people through the philosophy and techniques of non-violence.

Look up Bartholomew, for some strange reason I always liked him. But above all I want you to see Jesus, go to the throne and tell how thankful we are. Yes, go see Jesus and tell him about us down here—all of us and all of our families—and how we have sustained ourselves in the many battles all our lives, tell him how much we love him. Tell him how his name is music in our ears. Tell him how at his name our knees will forever bow and our tongues

will always confess. Tell him that we follow not only his words but we follow his life.

Then, Martin, go from the throne and find Jimmy Lee Jackson, Medgar Evers, William Moore, Jimmy Lee, Viola Liuzzo, Johnathan Daniels, James Reeb, Swerner, Goodman and Chaney. And then, Martin, find Frederick Douglass, Nat Turner and Marcus Garvey. And don't forget Malcolm. Look for Malcolm! Remember, our God is a loving God. He understands things we don't think he does. The four children of Birmingham and all who have died across Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and in Chicago, New York, and in all other places where men have died for the liberty and justice of other men. Martin, it may seem like a big order, but if you find one of them he will know where the rest of them are. I know they have founded the grand international company of freedom fighters and can't wait to introduce you and talk over the final hours.

Inadequate Voting Facilities

We extend our thanks and congratulations on behalf of the Negro citizens of Durham to the voters at the precincts of Hillside School, Burton School, W. G. Pearson Elementary School, Whitted School and several other precincts, who exhibited such an unusual amount of patience, endurance and forbearance in the Primary held here last Saturday, May 4. Due to lack of sufficient help and a lack of sufficient booths, many persons were forced to remain at their voting precincts until as late as 11:00 p.m. in order to vote.

The situation obtaining at Hillside and Burton School precincts was so very bad that many who wanted to vote, but did not have time to wait for the long line of persons in front of them, left and did not get a chance to cast their ballots. Many of those who did remain were unable to vote at the Hillside and Burton School precincts until as late as 11:00 p.m. or over five hours after the polls had closed.

It, therefore, is our sincere hope that city officials will take due diligence and precaution in providing

additional help and voting machines, at precincts, where they are so badly needed, in order that such a condition as that which obtained last Saturday will not occur again. While it is our feeling that the solution for the Burton School Precinct is the addition of more voting machines and more persons to its staff, we are of the opinion that in the case of the Hillside Precinct, where four machines were in use, along with several helpers for each, that the precinct has outgrown its present facilities and personnel and therefore should be split.

If such is considered by election officials, we would like to suggest that a voting precinct be set up at Fayetteville Street Elementary School. Such a move on the part of the Board of Elections would afford the relief now so badly needed at Hillside, Burton and the W. G. Pearson precincts and should be provided in time for the General Election in November, if not in the time for the run-off primary when voting is not expected to be as heavy as it was in the Primary of May 4, and as it is certain to be in the General Election in November.

Negro Candidates of the May 4th Primary

In spite of the apparent large number of Negro citizens who exercised their right to vote in the Primary on May 4 we would like to urge a continuance of the campaign to increase the number of Negro voters in North Carolina. We know that even here in Durham, as well as remote sections of North Carolina and in other southern states, there are still many Negroes who are not qualified to vote because they have not registered.

Outside of Durham County we have not been able to ascertain the exact number of successful Negro candidates in the various sections of the state. It is our feeling, however, that whether those who offered themselves as candidates for public office, won or lost in the Primary, that they have made a distinct contribution by arousing members of their race in their respective localities to exercise

their right to register and vote.

Special tribute should be paid Dr. Reginald Hawkins who became the first Negro to ever offer as a candidate for governor of North Carolina in the history of the state. While Dr. Hawkins was not a successful candidate he polled an estimated number of 124,558 votes in the May 4, Primary. The official count will not be available until it is released by the N. C. Board of Elections next week.

We think, however, the number of votes received by Dr. Hawkins, many of which were from white supporters, is evidence that progress is being made in North Carolina and that the time is certain to come, and that it is not too far away, when a Negro will be a successful candidate for the office of governor of North Carolina, not because of his race but because of being the best qualified.

--Outreach

Continued from front page
Whiting, Dr. Stewart B. Fulbright, W. A. Clement, Benjamin Ruffin, William Entz, Dewitt Sullivan, Dr. William Howell, Atty. Moses Burt, Hendrix Hearn, Joseph W. Goodloe, H. K. Collins, Mrs. M. H. Thompson, Carl F. Brenner, Jr., R. Kelly Bryant, Jr., Theodore R. Speight, Charlie Jackson, J. S. Stewart, Clyde Green and J. H. Henderson.

--Thorpe

Continued from front page
regation, however has prevented the Negro male from pulling the purse strings and the shortage of Negro men has cancelled the sexual advantage of the Negro woman. Negro females are thus forced to take love on male terms and the men, quite often, trade love for a living.

Because of the nature of his finding Dr. Thorpe defended his dissertation before an unusually large number of faculty members and graduate students. The work is being considered for an award and his chairman has asked Thorpe to do a chapter in a forthcoming book. Dr. Thorpe has served on the faculty of South Carolina State College, North Carolina State U. in Raleigh and is currently at A&T State in Greensboro. He is the son of Mrs. Minnie B. Thorpe of 705 Linwood Ave., and brother of Marion T., the new president of Elizabeth City State College.

--Insurance

Continued from front page
rector, Unity Life Mobile; Octave Lilly, agency director; Peoples Life of Louisiana; E. B. Payne, agency director; Union Protective Life, Memphis; Ernest Shell, agency director, Golden State Mutual,

Los Angeles and Forrest Strickland, agency director, Wright Mutual Life, Detroit.

--Shriners

Continued from front page
ment, agency director and vice president of the N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Company, as the principal speaker. Clement is also prominent in the civic and religious life of the city in which he serves as a member of the executive committee of the Durham Committee On Negro Affairs, vice president of Bankers Fire and Casualty Company and a trust of White Rock Baptist Church.

Following the address, the Potentates Ball will take place at the Durham Civic Center.

On Saturday at 7:00 a.m. initiates will assemble at Hillside High School Gymnasium, after which a parade beginning at Durham Athletic Park on through Main Street will be held. The bands of N. C. College and Hillside High School will assist the Shrine Band in furnishing music for the parade.

Following the parade, a noon luncheon will be served at the Hillside cafeteria. Competing drill teams will perform at 7:00 p.m.

The convention will close at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, following the induction of initiates scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

--Medics

Continued from front page
Flotilla Watkins of Greensboro in surgery; Dr. Alvin Blount of Greensboro in surgery; Dr. Otis Michal of Asheville in Internal medicine; Dr. William A. Shearin, Duke University graduate in eye, ear, nose and throat conditions; Dr. Douglas P. Zipes of the cardiovascular laboratory of Duke University; and Dr. Morton D. Bogdonoff of Duke University Medical Center. This program is acceptable for 15 accredited hours by the American Academy of General Practice. Meeting at the same time will be the auxiliary of the Old North State Medical Society, headed by Mrs. Carolyn Wyche of Charlotte. Many social activities are planned for the ladies, including card parties, shopping tours and highlighted by the annual presidents' ball on Wednesday night, June 12th.

Children's activities include swimming parties, tours of the city of Raleigh and a teen-age ball for the future medics on Wednesday night. Meeting simultaneously will be the Old North State Dental and pharmaceutical Societies. Approximately 250-300 medical, dental and pharmaceutical members, along with their auxiliaries, will be attending. Dr. J. P. Greene of Henderson is president of the organization and Dr. Salter J. Cochran of Weldon is president-elect. Dr. W. T. Armstrong of Rocky Mount serves as Secretary-Treasurer.

To Be Equal

By WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR.

Making System Work

JUST A VERY short time ago, people were talking about how our political system wasn't working. Disatisfaction with the war was growing, but there didn't seem to be any response from either party.

Students and other groups were beginning to turn their backs on our society. "No one is listening to us," they said. But they suddenly found that the nation's leadership was indeed listening. Candidates came forward who expressed their views on the war, and the President renewed efforts to negotiate our way out of Vietnam.

These events proved that the system does work. They prove that it is flexible enough to bend with the popular will, and they prove that the way to change the system is not to refuse to have anything to do with it, but to challenge it and fight for what you believe is right.

The American system, with its careful checks and balances and divisions of power isn't easy to move. But when faced by crisis, it shows it can adapt quickly. It seems to be doing it now; it did it over thirty years ago when the Depression called for changes in the role of government; it adapted from a peacetime economy to a war economy in 1941; and it responded to the challenge of aiding foreign countries with the Marshall Plan in 1948.

How It Can Be Changed

It has proved that it can change when the national interest is at stake or when enough white people get together to demand a particular course of action. Now it has to prove that it can be flexible enough to respond to the legitimate needs of Negro citizens.

For the same disbelief in the system and the same alienation which is slowly fading among certain white citizens who find their views being adopted, has flourished for years in the ghettos of America's cities.

It's about time the system began working for them too. Our country has to respond to the people who want decent jobs, better housing, and first-class education for their children. If it can come up with a Marshall Plan for Europe, it can come up with a Domestic Marshall Plan to do for the victims of the ghetto what it did for victims of the war.

But these are old complaints and our nation has turned a deaf ear to them before. Perhaps it will start listening now that the Poor People's March on Washington will once again bring them to the public's attention. And it isn't just poor Negroes who are marching, it's also poor whites, Spanish-speaking citizens, Indians, and all who are oppressed and left out of our country's prosperity.

But our system seems to be far more responsive to change when white people advocate it. That's why I recently called for a White March on Washington, led by the white leadership of the nation, to back up the demands of Negroes and other minorities.

White Rock Baptist Church

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701
LORENZO A. LYNCH, Minister
B. N. DUKE AUDITORIUM

Sunday, May 12, 1968

NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE
MOTHER'S DAY

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
Dr. C. Ray, Superintendent

10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON REVIEW . . .
Mr. J. D. Harrel's Class

11:00 A.M. SERMON The Pastor
"On The Hand That Rocks The Cradle!"
(II Timothy 1:5)

Gospel Choir, Mr. William Allen, Director
Miss Carletta Jemison, Pianist

5:45 P.M. Sponsored by District No. 7

Saint Joseph's A. M. E. Church

"Serving A World Parish With Christ"
Since 1869"

PHILIP R. COUSIN, Minister

FAYETTEVILLE STREET DURHAM, N. C.

Sunday, May 12, 1968

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUBJECT: "Wisdom For Family Living"
Miss Marie Faulk, Superintendent

11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
SERMON Rev. Herbert Eaton
Music by the Senior Choir
Mrs. Minnie Gilmer at the Console
Josper Mitchell, Directing

PRAYER

Dear Father, as we come to Thee we give thanks and rejoice, for Thou hast promised that Thou wilt give Thyself in fullness to those who come in joy and faith, believing. We are ready and willing to fulfill Thy divine plan for our lives and rejoice in Thy presence. AMEN.

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