

Only In America

BY HARRY GOLDEN

SALUTE THE LIBRARY

If we draw up a balance sheet of America's fixed assets, we would say that the library, the public library, the school and the university library, the private library, is one of our most precious possessions.

There are complaints heard in recent years that we are not as patriotic as we once were, that we do not praise the flag as often, that we do not appreciate America as we once did.

Those who file these complaints are unaware that the reason for this is that the uninhibited expressions of patriotic fervor were heard in our country during the days of unrestricted immigration. The immigrants, like the classic stranger through all of history, told us what we had and what we were.

When we halted immigration in the 1920s and then added the restrictive clauses of the McCarran-Walter Act all these uninhibited rituals ceased. The immigrant sang the praises of his new land not to convince others he was a native but to give vent to the hunger and longing to become an American as quickly as possible.

Two institutions turned millions of immigrants into Americans within a single generation, the greatest miracle of human relations in the past century. These two institutions were the free public school and the free public library.

It's hard to communicate to a present-day audience what the public library meant to immigrants. The librarian was a sedentary saint without the usual apparatus of normal humans.

I remember in the ghetto branch of the New York Public Library there was a wash stand in a booth off the main entrance. You washed your hands before you went to the shelves. This was no insult. Indeed it was a compliment, a tribute to the men and women who came out of their sweatshops to stop at the li-

brary on their way home; a tribute to boys and girls who sold newspapers or played in the street and who went into the library to spend an hour before supper time.

For those under 15 years of age, the librarian would actually ask you to show your hands and you turned them over and she'd either say, "Go ahead," or "God wash them."

Immigrant mothers, like my mother, who couldn't speak a word of English, went into the library, held up their fingers to indicate the number of children at home. The librarian issued cards and the mother handed them out to her children. She said, "Go, learn, study, read." This was part of the process of becoming an American.

I recall the first landing library. It was in the ghetto of the Lower East Side of New York at the beginning of this century. A fellow with a kosher restaurant had a shelf of books he loaned out. "Les Miserables" was 10 cents a week, plus 75 cents deposit, Count Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace" was also 10 cents a week, but \$1 deposit. These were the two most popular books of the day.

In those days parents were afraid of librarians, but today the librarians are afraid of the parents, especially the female parent in tennis shoes, who says the John Birch Society does not like the books of John Steinbeck and Justice William O. Douglas.

But a library is more than a place for people to go with a certain kind of card. Like most of the things in this world, a library is part of a chain reaction, and a library must remain ever new, unheard of to each pair of eyes. Too often the library is a civic adornment. But cities are not bettered by libraries, people are.

The library is only a repository, a bank, but it's a bank that can do business only when people make a run on it.

Can't Quit This War . . . Either!



Altar Call

BY EMORY G. DAVIS, D. D. NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

STILL WITHOUT A SONG

Jazz in the sanctuary of the staid and stolid churches and cathedrals of white America may be an invocation, but it is nothing new in the churches of Negro America.

It is not uncommon to feel the same pulsating reaction to the beat of the gospel song in church and that music played in predominantly Negro night clubs and taverns. Only the words are different.

Perhaps it was not unusual in our culture that the music of the Negro church had a different character and quality than that of the white church. Whites, with their monopoly on "God," have a long tradition of glorious, victorious chants, oratorios and hymns.

The Negro was left to express the aches and pains of his heart through the spirituals, replete with minor chords and reflects a similar suffering. But the Negro grew weary and ashamed of the spiritual, abandoning it for the more rhythmic gospel song.

If the trend in some small sectors of the "white" church is toward jazz, the Negro could well meet it on this common ground. However, if the words of Negro "church jazz" continue to be supplanted and pulsing, there will be no meeting ground.

Further, the Negro will never learn through the kind of church music now being used that God is depending upon him to be a God-created MAN. It's about time the Negro stopped crying on God's shoulder.

Such words, set to dancing rhythms as "The Lord is Blessing Me, Right Now," "Ask What You Will of The Savior," "We've Come This Far by Faith, Leaning on The Lord," ought suggest that the Negro needs to stop "leaning" and start standing and walking. His church songs, jazz or otherwise, need to convey this message.

Perhaps jazz and lilting rhythms can be the best vehicle to convey meaning to Negro worshippers. Some ministers oppose it, others are strong advocates.

If the jazzy gospel song is best for Negroes then let this medium proclaim a message, a message calling to full humanity and love for all mankind.

Perhaps the use of meaningful words set to rhythmic tempos will enliven the Negro church member to the point where he will go out into the world and put a new song into the hearts of those suffering under the heel of racial segregation and dehumanization at the Altar of Those Without a Song.

Words Of Worship

The eminent theologian, Dr. Joseph F. Fletcher, professor of ethics at Cambridge Episcopal Theological School, says he would amend the biblical Ten Commandments by adding "ordinarily" to each one of the ten. For example, "Thou shalt not covet . . . ordinarily." For this theologian, there are no

rules—none at all. In his situation "ethics", everything and anything is right or wrong according to the situation—what is wrong in some cases would be right in others. A question for you to ponder is: "Goodness is what happens to a human act, it is not the act itself."

Editorial Viewpoint

"Situational Ethics" Or Not?

The question of what is wrong and what is right has plagued Christians to no end. Even in our church school classes on Sunday, the question has not been settled to the satisfaction of all people.

People who are adherents of different forms of religion are not agreed as to what is right or wrong. Then this makes our acts of sin deserving of punishment according to the moral code we are taught.

You will recall the incident recorded in the New Testament, referring to a group of Pharisees who had caught a woman in the act of adultery. According to Jewish law, she should have been stoned to death. Bold in their approach, they called the matter to the attention of Jesus.

Now Jesus was not concerned with just one kind of sin, but rather all sins. The Master deflated the pride of the Pharisees when He wrote on the ground: "He that is without sin, cast the first stone." The Pharisees tucked down their heads and walked away.

What they failed to understand was that every man is guilty of some kind of sin, or sins. Then it behooved men to be careful about calling attention to the beam in their neighbor's eyes without first considering the mote in their own.

Those of our readers who want to read

more along the ideas of right and wrong should direct their attention to the "situational ethics" of Dr. Joseph F. Fletcher, professor of ethics at Cambridge Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., and whom we mentioned in "Words of Worship."

One classic question that has been posed over the years is: "Is it ever a sin to tell a lie?" Whether a person should tell a lie will depend upon the situation that he finds confronting him at any given moment.

The proponents of situational ethics hold that good and evil are not absolutes. "Good is what happens to a human act, it is not the act itself." A private citizen is condemned to death for first degree murder, but on the other hand, a nation will send him forth to kill not one man but hundreds. Is war right or wrong?

History tells of the activities of several Crusades undertaken by Christians against the Turks, Christians, Popes, and other leaders held that the Crusades were holy wars in the interest of right. The Turks, on the other hand, felt it was wrong to challenge them to war to protect their own form of religion. The Turks felt they were right, and the Christians felt they were right.

Who Owes Who? What!

At this moment, there is no riddle confronting the Democrats, who feel that Congressman Adam C. Powell, D-N., should be disciplined and even denied his seat in the House of Representatives.

Rumors had it that Mr. Powell would not fight for his seat and would retire from his office. But, on Monday, January 9, Powell made a vigorous fight against the efforts by fellow House Democrats to clip his wings. Knowing Powell, as we do, we believe he has just begun to fight.

For the last three weeks, we have heard enough pros and cons directed for and against Powell to fill a small volume. Recently, the Afro-American newspapers of Baltimore, Md. published an editorial in defense of the Harlem Representative. The gist of the editorial was that Powell is "guilty of believing that as a duly elected member of the House of Representatives, he is entitled to the same privileges, immunities, excesses and even to making the same mistakes in judgment as every other member."

Enemies of Powell stated that "The Bahamas should not carry the reputation of being a hideout for people who are wanted by law enforcement authorities in their own states in America."

The Negro Press International published an article stating that "Representative Powell Becomes 'Martyr' as Legal Troubles Mount."

The newspapers had a field day on the subject of Mr. Powell. Then a House subcommittee began investigating the Congressman's activities. When the investigation was completed, the chairman declined to make public the report until it is submitted. Rep. Wayne L. Hayes, subcommittee chairman admitted that the panel does not have authority to recommend to the Justice Department action against the New York Democrat.

Speaker John W. McCormack, D-Mass., was reported as being opposed to any attempts to unseat Representative Adam C. Powell or to deprive him of his chairmanship. Wisely, the Speaker refused to be drawn into making public statements cen-

soring Powell as so many other Democrats have already done. A wise man thinks before speaking, and thereby will not be sorry later.

William White, Washington columnist, stated last week that "the long-heralded attempt by angry liberals to bar Rep. Adam Powell from the House of Representatives is not going anywhere when the showdown falls in the new Congress. This is clearly as it should be. For when this thing is stripped of an emotionalism that is clearly excessive, and of a finger-pointing humanly justified but irrelevant, one central truth remains unalterable. This is that the voters deserve precisely the kind of representation they get and it is apparent that in his case Powell's Harlem constituency is perfectly satisfied with him."

"To oust him justly would require his conviction of crime in a court of law and not in some pseudo-court of head-wagging at his undeniably imperious and embarrassing conduct. His more violent critics, indeed, would have done well to have done their home work before they set out to get and expunge Adam Clayton Powell."

Naturally, Powell allegedly has threatened retaliation by blackmailing his enemies. And these enemies had better be sure their own houses are clean before they try anything. Human beings are humans; if you throw mud at me, I'll toss stones at you, if any are around.

Powell is not the only Congressman who has abused his public trust and allegedly misused public funds; but he is the most brazen in his defiance of the court.

Drew Pearson, in a recent column, said, "the hullabaloo in the House, over Powell, has obscured the more subdued but more significant investigations of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., in the Senate."

Pearson added, "For the case against Powell is Sunday School stuff compared to the evidence against Dodd. Senate investigators, following up leads provided by this column, now have documented Dodd's apparent violation of at least two federal laws."

Negro Becomes Commissioner In Fla.

Our racial group continues to run up firsts in politics. The most recent example is that of Jackie Caynon, 56-year-old Negro contractor, who defeated a retired business man, for the Northside District seat in Fort Pierce, Fla.

Caynon thereby became the first of his race to win a city commission seat in Fort Pierce.

The Negro contractor received 2,393 votes to Lloyd's 1,970, winning by a margin of some 423 ballots.

The new commissioner, a widower, has been a member of the city's Community Association for sometime. He was also a member of the Mayor's Bi-Racial Committee.

Raleigh Councilman Winters preceded the Fort Pierce contractor by several years, and now Winters has decided to retire from office for his fastly growing business interests. We also want to pin a bouquet on Councilman Winters while he yet lives, and for his diligence in commitment of his stewardship.

What's Good For The Goose Is Fair For The Gander

It seems reasonable for a home owner, in these times of displacement, to believe that money should be available for him to supplement funds to repair or rebuild his home as the tenant now enjoys.

In other words, if a tenant has to move from a sub-standard dwelling to one which meets present-day acceptance, his rent is supplemented by the federal government. If his rent before moving, was \$40.00 per month, and after moving, it is \$70 per month the additional \$30 is supplied by federal funds.

With such a precedent, homeowners should be accorded the same rights as landlords and tenants. In other words, should a homeowner have to spend \$5,000 to bring his home up to required standards, this money should be supplementary as is the case with the tenant and the landlord who enjoys a richer investment.

While we don't necessarily agree with the rental supplement, there should be no discrimination in up-grading housing standards whether a person rents or owns his home.

Just For Fun

BY MARCUS H. BOULWARE

THAT'S ALL?

We registered again for the second trimester which began on the fifth of January. Three of my speech correction majors wanted to know why they made "D" in the course "Anatomy and Physiology of Speech and Hearing."

I said, "Why ask me that?" You know you made 40, 43, and 48 respectively on the final examination which is one-third of the term grade. They were no fools; they knew they hadn't studied like they should.

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

BY SAMUEL L. ANDELMAN, MD., M. P. H. CHICAGO COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH LEFT-HANDEDNESS

Some children are born right-handed; some achieve right-handedness, and some have right-handed thrust upon them. Why some are left-handed is not known, but fortunately parents today are less determined to change them than they were 50 or 60 years ago.

Also, for reasons that are not too clear, left-handedness was associated with the bar sinister which in heraldry was used to designate illegitimate birth. This unwarranted association led parents to punish children for preferring to use their left hand.

We now know that handedness—whether right or left—is an inherent characteristic like the color of one's hair, which, incidentally, is also subject to change when such a change is deemed desirable.

To change a child's natural preference for the left hand by persistent force has been thought by some to cause stuttering, slowness in learning

to read, and assorted emotional disturbances. Further study of this problem indicates that these undesirable results are due not to altering the child's left-handedness but to harsh methods of accomplishing this change.

If you try to alter the left-handedness of a child between 1-1/2 and 3, his resistance may be the natural negatim of that stage of his development. A person who is naturally left-handed will fold his hands with his left thumb on top even though his parents may have succeeded in changing his preference in other uses of his hands.

One aspect of this matter that has not yet been explained is that some right-handed boys naturally kick a football with the left foot. Similarly mixed dominance has been observed in persons who have better vision in the right eye but better hearing in the left ear.

More important than which hand is dominant is the establishment of one dominance or the other. So-called ambidextrous children have, as a rule, poorly developed muscular co-ordination.

A parent's best plan is to try gently and without emotion, to set the child to use his right hand. If, in spite of this, he persists in using his left hand, console yourself that this is no longer a handicap, and he will find many others with the same trait.

DONDI



Majority Rule In The Senate

The filibuster has for too long besmirched the reputation of the United States Senate. It is a parliamentary device that enables a minority to outvote a majority. It is an opportunity for dis-harmony to substitute subterfuge and power for compromise and reason in the conduct of public business, and to do so successfully. Once regarded as the shield for the racial preferences of a particular region, it has become the handy weapon for all sorts of special interests.

When the Senate meets next week to organize for the coming two years, it has its biennial opportunity to revise the rule that permits the filibuster. As matters now stand, a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting is required to end debate on any issue, including the question of revising the rules themselves. But when the Senate of a new Congress organizes, it does not have to continue the old rules in force. It can simply decide by majority vote to close debate and adopt new rules.

The only requirement is that the Vice President, the presiding officer of the Senate, affirm that the majority does have this power at the

outset of a new Congress. If there are the votes to back up his judgment, there can be no reversion to filibuster. Richard M. Nixon, while serving as Vice President, twice expressed this opinion but the votes were not present to sustain him. Vice President Humphrey will have a comparable opportunity next week. Since he publicly agreed with Mr. Nixon's rulings in the past, there is no reason to suppose that he will reverse himself now that the responsibility has passed to him.

It used to be argued that the rules automatically continued in force since the Senate is a "continuing body." But, clearly, it continues only in the severely limited sense that its members have overlapping terms.

Otherwise, all proposed bills, treaties and resolutions die every two years at adjournment. The committees and employees of the Senate also have to be redesignated biennially.

Time-wasting talkathons do not enhance the deliberative process of the Senate; they stultify it. A majority of the Senate can reassert proper control over its own work by abolishing the filibuster in the new Congress. -THE NEW YORK TIMES.

"Man Of The Yr."-Mr. Safe Driver

At this time of the new year, big publications, professional organizations and civic groups crank up the machinery designed to find and honor a "man of the year" for 1966.

Each candidate for such honors is measured against certain criteria of accomplishment. Always, the accent is on the positive.

We would like to advance our own candidate for 1966 honors. This fellow must be anonymous, because we don't know him. He may not even exist.

We propose to honor our unknown gentleman as "Private Automobile Driver of 1966." He is a man of considerable accomplishment, but his important qualifications for the honor lie in what he did not do.

Let us examine the negative virtues of our anonymous but honorable driver:

He received no traffic citations during the year, except, perhaps, one parking ticket which he paid promptly.

He did not roll through a single stop sign or cheat at a single traffic light.

He never exceeded the speed limit by more than a mile or two. And when he discovered his error, he always let up quickly upon the gas pedal.

He never failed to curb his impatience when caught behind a slow driver without safe passing space.

If he bought a new car during the year, he fiercely resisted the temptation to discover how far above sixty the speedometer gauge could climb.

If he had a cocktail at a party or a beer at home, he always arranged for someone else to do the driving.

And during the entire year, he uttered not one uncomplimentary word about the police or the Highway Patrol picking on inoffensive drivers while the dangerous drivers went scot-free.

Is there such a driver? Somewhere, we believe, there is.

Grammar Humor

BY D. P. LOUIS Negro Press International

Look for seven errors in the following paragraph.

Even When You're Racing? When you takes your time and stays calm, you does better than when you gets all excited. Sometimes you finds it hard to keep from getting excited, but if you wants to do well, you has to be cool.

errors, the joke's on us! ***

GRAMMAR HUMOR ANSWERS When you TAKE your time and STAY calm, you DO better than when you GET all excited. Sometimes you FIND it hard to keep from getting excited, but if you WANT to do well, you HAVE to be cool. ***

Score: Seven - chuckle, five - smile, three - it isn't funny. (If you find more than seven

Send a chuckle to "Grammar Humor," Negro Press International, 5708 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60621. We'll put in the errors!