

..EDITORIALS..

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good.

All News Copy of Churches and all Organizations must be in our office not later than 5:00 p. m. Monday for current issue. All Advertising Copy or Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.

An Echo From My Den

As I sit here in my "Den" with pen in hand, meditating as it were, I fully realize that the good old days, which were not as good as painted, will never again return to the American Negro. We are facing a new era and we have got to orient ourselves to things as they are and will be. The old slogans, the old philosophers, the old programs, must bow to the new. We can depend upon none other than ourselves.

The Negro writer, artist, professional and business person, all owe it to the masses upon whom they live, to take the leadership and not permit the masses of Negroes to wander aimlessly and hopelessly in the mire of poverty and degradation.

The educated Negro must do this—if not for the love of the Masses, then at least out of intelligent self-respect.

Considering the present economic and social status of the Negro, I say that the Negro of education and prominence has no business standing by with folded arms sneering cynically at his struggling brethren. Instead he should reach down and aid him to obtain economic freedom. We have not long since come to the end of another year. It is not a good policy to form the habit of looking backward. It is advisable to view in retrospect won and then to take stock as it were. It is from this angle that we here in Omaha, should consider the year 1936 and what it meant to us.

First it was a hard year. Most of us suffered from the economic blight which has struck all alike. Conditions were almost unbearable. Those who have come through the ordeal without going down deserve whatever laurels which might have been won.

Second, the Negro, as a group, has gone through a disastrous period, not because he is not capable, competent, and efficient, but as was stated by Rabbi Wise of New York while he was addressing a Howard University Graduating Class in 1928: "Negroes are just as smart, just as intelligent, and just as qualified as the Jewish people. The only difference is we stick together, have respect for one another, patronize one another, and do not double cross."

Negroes are not losing their jobs; Negro businesses are not going to the wall; Negro professional men will not, after years of hard study and sacrifice, be unable to prove their ability because of the depression, but because of their own jealousy and seemingly satisfaction to remain in a state of lethargy.

The economic position of the Negro is not so hopeful as many believe and if he is to escape from the chains of economic bondage, he must put his energies and dollars into a constructive program, carry on an intensive and sustained campaign of appeal to the Negro consumer to trade with the worthy Negro dealer and with those of the opposite race who, through their action, show a willingness to return to our ranks either by way of employment or by means of transactions; fair and just proportions of revenue received from our vast spending power, which ranges much over \$10,000,000 annually here in Omaha. Negroes must work daily for their economic independence through the instrumentality of organization. Taking as motto, "Spend your money where you can receive the greatest return."

NATURE FOOLS THE "EXPERTS"

The danger of plans, however well meant, that would artificially curb basic crop production to a substantial degree, are found in the current wheat outlook. Best estimates show that the world crop this year will be almost dangerously small. And much of our wheat acreage in America has been deliberately removed from service.

Nature frustrated the plans of the crop experts—as she often will.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that movements and policies that really and permanently help agriculture—to say nothing of the public at large—stem less from government farm programs than from the farmers themselves. While "farm relief" programs have changed and officeholders have come and gone, the farm cooperative movement to improve production and distribution methods, has been going ahead, and each year has witnessed new achievements. Such cooperatives have a permanent, non-political program based on sound, proven principles, as contrasted with governmental programs which are necessarily transitory, and are usually infested with politics.

It has been widely forecast that this Congress would be quiet and peaceful, and would follow the President's wishes with little opposition.

But now the stage is set for one of the longest, most acrimonious and most important congressional battles in years. Cause is the President's message on changes he would like made in our judiciary system.

Certain phases of the message—such as the proposals to empower the Chief Justice to shift lower court judges about in order to expediate cases, and to lessen the time required to take cases involving Constitutional questions from lower courts to the Supreme Court—will meet with the agreement of almost

everyone. But the big thing is the proposal that would authorize the President to appoint an additional Supreme Court Justice for every justice now on the court whose age is 70 or more.

That has split party lines wide open. Leading Democratic newspapers have come out against it. A Democratic bloc, under Senator Glass, has been organized in the Senate to fight the measure. Influential Senator Norris, who sees eye to eye with the President in most matters, has expressed his disapproval.

It has long been known that the President has been considering various plans for curbing the power of the courts to annul laws passed by Congress. Now the issue is in the open at last.

Calvin's Digest

By Floyd J. Calvin

SUPREME COURT

The fight launched by President Roosevelt to liberalize the Supreme Court is fraught with many progressive possibilities for the Negro. When the N. R. A. and the AAA were killed by this court, the Negro suffered directly, as well as indirectly. The NRA was designed, essentially, to raise the wage standard of the humbler workers of this land, and while there were many inequities as between white and colored at the start of the program, it is easily probable that these would have been corrected. For the New Deal Administration has shown a disposition to correct any evils which obviously discriminate between citizens on a basis of color. We have concrete instances of this on PWA projects in different parts of the country where local labor policies have been changed by orders from Washington.

In the case of the AAA, Negro farmers were benefiting from its method of dealing with the American farm problem. Perhaps all Negro farmers did not come under its jurisdiction but those who did were not heard to complain of lack of receiving benefits due them under the law.

Other problems will arise, like the Farm Tenancy question, which may require a Supreme Court decision to fully establish a new rule of procedure in this field.

Some citizens seem to fear a change in the Supreme Court may give the President too much authority. Insofar as the Negro is concerned, it would appear that the best thing would be to make sure that the New Deal fundamental changes in the economic structure of our country be made permanent while Roosevelt is in office, for it may be many years before we get another President who will take the fair and human attitude toward the underprivileged which he has taken. If it takes liberalizing the Supreme Court to make the New Deal policies the law of land, from what we have already seen of the Roosevelt program, it would be to the Negro's advantage to change the Court.

Changing the Movies

Miss Louise Beavers, one of our best known movie stars, when interviewed in Boston recently, said the "big companies" are getting tired of criticism of what they are trying to do for Negroes, or words to that effect. We do not object to Miss Beaver's viewpoint, for we would naturally expect that to be colored by the fact that she is directly concerned because of her livelihood. But we do object to Miss Beaver's manner, for it is the public, and not the "big companies" who decide the motion picture policies. This fact was clearly demonstrated when the Catholic boycott forced the movies to clean house, cut out so much smut and gangsterism,

and put in, instead, more historical and classical pictures. As a result, the children of our country got a real break, for now the movies are plainly an educational as well as an entertainment factor in American life.

We have not yet seen Miss Beavers in her latest picture, "Rainbow on the River," but members of our family have, and we can tell Miss Beavers right here that while her acting is said to be excellent, the role she plays is certainly not appreciated by our modern, high school colored girls and boys. We understand that she pleads in the picture that she wants to remain a slave; and that she shows every solicitation for the education of a little white boy, while she lets a little colored boy grow up in ignorance. Of course that is the script, and Miss Beavers is paid to do the acting, but we are mentioning it to show our well-liked star just how her roles register with her public. White stars are very anxious to know how their public takes their roles, and if Miss Beavers is to remain popular, she must be like the white stars in this respect, and not with white people alone, but with her own race as well.

In this connection, we will quote a letter from Mrs. Carrie Pembroke, head of the Department of English of Lane College, Jackson, Tenn., which was sent to us in response to a query on the movies. Miss Beavers might read this letter with profit, and then pass it along to the "big companies", which pay her what ought to be and what we hope is a handsome stipend.

"I believe that I speak for the race when I say that we feel personally affronted every time we see the coon hunting, dice throwing scenes. We feel ashamed and disgusted when we see any stalwart man playing a frightened, cringing role. It is insulting to the race to show only the mammy type of woman. This type of woman is rarely given anything to do except hang clothes on a line in some rich lady's back yard, or chase small boys away from a dice game. The higher aspirations or finer sensibilities of the race are seldom shown. I think that we generally appreciate the role given to Mr. Paul Robeson and his partner in "Sanders of the River". Mr. Robeson acted the part of a self-sacrificing father and husband.

"Will the general public ever get an idea of the "Soul of Black Folk" by the roles Negroes play in the movies? Does the great American public know of the heart hunger and the longing of the Negro for the higher and nobler things of life? There is talent in the race, and we should like to see it used more fully. We believe that the present interpretation is faulty. The life of a people can never be interpreted by showing only the middle and lower strata of their society."

KELLY MILLER SAYS

Roosevelt and The Supreme Court

Kelly Miller in the Washington Herald, Feb. 12, 1937

The enlargement of the Federal jurisdiction so as to include a greater control over the industrial, economic and social life of the people was the one clear, unmistakable, outstanding issue of the last campaign. This, like the abolition of slavery, can be accomplished only at the expense of traditional and shall we say constitutional rights of the States. Federal jurisdiction can increase only at the expense of State's rights, since they are complementary components to four political circles. Like the illumined and bedarkened segments of the surface of the moon, as the one increases, the other must decrease.

The advocates of the New Deal, as well as its more sincere opponents, agree that the Constitution must be revamped or revised to meet the requirements of the new industrial revolution through which we are now passing. The vital difference between the two schools hinges on the question as to whether this must needs be accomplished by reconstruction or by liberal interpretation. There is no difference in objective, but in method.

Roosevelt believes that the Constitution can be liberalized in harmony with the demands of the age of science, invention and technology. The Supreme Court, with its traditional, logical cast of mind, stood square

ly athwart of this purpose. Conservative opinion follows the letter though it killeth; liberalism is chiefly concerned with the spirit which make it alive.

Senator Borah insists that this end be accomplished by formal amendments. President Roosevelt prudently refrained from pressing the avowed issue in 'the maelstrom of the campaign, when both sides knew it was in the back part of his mind and would push forward to expression as soon as the campaign was over.

Indeed, the opposition to his election hinged on this issue and taunted him for not bringing it to the front, but he preserved a sagacious and salutary silence. A heated campaign is no time to inject controversial constitutional changes. Roosevelt, nevertheless, was openly charged with the intention of packing the Supreme Court in order to put through his New Deal policies. He was accused in every mood and tense of condemnation for his withheld purpose to pack or override the Supreme Court.

The leading anti-New Deal orators in the campaign exhausted their vocabulary of abuse and condemnation, so that now, in light of his program to liberalize the judiciary, they can invent no additional terms

of abuse, condemnation or vituperation. The head and front of this opposition is exemplified by ex-President Hoover, speaking for the orthodox Republicans, and ex-Secretary Bainbridge Colby, speaking for the Jeffersonian Democrats.

They have carried their opposition along this line as far as it can possibly be pushed, and their present pronouncements are only repetitive. The American people have heard all that they can possibly have to say, and their verdict was registered by a plurality of 11,000,000 votes. Overwhelming majorities in both House and Senate have been chosen on the basis of President Roosevelt's well-known purpose to subvert the obstacle of the Supreme Court by its liberalization.

This was the answer of the people to the challenge of the opposition. This was their mandate. It was, therefore, seen that any further protest, either to the people, or to Congress would be void of practical effect.

The New Deal is committed to the liberalization of the judiciary. President Roosevelt's proposal to this end cannot substantially fail of effect, for it merely indicates the path which the American people have chosen to travel under his leadership.

FLOOD CONTROL

by GIFFORD PINCHOT

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A flood is like an epidemic. The time to stop it is before it begins.

Until now, however, we have been, so to speak, providing hospitals to take care of the victims instead of establishing quarantines to keep out the disease. We have been building engineering works to take care

of the floods after they occur and have done practically nothing to prevent the floods from occurring or to reduce their height and destructiveness when they do take place.

Levees and other engineering works on the lower rivers are absolutely necessary, just as hospitals are necessary. But a million flood sufferers know today that such engineering works are not enough.

We are like a man trying to work with only one arm. The arm we have not used is flood quarantine at the headwaters. It will take both arms to do this job, and hard work at that.

The history of floods in America is proof positive that they are getting worse and worse. They are worse not only because they are higher, but because there are more people to suffer and more property to be destroyed. And the present flood is the worst of all.

There were floods in this country long before Columbus sailed the ocean blue. And I suppose there always will be floods, just as there always were and always will be accidents and diseases. But floods like accidents and diseases, can be controlled and reduced. And the time to do it is not after they happen but before they begin.

Before we began to ravage our natural resources, even in flood time the streams ran fairly clear. The soil was protected and kept porous and absorbent by the forests and the prairie sod. To all intents and purposes there was no bare ground at all, and so the enormous mass of soil and sand, now carried by our rivers in flood, remained where nature put it.

Since then we have cut and burned and cleared and plowed so unwisely that we have laid our soil open to the little fingers of the rain, which for years have been picking up and carrying away the richness of our land.

And not only carrying it off from where we need it, but making of it a deadly weapon to destroy the safety, wealth, and happiness of our people.

RULES OF THE GUIDITE CLUB

—OBJECTS OF THE CLUB—

1. To teach our boys and girls to appreciate Art, Literature, Science and Physical education.
2. To help develop talents of our boys and girls and give them an outlet for their expressions.
3. To teach them the value of reading weekly and daily newspapers.
4. To acquaint them with boys and girls throughout the world who are striving for higher ideals.
5. To bring them before the public.
6. To teach love for the church and Christian workers and a fuller appreciation for the words, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

—Rules For Membership In The Guidite Club—

1. You must be a regular reader of The Omaha Guide to become a member of the Guidite Club.
2. Each member must send in interesting stories and pictures. Write newsy letters and answer letters written to you.
3. Each member must show evidence to the club sponsor that he or she has written and received at least two letters from members of the club before becoming eligible for the honor roll.
4. You must write neatly and only on one side of the paper, signing your name and address plainly at the bottom of the sheet.
5. Every member must read the interesting features on the Guidite Page in The Omaha Guide and discuss same at the weekly meetings.
6. You must extend the hand of fellowship to sister and brother Guidites when they are seen with the Guidite card and button.
7. Each member must attend the weekly meetings of the Guidite Club or give a plausible excuse in writing from their parents.
8. You must go to bed each night with a Guidite smile and promise never to frown when Mother says go on an errand, wash the dishes or sweep the floor.
9. Every member must be a real booster of The Omaha Guide and agree to interest at least 5 grown-ups in purchasing The Omaha Guide.

APPLICATION—GUIDITE CLUB

Please enroll me in The GUIDITE CLUB, I promise to abide by the rules as set forth in The Omaha Guide.

My Name is _____ Age _____
 My Address is _____
 City _____ State _____
 School Grade _____ Name of School _____
 Parents' Name _____
 Date of Birth _____

Cut this out and bring or mail to "Uncle Gil", Omaha Guide, OMAHA, NEBRASKA