

COMMENTS

EDITORIAL PAGE

OPINIONS

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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.

EDITORIALS

Borah—What Does He Stand For?

By Louis L. Redding—Reprint from The Crisis, March 1936

It would seem from this analysis of the senator from Idaho, that Negro citizens can place little dependence in him as a statesman and none at all in him as a man having any conception of the hopes, ambitions and rights of Negro Americans

STATE'S RIGHTS, LYNCHING AND PROHIBITION—

That he has listened to the requests of "Southern friends" when he has twice helped slay so-called federal anti-lynching bills has been quite apparent to sponsors and friends of that legislation. Then, as usual, he cloaked his opposition in veneration for the Constitution. "To my mind" he said, "if that sort of bill can be passed and sustained by the Supreme Court, we have utterly annihilated all state sovereignty; we have broken down state lines completely."

"States' rights" gave the Idahoan no trouble when it came to supporting federal prohibition. The smug opportunists who seized upon the emotionalism and patriotism of war to dry up all the states by national action found in Borah a champion.

The subject which has been assigned to me does not devolve upon me the duty of arguing the wisdom or unwisdom of any provision of the Constitution. That question was settled when any particular provision was placed in the Constitution. I take the instrument as I find it—the crystallized views of a nation and mean to insist that it shall be maintained and enforced as written.

Startling is the comparison of this idealism with words uttered by Mr. Borah in a colloquy in the Senate with John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, a few years before. Borah after pointing out that the Mississippians had kept the Negroes from voting in evasion of the Fifteenth Amendment, added:

"Now, I am not discussing at this time the question as to whether or not the South could submit to the domination of the inferior race. I am not discussing the justification of what you have done. We would do the same thing in the North if the situation was the same."

Right, indeed, was Borah when in the nullification speech already quoted from, he said:

"We need to have constitutional morality declared as was the gospel of old to the high and the low, for against this neither things present nor things to come shall prevail."

It is a need William E. Borah may himself be charged with.

(Continued Next Week)

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Prize Winning Washington Block

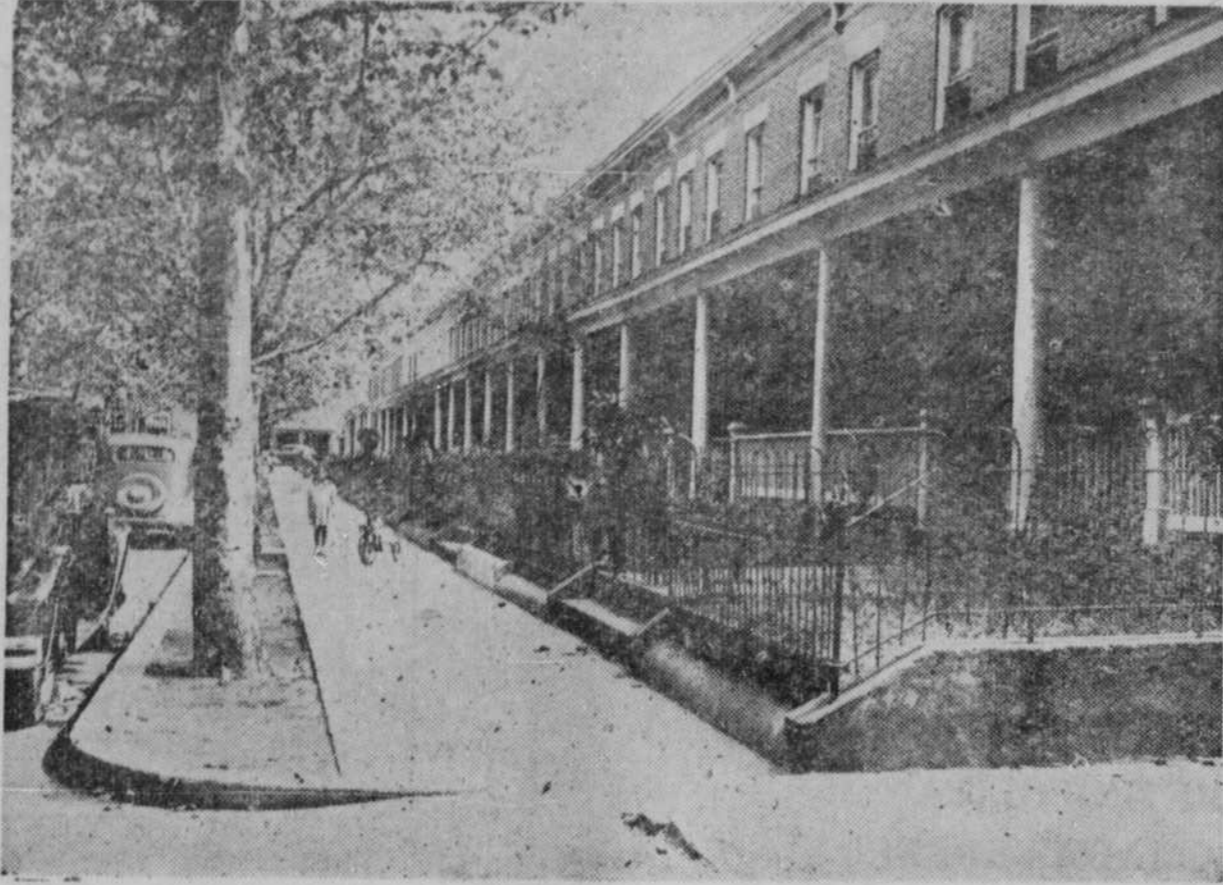


Photo shows prize winning block in Washington, D. C., at 1200 Water Place, Southeast, in the Clean-Up campaign sponsored by the Afro-American, a newspaper, of Baltimore, Md., Carl Murphy, president and editor. More than 5,000 people joined the campaign in Washington, and 120,000 in Baltimore. The drive was undertaken as a community service by the newspaper. (C)

Editorial of the Week

(From the Elkin, (N. C.) Tribune, July 1, 1937

WE HAVE INVITED IT

The Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill has been approved by the Senate judicial committee, and once more this issue will furnish the opportunity for Southern members of Congress to throw a fit. Realizing that a vote on the issue would mean their defeat, it would not surprise me if some of our Southern statesmen do not employ that silliest of all legislative procedures—the filibuster, and talk the proposal to death.

There are some provisions in the proposed legislature that might work a hardship on local government units, if and when lynchings occur. But these can be avoided by diligent law enforcement, and that is something we ought to have, with or without a federal law.

Some Southern States, and North Carolina is among them, have laws sufficiently severe to deal with lynchings. But they are not enforced. We still have lynchings, in spite of the law, and seldom is there anything ever done about them. Men continue to take the law in their own hands, but because they are socially and politically prominent, nobody is able to identify them, and the solicitor, after a few high-sounding threats, let the matter die the usual death. That has happened here in North Carolina, and is the rule all over the South.

These mobsters would think twice before undertaking their dastardly work if there was certainty that they would have to answer to the federal government, for the federal courts are not in the habit of covering up with white wash.

As much as the next one we deplore the crime that usually is the basis for a lynching party but equally do we deplore a meeting out the punishment.

If we are to have this anti-lynching law, it will come because of our own delinquency. We have only ourselves to blame, and our representatives in Congress, remembering that the law applies to all states alike, could curb their inclination to knife it, without much hurt to themselves and their state.

Norris Convicted

(Continued from Page 1)

opinion" of the case. Names of the other two were struck by the state. Prosecutor Thomas F. Lawson said that the mere drawing of their names on the panel fulfilled the constitutional requirements and contended the state had a right to strike anybody it chose, regardless of race, in selecting the jury.

Opening witness for the state was Victoria Price, who again told a story of how she and Ruby Bates were assaulted by the nine Scottsboro youths aboard a freight train in March 1931. She said the Negroes came up yelling to their white companions, "All you white boys unload." She swore two of them had pistols and the others had knives, and that Norris threatened to kill her if she did not yield. Victoria asserted that she was ravished by Norris and five others and that she and Ruby were hoboing aboard the freight to their home in Huntsville, Ala., after an unsuccessful attempt to find work in Chattanooga, Tenn.

To refute the woman's story that she was so brutally treated she was bleeding and bruised. The defense counsel read into the record the testimony of Dr. R. R. Bridges of Scottsboro, now deceased, given at the last trial of Norris in November, 1933. The physician was called by the state in the original trial but because his testimony did not show either woman was attacked, he has since then been ignored by the defense.

To further refute Victoria's story, Leibowitz brought in a surprise witness, Mrs. Emma Bates, mother of Ruby, who later repudiated the attack yarn and said the whole thing was a frameup.

Wouldn't Convict White Watts led off for the defense. He dwelt at length in his southern birth and pride in Alabama justice. He would like to feel, he said, that Alabama was a state where even-handed justice was administered to white and black alike, and declared no white man would convict another white man on such testimony as that offered by Victoria Price.

Taking up where Watts left, Leibowitz enumerated the many

discrepancies in her story and pointed especially to the testimony of Dr. Bridges. He told the jury it was up to them to decide whether the physician or the woman had lied.

"Dr. Bridges was your doctor and neighbor," he declared. "He was brought to testify by the officials of your state, yet he damns that woman's story as a lie.

"There is nothing to this case but damnable lies. For six and a half years she has been crying for blood—the blood of these Negroes she framed to protect herself—and I hope to God there is not prejudice and passion here as well."

The trial was marked by several clashes between Callahan and Leibowitz. Monday afternoon the latter renewed the old defense motion to transfer the trial to the federal district court on the ground that the defendants were being deprived of their constitutional rights by the Alabama statute limiting changes of venue to one. It was denied.

A warning against the distribution of any literature on the case in courtroom was issued by the judge who said he would cite such distributors "for contempt of court."

THE LOW DOWN from HICKORY GROVE

Writin' about gals and wives now and then, or often even, it seems to be something I have the most fun doing. 'Course everything is kinda funny to me, but I guess any lazy duck has more time to see funny sights and not be a gloom year and year out, and never see anything comical.

The girls, they are O. K., and some of 'em are better than a show. But the keen ones, you don't see them out there doin' all the monkey shines, like crowdin' the men out of the bar rooms, and showin' off. These wise one they are over at the cooking school findin' out something about how to season up the old roast, so as to help 'em, may, captivate for themselves, a permanent meal ticket.

And the thin young fellers standing around and watchin' the other kind, the show-off gals, do all sorts of stuff like a few of 'em learnin' to swear and to spit through their teeth, the young fellers are just there to see what happens next, and they are not there pickin' out gals for wives. These young bloods, they are pretty wise geezers.

Yours with the low-down. Jo Serra

Bishop N. W. Williams Speak to 5,000 at Open Air Union Services

Kansas City, Mo., July 22 (ANP) — Bishop Noah W. Williams, AME church prelate, addressed more than 5,000 last Sunday night at an open-air union service held at Muehlbach park, his subject being "The Christian Church and Present Day Problems." Speaking of labor conditions as affecting Negroes, the Bishop declared: "My opinion is that we as a racial group should stand by those who can give us gainful employment. The American Negro should stay out sit-down and prepare himself to fill any place of employment. The 12,000,000 Negroes in the United States furnish a mighty good market for the products of factory, shop and farm—if given employment where he may earn money with which to buy—and the captains of industry know if the labor unions do not."

An Echo From My Den By S. E. Gilbert

As I sit here in my den with pen in hand meditating as it were: there comes to my mind a lamentable fact: one that I regret to recognize as such, but facts are facts, and inasmuch as I know it to be a fact, I am passing that fact on to you.

Hearing that the Negroes of Omaha were patronizing a certain ice cream shop on the South Parkway of Omaha, an establishment in which not one black American can be found as an employee, but where hundreds may be seen consuming its delicacy: I set out to see for myself this lamentable scene. As I stood across the street in the vicinity of 24th and Lake, I saw car after car stop; doors open and Black Americans step out and into this ice cream shop, void of Black American employees, to purchase a delicacy that a Black American originally gave to the world. After counting in sixty minutes over one hundred such entrances, my heart yearned for an awakening, a race awakening that would cause those who no doubt unconsciously, are perpetrating a gross injustice upon the economic opportunity of hundreds of boys and girls of their own race, by spending their money where they receive in return only a cone or a carton of frozen milk. To stop and think, this lamentable scene, as viewed by your correspondent, could be turned from a picture of pity into one of joy and pride. How?

By merely driving or walking one and one-half blocks south and entering the portals of a credible Black American's enterprise where one can visualize not only a beautiful place owned and operated by a Negro but can find the hands of Negro youths busily engaged in the manufacturing of the delicacy called ice cream, for your consumption. Now I have pictured to you the two sides of the fact which came to my mind as I sat meditating in my den. One a picture of pity, that carries in its wake continued economic bondage; the other a picture of joy and pride which should the Black American of North Omaha support, would mean not only a bigger and better enterprise, but an outlet for economic opportunities for the boys and girls whom you, dear readers are sacrificing to educate.

Ky. School Teacher Receives M. A. Degree

Miss Willette Embry, school teacher of Richmond, Ky. who matriculated at Omaha university last September working toward her Masters degree, succeeded in receiving her goal, July 16th during the summer school semester. Miss Embry received her Master of Arts degree majoring in education and minoring in physiology. Dean Holt gave Miss Embry a certificate showing graduation; she will receive her diploma at the next convocation of Ohio university, June 1938. Miss Embry left last Friday for her home in Richmond, Ky., to spend the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Embry. While in Omaha, Miss Embry made her home with her aunt, Mrs. H. R. Greenfield in Dundee.

Advertisement for 'Bronze Standouts' featuring Elsie Burrows and Rhythm Brown. Includes caricatures of the performers and promotional text for their acts.