

DUTY OF THE CHURCH TO PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND RECONSTRUCTION

(Continued from Page One)
ment if we are to retain permanently what has already been gained.

"Above all we have a duty to those colored fellow citizens of ours who have done such noble service in the cause of democracy. They are going back into communities which must be made ready to receive them and in this preparation the Church has a work to do of unique importance."

"To my mind, no portion of the program mapped out by the Federal Council of Churches is more timely or deserving of consideration than that which refers to the duty of the Church to help soften sentiment in favor of the colored people of the United States and to help in a definite, practical way to provide for the essential needs and to safeguard the interests of our returning soldiers who went to France (considered by many) as American Negroes, but, who returned, thank God, as full-fledged Americans. "No portion of this program will call for more downright statesmanship, courage and (shall I say) real Christianity than the matter of working out those problems which hedge colored Americans about in all that concerns their better life."

"And when the Federal Council refers to the notable services rendered by colored Americans in the cause of freedom and democracy, be it remembered that this of necessity includes not only the splendid services rendered by colored soldiers who took part in practically every branch of military service on the battle-scarred field of France, but it also includes the almost heroic and self-sacrificing services rendered all over this country by colored civilians, by ministers, teachers and other leaders of thought and opinion, including the noble women of our race who have helped to keep alive the fires of patriotism—despite misgivings and fears as to their own futures—all loyally uniting in one grand and successful effort to dethrone autocracy and aggression in order that liberty and freedom might come to all the world, and in the liberty of which we have spoken so much during the pending war, we undoubtedly expect our rightful share. May I say to begin with, that the country owes a distinct debt to her soldiers, black and white alike, because of the service they have rendered in the hour of national need, and because of the sacrifices they have so willingly made that liberty and freedom might be vouchsafed to us and to oppressed people throughout the world."

"The situation with respect to the Negro soldier, particularly, is one which must be faced frankly and squarely. In some respects a crucial hour has come and many issues that some of the more conservative among us would rather postpone, must be settled now—for all time."

"As I have frequently stated, no one expects the millennium to be brought over night, but the returned soldiers in common with those of the twelve million American Negroes who have done their bit on this side of the ocean, have a right to expect a larger measure of abstract justice and a more generous consideration of their constitutional prerogatives than have been accorded by the powers of this nation in the past."

"The approaching period of peace, with its problems of reconstruction, rehabilitation and readjustment, must be faced in a spirit of candor and broad-gauged justice on the part of all concerned. The change of our soldiers—representing every phase of variegated national life—presents a task requiring the best thought for its proper handling and solution. Taking it for all in all, the problems of peace, as I have already indicated, are equally, if not more complex, than the problems of war. "The watches of the night are past; the watches of the day begin."

"At a time like this the counsels of wisdom suggest that there should be a well-ordered program tending to assure colored Americans, as well as white Americans in every part of this country a full share of the blessings of freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"Among the essentials that must make for a judicious and permanent readjustment between the new Negro and the new nation, on behalf of a race of ten million colored Americans, than whom no racial group has ever been more useful or more loyal, may I suggest the following:

"(1) Lynchings in all parts of our country should be stamped out as a menace to the nation and the majesty of the law recognized in every state and territory where the Stars and Stripes control."

"(2) Labor conditions should be improved, with a just wage and humane working conditions for all, including sanitary housing in the various cities of our country."

"(3) The sacredness of the ballot, as the token of freedom and democracy should be recognized and equality of citizenship enforced for all who measure up to the law's requirements."

"(4) Adequate educational facilities should be provided for the Negro (like other American citizens) north and

south, and fair opportunities for the exercise of God-given talents afforded in the trade markets of the nation."

"(5) Persistent inculcation of lessons of thrift, industry, sense of responsibility, reliability in the discharge of all trusts, absolute honesty, discipline of self, and the value and necessity of participation in the helpful activities of one's own community."

"These are a few of the essential things the school, the Church and the state must endeavor to bring about, for the consummation of such a program will inure to the benefit of each and all of them."

"We must not become discouraged. Despite every handicap, we must press forward."

SPECIAL GRAND JURY MAKES FINAL REPORT

(Continued From Page One.)

(11) We have sadly lacked the willing testimony of eye witnesses who are supposed to be on the side of law and order, but have remained strangely silent, and have not volunteered their knowledge to assist in bringing the probably guilty to justice by trial. Outside of the police and other public officials of the city and county we have had but few persons voluntarily appear before us and give testimony that would enable us to establish the probable guilt of persons connected with the riot."

Summary of Work Done.

There were 195 cases considered. These cases cover a range of 34 indictable crimes as shown by the appendix hereto. There were 120 persons indicted. There were 535 witnesses examined. The grand jury was in session 36 days."

Causes of the Riot.

The contributing causes are many and are known to a large part of the public, as well as to this jury. They are:

First: Unmentionable crimes and assaults upon women and girls.

Second: Contempt for law and constituted authority, no matter how such contempt was engendered.

Third: Organized and strong propaganda existing and prevalent whose purpose is the downfall of our institutions, the destruction of our economic policies, and the engendering of class hatred. It matters not by what name this effort is called, its purpose is no less deadly whether it be styled I. W. Wism, bolshevism, sovietism, or anarchy, or whether it be preached from a soap box, or in luxurious parlors."

Fourth: The general prevalence of the greatest social unrest that ever before existed. The people are irritated and restless. The reasons for this condition are many. A few may be cited, particularly, for example:

(a) The high cost of living.
(b) The difference between labor and capital with resultant strikes and lockouts of unusual number and degree.

(c) The unsettled condition confronting the unsettled soldier, their condition of mind and attitude of the public toward them."

Minds Strongly Diverted.

Four million of the young men of this country have had their minds strongly diverted from normal aims and pursuits and find it difficult to concentrate upon previous duties. Many are dissatisfied and wonderfully changed from the boys of three years ago. They require the greatest consideration and assistance to restore them to their normal habits and thought. Their experience with war and the ruthless punishment inflicted upon their country's enemies is still present in their minds, and they are consequently fast to act upon impulse when they believe crime is unpunished."

Conclusion.

To the People of Douglas County: We have a great county and city here, and unusual opportunities. These carry heavy responsibilities which the citizenship must not shirk."

There are many conditions requiring improvement which this grand jury cannot investigate even, owing to its limitations. Every good citizen should assist in correcting bad conditions by advocating impartial, efficient and honest enforcement of all laws and ordinances, or else their prompt repeal. Nonenforcement of laws is fraught with danger to society."

We deplore the conditions of partisanship and consequent adverse advertising of the city which such partisanship brings to us."

We find that the condition prevails at this time the people and the press should unite in the common purpose of boosting and helping Omaha."

The welfare of our whole city is of greater importance than that of any individual or group of individuals. We should suppress scandal and frown on scandalmongers of whatever degree or station."

Should "Get Together."

Let capital and labor, the high and low, rich and poor, work together for the protection of our homes and the honor of the city. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder, and may the press with friendly and helpful counsel aid

and assist us to meet any menace even to the deadly menace of the Red Flag."

Is it not worth more to residents that a city shall advance in its care of human life, in its standard of living, in its efficiency in making taxes promote public good? Growth is worth while; stagnation is bad. But we have cities which have grown so much faster than they have learned how to live."

It is always easy to blame someone or something when things go wrong. We should be as prone to praise good acts and efforts."

There is much to commend when it is understood that the task of maintaining law and order and ferreting out crime is harder than before the war. Now the people are confronted with the high cost of living, heavy taxes, many strikes, many unspeakable crimes and incendiary speech and acts."

These are abnormal times. A greater spirit of unrest prevails in this nation than ever before. It may only take a spark to light a great conflagration. Therefore those who counsel should speak wisely, in moderation, and above all stand strongly for law and order. The governing authorities must be supported and where criticism is needed, let it be helpful and constructive. All this lest the greatest government ever organized "of the people, by the people and for the people" shall not perish from the earth."

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PROTEST LYNCHING OF NEGRO IN MISSOURI; ASK GOVERNOR TO SPEAK

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 24.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People telegraphed Governor Gardner of Missouri urging that members of a mob which lynched a Negro accused of robbery be brought to justice. The telegram is as follows:

"Hon. Frederick D. Gardner, Governor, Jefferson City, Mo.

"Press reports describe the lynching at Moberly, Missouri, on Sunday, November 16th, of one and the contemplated lynching and burning of three other Negroes alleged to have beaten and robbed a farmer of twelve dollars."

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, speaking on behalf of its three hundred branches and eighty-five thousand members of both races, in the name of law and order and that better feeling between the races which results from justice impartially administered, appeals to you for energetic efforts on part of Missouri local and state authorities to vindicate the law by bringing mob murderers to trial."

All upholders of law and order would welcome a statement from you with respect to the Moberly lynching and your advocacy, if approved, of the Curtis and Dyer resolutions for federal investigation of race riots and lynchings."

"NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE,

"John R. Shillady, Secretary."

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