

# THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

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We, as publishers, MUST comply with the law or pay the penalty.

Our Choice for President in 1928 is

**WALTER W. HEAD**  
of Nebraska

An Astute, Able, Clear-headed Business Man

## EDITOR MONITOR REPLIES TO CASTIGATING "PRELATE"

Our contemporary, not content with its own journalistic efforts at excoriation of the Editor, had as an ally last week both the law and the gospel, combined in the portly person of one of whom it was said, "PRELATE CASTIGATES MONITOR EDITOR." The "castigation" elicited the following letter from us to the castigator:

Omaha, Nebraska, March 26, 1928.

Rev. John Adams  
2722 North Twenty-eighth Street  
Omaha, Nebraska

Reverend and dear Sir: Knowing your desire to be fair, permit me to call your attention to an error, wholly unintentional, I am quite sure, which appears in your well-written communication published in The Omaha Guide of March 23rd, 1928, captioned "Political Situation Analyzed."

The error occurs in this statement, which permit me to quote: "Some go further and say that this effrontery of Dr. McMillan, allowing himself to be used at the primaries wins for him the title 'cut-throat' and 'tool.' This nomenclature (boldface mine) is used by the Rev. John Albert Williams in an ungodly onslaught against Dr. McMillan."

This nomenclature was not used by me. I did not use the term "cut-throat" or "tool" in reference to Dr. McMillan. Of this charge, therefore, I think you will be willing to say of or to me, ABSOLVO TE. The term "tool" and "catspaw," I think it was, or it may have been "cut-throat" was used by The Omaha Guide, not The Monitor.

I am enclosing herewith for your perusal my editorial of March 2, in which I analyzed the critical situation thrust upon us in both the Ninth and Tenth Legislative Districts by the eleventh-hour filing of Negro candidates against the present incumbents. With your judicial and analytical mind I am sure that you will admit that the position of The Monitor was logical and sound. I do not think that you will continue to claim that I made an "ungodly onslaught on Dr. McMillan." I stated FACTS, as I saw them and as they were.

I am also enclosing my editorial of March 9 in order that you may see just how I have treated this whole affair. I am sure that you will agree that I have tried to do it in an honorable and dignified manner which will permit me to maintain my self-respect and that of my friends and also that of whatever enemies I may have.

We do not see eye to eye on the present issue, but I respect you for your honest convictions on any issue, which of course are the right and prerogative of every mind.

It was to set you straight in a matter concerning myself on which I am sure you do not wish to be wrong that I have written you.

Let me congratulate you upon your elevation to a prelate. I had known that you were not averse to proclaiming VOLO EPISCOPARE, but I did not know of your election. Shame on you, letting The Omaha Guide get a "scoop" on The Monitor like that.

Sincerely yours,  
JNO. ALBERT WILLIAMS.

## Letters From Readers

The Issues in the Ninth District

To the Editor of The Monitor:—I note with keen interest the recent development in the fight for state representative in the Ninth district between Dr. John A. Singleton and Dr. A. A. McMillan. This fight grows in intensity as the primary draws near. Mr. Parker, the white candidate, has withdrawn, leaving the field clear for a test of strength between these two colored men. Their intellectual preparation and political equipment are about equal and similar. To make a choice based upon their fitness as a man, would be very difficult. We shall have to make our decisions, based on what each man represents—or his political background. To do this in fairness to ourselves, we must not kid ourselves but be brutally frank and call a spade a spade.

Dr. Singleton was elected two years ago by a combination of machine support and a determination on the part of our people to demonstrate that they could get together if forced to in a crisis. It is reported that during this session of the legislature, he was requested by the machine to support a certain measure which was before that body for consideration.

Singleton, in the free exercise of his own judgment, felt that said measure was not the best thing and consequently refused to support it. The bill failed of enactment. For his disobedience in this particular the machine vowed vengeance on Singleton and has set out to accomplish his defeat in the primaries by the surest method it could employ, namely, by placing in opposition to him another colored man of as nearly similar qualifications as could be possibly secured, thus removing the objection some might harbor if he were not so qualified. The purpose here is not the success of the opposing candidate, for that is not now, nor ever was, even contemplated—but the certain defeat of Singleton by splitting the colored vote.

The opposing candidate, Dr. Aaron McMillan, is quite the avowed product of the machine. His nomination was unquestionably brought about through the instrumentality of the machine. It is, therefore, reasonable for us to suppose that Dr. McMillan, who solicits and accepts the aid and support of the organization, must, in the event of his election, do the bidding of the power that created him. He must surrender any idea of independence. He must declare absolute allegiance to the machine and pledge loyalty and obedience to the same. These are certainly fetters about his

neck which necessarily circumscribes his activities in office.

With these facts in mind, we must approach this grave task with sober judgment. We shall have to choose between one who is free to perform the functions of his office as his conscience may direct him, or one whose acts must conform in every detail to the will of the machine. Political subserviency or economic freedom—which? Our decision on this proposition will determine our future political status in this community. On it will stand or fall our prestige as an integral part of the community in which we live. In order that we may be more enlightened on the workings of the political machine in any community, I shall proceed to outline a few of its features.

The very name "machine" has come to mean almost a reproach to some of us who do not understand its mechanism. The machine is not necessarily corrupt; neither is any machine devoid of corruption. It has its virtues and its vices. It is a political organization whose sole purpose is to promote political ends by way of combined means and effort. There is one in every community where there are political interests to be served or ambitions to promote. It has its laws, by-laws and its membership. It has political services for sale. It does not foist its favors on anybody but it expects and exacts absolute obedience to its laws from any one who seeks and receives its support.

It does not claim morality, neither does it promise to be guided by any set code of ethics. It is political, and confines its activities to this cold and calculating business of promoting political interests. It is not hypocritical. It lays its cards on the table face up and leaves the choice with those seeking its support.

Once an agreement is entered into with it by anybody, high or low, it exacts strict compliance with its every detail. It always has its price for all favors extended. No man who receives its favors is ignorant of what price he must pay. Whosoever and whenever he fails to pay, the machine promptly and swiftly withdraws its props and throws the subject down without mercy. It will also set about to punish its subject in the most humiliating manner it knows. And here is the point at issue. Here is the question the voters must decide in the primaries April 10th in the Ninth district. Shall we support the man who is chosen for us by such an organization whose will he must serve and whose orders he must obey, or shall we support a man of our own choosing who is free to act in the interest of those who elect him?

Shall we support a man whose very candidacy was brought about as a means of punishment for one who dared to exercise his own judgment? Shall we vote to elect a man upon whom we are not to depend for any act in our interest except that that act absolutely conforms to the will of a political machine? Shall we support one member of our group who gives himself over to the machine to be used as a punishment for another of our group? These are the questions we must answer April 10th and there should be no hesitation on the part of any self-respecting loyal race man or woman in making their choice.

Let us approach this matter with seriousness and sound judgment. Let us no longer sign on the dotted line. Think and act for yourselves, for in this way and by this means only will we ever prove worthy of the suffrage which the constitution gives us.  
GEO. H. W. BULLOCK.

## URGES UNITED SUPPORT OF AMOS P. SCRUGGS FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER

Amos P. Scruggs, the well known attorney, has filed for public defender for Douglas county. His qualifications for the office which he seeks cannot be questioned. A graduate of the University of Illinois and an attorney of record in Omaha for over 15 years, practicing in all courts, he speaks his fitness.

I, therefore, sincerely hope that all of our own people and many of the liberal minded white people, of whom I know a large number in Douglas county, will give Attorney Scruggs their hearty support at the primaries, April 10.

I believe that there will never be a better opportunity than now for the nomination and election of Attorney Scruggs to this important position.

Let us all boost for Scruggs. See that your friends are registered so that they can vote and get out and vote. We can nominate and elect Scruggs. Let us do it. What a great thing it will be to elect Amos P. Scruggs public defender.  
S. H. DORSEY

RE-ELECT SINGLETON TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE.—Adv.



VOTE FOR  
**William J. Ballard**

— for —  
**District Judge**

In active practice of law for 22 years.

Advocate of Lower Taxes  
Primaries Tuesday, April 10



**Harry G. Counsman**

Logical and Dependable  
Republican Candidate

— for —

**County Commissioner**  
FIFTH DISTRICT

To the Colored Voters of  
Douglas County

On April 10th, I will again be in the race for County Commissioner, and am asking my friends for a repetition of the same hearty support they have always given me in past years. I am sure you will all agree that I have been fair and impartial in the administration of my office, and if re-elected will do my best to give you the same kind of efficient service. When you go to the polls on the above date, please remember the one that has always been fair to you and given you a logical and dependable administration.  
HARRY G. COUNSMAN.

## Tires and Batteries to Suit Your Pocketbook

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Starting April 1st, we will operate the Nicholas Oil Filling Station at Twenty-fourth and Willis Avenue, continuing to sell Nicholas products exclusively. We assure you of the very best of service such as—

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- Tires tested and filled
- Water for your radiator
- Crank case cleaned and refilled
- Transmissions cleaned and refilled
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Lovejoy Crawford, Mgr.

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