

# THE MONITOR

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO THE INTERESTS OF COLORED AMERICANS

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## AN IMPORTANT WORD TO SUBSCRIBERS

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

## AN OPEN LETTER TO HENRY DUNN, POLICE COMMISSIONER

Dear Sir: I desire to call your attention to the fact that on more than one occasion managers of local theaters have called in police officers for the purpose of having them eject from the theater or to intimidate and compel the removal to other seats in balcony or gallery, respectable and well-behaved colored patrons, who had violated no law, created no disturbance but were acting within their lawful rights as law-abiding citizens of this state.

The civil rights bill of this state provides that, "All persons within the state shall be entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of inns, restaurants, public conveyances, barber shops, THEATERS (caps mine) and other places of amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to every person."

A penalty is provided for violation of this law. Now, sir, when a theater advertises its seats at a given price and a patron pays that price, he is "entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the accommodation" paid for. So long as he behaves himself no one has any right, in law or morals, to interfere with his enjoyment of that right. And whoever does so interfere is a lawbreaker. This must be perfectly obvious to any one with any reasonable degree of intelligence. And yet, there has grown up in this community, which is supposed to rank relatively high in intelligence and enlightened citizenship, a custom which forbids colored citizens, no matter how refined and well-mannered they may be, of occupying any but certain designated seats in given sections of these public places of amusement. If, therefore, such patrons quietly take seats in other than these designated sections, they are annoyed and ordered to move, and when they decline police officers are brought in to intimidate and embarrass them. A flagrant case of this character occurred Sunday afternoon when two highly respected women were sub-

jected to this embarrassment and humiliation. Be it said to the credit of the officer that his gentlemanly bearing and conduct was in marked contrast to that of the blatant and loud-mouthed assistant manager who called the officer.

Will you kindly see to it, sir, that police officers decline to be used for the unlawful purpose of embarrassing and humiliating respectable and well-behaved colored patrons of theaters and other places covered in the civil rights bill of Nebraska when they are breaking no law, and will you not also make it plain to theater managers and others that police officers are not to be summoned by them save to quell disturbance and preserve order and not to help and uphold them in their violation of the law?

With marked personal esteem, believe me

Respectfully yours,  
JNO. ALBERT WILLIAMS,  
Editor of The Monitor.

## A MORAL ISSUE AND POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

By Kelly Miller

The national republican convention has engaged to bind the G. O. P. to the unequivocal enforcement of the 18th amendment. Borah and Butler met. The exponents of the dregs and the wets locked horns. Borah won before the republican convention as he did last year in public debate. The 18th amendment involves a double moral issue. The very nature and essence of prohibition is moral. The inculcation of habits of temperance and sobriety is a moral duty which the state owes the citizen. It is also incumbent upon the state to forefend the young from self-hurt by whatever measure of coercion may be necessary. In all of the ages of history strong drink has been looked upon as an evil; temperance has been regarded as a virtue. A firm and determined espousal of the cause of temperance constitutes the only great moral commitment of the republican party since its original adoption of the cause of human freedom and manhood rights. In the second place, the

18th amendment at this time focuses the issue of the integrity and inviolability of the constitution and the law. No party can hope to bid for public favor and openly advocate the annulment of organic law. I expect to see the democratic convention at Houston endeavor to outdo its republican rival in avowing allegiance to the constitution. It is a safe bet that Smith will outdo Hoover in lip homage to this great instrument. But party platforms are designed to attract voters rather than to express sincere conviction. This is the homage which vice pays to virtue. There are sincerely dry democrats and republicans. On the other hand, both parties have an ample contingency of genuine wets. But on the whole, the republican party has a more comprehensive purpose than its democratic rival in regard to this great moral reform. Hoover's purpose with reference to prohibition is constructive; Smith's is destructive. We must interpret platform phraseology in light of the spirit and determination of the parties and persons behind them.

The regret is great that the G. O. P. did not choose to be as specific in its avowal to enforce the 14th and 15th amendments as the 18th. Herein lies a moral inconsistency. On this score we must rest content with the declarations of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as to the obligatoriness of the constitution as such. But these 40 years of sad experience makes us skeptical of the modern day American's sense of this obligation so ardently espoused by the father and the savior of the nation. It is well, however, to renew our allegiance to basic principle, although our practice may deviate therefrom.

We gather from press reports that the Negro contingency of the convention, some 50 strong, fought manfully for the inclusion of the 14th and 15th amendments, along with the 18th, in the specific declaration. In this they were defeated. Their attitude must be applauded in general terms. However, I have not learned of a single Negro participant, either at the convention nor in the preliminary campaign, who openly and avowedly advocated prohibition, on basic principle, with the single exception of the national committeemen from Georgia. Their tactics were rather vindictive and retaliatory. They declared to the managers of the party, "If you insist on enforcing the 18th amendment, then we will also insist on the enforcement of the 14th and 15th amendments." The moral force of their contention was immeasurably weakened because they failed to uphold prohibition for its own essential merit. How greatly this would have strengthened their position. It is a much greater virtue to uphold law as law rather than to select designated portions of the law promotive of our peculiar interests, for emphatic advocacy.

The American people had allowed the principle of the civil war amendments to lapse into complaisant oblivion until revived in memory by the prohibition issue. The political rights of the Negro will inevitably benefit by the enforcement of the 18th amendment. Of course we would bind the two to the public conscience by a common chain, if we could. The attempt is worth the effort, if no more. Whatever moral purpose may be engendered by the latter will inevitably react upon the former.

But now the issue has been drawn. The republican party and its candidate have been firmly committed to the 18th amendment. They are also

committed in general terms, to the 14th and 15th amendments. Let the Negro enter the campaign with unreserved devotion to the cause of prohibition, with the kind of zeal and ardor that the true reformer would exhibit, if all the rest of the constitution were fully enforced. "This ye ought to have done, and not to have left the other undone. But the doing of this will keep ye mindful of the moral obligation of the other."

As I said in a previous release, I have little hope that the enforcement of the civil war amendments will be brought about by direct action. There is nothing in the present temper and purpose of the American people to justify such optimism. They rather, the American people, the disposed to persuade themselves to say with Senator Borah, that these amendments are not being disobeyed, at least in the letter. But there is a gradually growing sense of conscience. Even the southern people will sooner or later forget to remember the alleged horrors of reconstruction and the fancied dread of Negro domination. But more than all, deep-seated and far-reaching political, industrial and social forces are steadily making for the observance of political equality. The enfranchisement of women, the shift of Negro population to the free states of the north, the lessening of racial pressure on the southern area, the enforcement of the 18th amendment, all tend towards this grand consummation devoutly to be wished. I believe that the election of Mr. Hoover will contribute powerfully in the right direction. It is too much to hope that he will stress with equal emphasis all three of these amendments. I hope he will, but can hardly expect it. The republican platform on which he stands does not do so. Let the race no longer deceive itself, nor allow the wily politician to deceive them.

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We face the coming campaign with eyes wide open. The chief proposition so far as we are concerned is the 18th amendment, with the 14th and 15th amendments as correlaries. We would, if we could, reverse the order, and make the correlaries the leading proposition.

Washington, D. C.  
June 14, 1928.

## Y. W. C. A. NOTES

The members of the Blue Ribbon club held a vesper service, Sunday afternoon, June 17. The attendance was not large, due to the rainstorm, but encouraging to those who were on the program.

The house committee musicale and June frolic will be held at Dreamland hall, Thursday evening, June 21. All are cordially invited to be present.

The second annual membership picnic of the North Side Branch Y. W. C. A. will be held at Elmwood park, Wednesday afternoon, June 27, from 2 to 8 p. m. All members and friends are urged to be present. At this time the Girl Reserves will hold a field meet. This is also a day in honor of our secretary, Miss Ruth O. Collins, who is soon to leave the branch for another field of employment soon after the first of July.

## ANNOUNCEMENT!

Growing out of the Negro trade week activity, a committee composed of members of the Ministerial Alliance, co-operating with business men of the city have worked out plans for the formation of a permanent organization, the purpose of which when perfected will be to promote, instill and agitate harmonious support of Negro business enterprises.

July 17th has been selected as the date upon which a mass meeting will be held for the purpose of adoption of the plans, creation of a permanent organization and the election of officers. The place of meeting will be announced in a later issue of this paper. The public in general is respectfully urged to be present and lend it moral support.

The committee is composed of Milton L. Hunter, Jacob C. Cary, and M. Lynch, chairman.

The annual sermon of the Sir Knights and Daughters of Tabernacle was held in Newman Methodist church, Sunday, the Rev. S. H. Johnson officiating as the speaker. The attendance was fair, owing to rain.

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## EPISCOPAL

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 a. m. Holy Communion

10 a. m. Sunday School

11 a. m. Sung Eucharist With Sermon

8 p. m. Service and Sermon

The Church With a Welcome  
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