

THE VOICE

A NEGRO WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people"

Rev. Melvin L. Shakespeare
Publisher and Owner

2225 S Street Phone 5-6491
If no answer call 5-7508

Rubie W. Shakespeare
Advertising & Business Manager

Mrs. Joe Green

Circulation Mgr.

Dorothy Green

Reporter

Rev. Trago T. McWilliams, Sr.
Special Writer

Joseph V. Casmer
Special Writer

Member of the Assoc. Negro Press

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Watchman.

What of the Night?

In these dark and dangerous times, we are liable to become morose and gloomy. The tremendous events that are shaping up about us may cause temporary dismay; but we must not be blinded to the larger forces at work, through which liberation is assured. If we confine our attentions to immediate situations and matters, there is much ground for panic; but if we can think in ultimate terms, we have abundant reasons for rejoicing.

It may not be amiss for students of the interracial situation to stop ever so often to get their bearings. The clamor and din of many voices may confuse for a while, but in our calmer moments we can surely discern on the dim outline of current events signs, that in spite of an uncertain present, give promise of a more favorable future. We must not be too downcast over our setbacks to note our steady progress. The untoward events that transpired at the conclusion of the war wrought deadly dismay in our spirits; but all about us are evidences that we are heading in the right direction.

Who would have thought that in 1946 Bilbo would be sitting in an investigation committee not as the all-American bulldozer, but as a defendant in an investigation that threatens to bar him from the senate of the United States? Whether the investigation fails or not is a minor matter. The fact that the great Bilbo feels called upon to deny that he sought the intimidation of Negroes in the Mississippi polls is one of the greatest strokes for righteousness we have seen in a long time.

Let us not forget that this investigation is not taking place in Washington, but in Jackson, Miss.

where the Bilbo is supposed to be king. But King Bilbo is taking low even in his home town. This Negro-hater and Negro-baiter is on the defensive! When Bilbo denied that he ever attempted to keep Negroes from voting, we are witnessing one of the most dramatic events of the 20th century. Bilbo denying that he used intimidational tactics to keep Negroes from the polls! If this can happen in Mississippi and to Bilbo, it is difficult to imagine what good things may yet happen in the realm of race relations.

Add to the Bilbo episode in Mississippi, the investigation under way in Athens, Ga., where attempts are being made to indict somebody in the quadruple lynching of a few months ago. When we come upon a time when Georgia Lynchers are even called into question, we are come upon curious times indeed. For 100 years lynching Negroes was the undisputed prerogative of certain elements of southern whites; and when that prerogative is being questioned, we are seeing strange things today. We are getting somewhere in this country even when Georgia Lynchers are being even called into question.

Elsewhere in the south a Negro is being tried for rape, a thing unheard of 25 years ago. The pattern was to lynch some Negro and investigate later, if at all. I distinctly remember some years ago when a white woman claimed to have been attacked and all she remembered of her assailant was that he had white hairy hands. He caught her from behind.

One of the outstanding citizens of that little southern town was so infuriated that he made a public announcement that "some nigger must die tonight!" Saner citizens could not get the idea of lynching a Negro, for Negroes do not have hairy white hands. The white woman stuck to her story and the saner citizens stuck to their record, which showed that no Negro had ever been lynched in that neighborhood. When Negroes accused of rape are being tried in the south we are indeed coming upon better times. Perhaps in less than 100 years they will even secure acquittal in isolated cases.

Add to all this, the fact that over 50 per cent of whites in Georgia have enough of Talmadge. Can we really believe that Talmadge is winning in Georgia on a political fluke and not by an overwhelming majority? To be frank this writer is more concerned as to whether Negroes will be prepared for full citizenship than whether it is coming. It is bound to come and if we are not prepared it will be indefinitely postponed. Watchman, what of the night? The morning cometh.

by Dean Gordon B. Hancock
for ANP

Select Works of Negro Artists

WASHINGTON—(ANP) Prof. James V. Herring, head of the department of art, Howard University had noted authority on Negro art, has been chosen by the International Bus Machine company to make representative selections from the works of modern Negro artists to be used as part of a travelling exhibit in the Mediterranean area.

Among the Negro artists whose works will be studied for inclusion in the exhibit are Elizabeth Catlett White, Richmond Barthe, Jacob Lawrence, Hale Woodruff and Ellis Wilson.

Winner

The We Modern Club, Miss Mary Sampson, president announces as winner of the Christmas Turkey, Henneretta Kartlang.

Miss Sampson expresses sincere appreciation for the enthusiasm and cooperation displayed during the contest and its close at the A. M. E. Parsonage on Thursday, December 12.

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