

THE VOICE

A NEGRO WEEKLY

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

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From My Chair—At Midnight FREEDOM, GLORY—YOUTH

How do we celebrate our Nation's Birthday? Some of us go to picnics, with luscious strawberry shortcake packed in the lunch basket. Some of us are content with a ball game, a little fire cracker excitement, or a silver display of fireworks against a pale dusk. But an ever increasing number prefer more sophisticated revelries, dancing in public places, lake shore lodges, or a "Regular Party" in some secluded night spot.

The past year papers have carried as "headlines" and "front page stuff" stories of **Juvenile Delinquency, Kidnapping — Murder**. These features are not nice to think about but are real, these youth, gangsters—killers had one thing in common besides their "social outlawry," and that thing was startling enough to warrant Front Page Notice—They mostly came of clean American Parentage, and they all "went bad" early in life.

It may not have been because of too many 'parties'; it may have been because of too few 'parties'. I am not trying to indict festivity. The point I wish to make is that America is still a very young nation, and being at the same time a very powerful nation, we have created our own standards of value, further, like all young things, we are pursuing many wrong objects, grasping at appearances. It is not surprising to me that youngsters from American families become "badmen." In fact, there's a certain sardonic justice about it, for sometimes there is no other way for them to achieve the material success that is America's apparent ideal.

Ring the bells of Independence Day, Salute our glorious flag, parade in triumph! Let there be a real joy in our hearts; but see that it is REAL. Look below the surface. Let us not forget that America with all her wealth and power and astonishing achievements, during the past decade, is still young, and still developing, and that her traditions and standards are to a large degree still in the process of formation. Can we choose the right ones? Can we see clearly enough to keep the wrong ones out, like the most deadly of enemy aliens—The GREAT GREEN DRAGON OF COMMUNISM???

In all the blare of superficial civilization remember the quiet of New England's rugged green hills, the clear distance of the central plains and the steadfast spirits of the men who conquered the West and were fostered by it. There are forces which by their very being make men strong, and
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Dark Merit



by
Kathrynne
Favors

In thinking of Independence Day we are reminded that during the last generation the civilized world has had to direct attention to the discordant elements in Europe which would not abide by the treaty of peace closing the war of 1914-18. Italy contended that she did not receive her share of the spoils. Germany groaned under the burden of reparations imposed because of the guilt of the Hohenzollerns, who had to flee to Holland to escape execution. The nations with which the United States was allied defaulted in their debt payments to us when we had actually financed them during the war. It all ended in the larger powers swallowing up the smaller nations.

Let them fight it out among themselves was the position which so many assumed. The President insisted that we should do our part in saving democracies like France and England and thus assure the continuation of our own way of life, inasmuch as the Nazis were trying to bring the whole world to the recognition of Facism.

The Negroes of the United States had no particular interest in waging the Second World War to make democracy safe for every body but themselves. A tremendous army and navy had to be built up and equipped with munitions of war. Those who could not go to the front were called to the war industries which immediately multiplied to accelerate the preparation to meet the enemy off our shores, threatening to invade the mainland. Negroes, not desiring to be placed in the same position they were in 1917, raised the question of equality and justice in the ranks. Impediments were thrown across the path of the Negro soldiers. They could not serve here and, they could not go there. A delegation led by Walter F. White executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called on the President to inquire of what the Negroes might expect from the Administration. Judge William H. Hastie, civilian aide to Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, resigned in protest against discrimination as it was being practiced in the Armed Forces. A. Philip Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, issued an order that in war industries there should be no discrimination in employment. To carry out this order the President appointed a Fair Employment Practices Committee.

The South, however, continued its protest in the considerable number of Negro Soldiers, shot down sometimes in cold blood by railway conductors, policemen

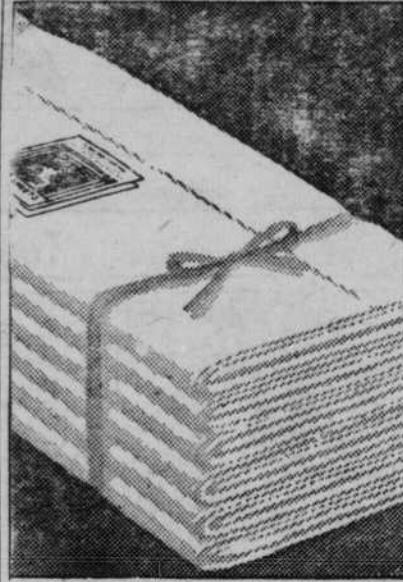
and indignant defenders of caste; and the War Department did little or nothing to bring the offenders to justice. On the contrary, the Secretary of War simply said that the Federal Government could not abrogate the laws of the States, and the soldiers must obey them; but even so, defenders of real democracy contended, the United States could have prosecuted those who went to the extent of killing a soldier for not changing his seat on a street car, for getting on trains from which Negroes were barred altogether, or for seeking food and recreation in places from which Negroes were excluded. Negroes, like all other soldiers, had to go from place to place according to orders. These handicaps upon the egress and regress of Negro soldiers actually retarded our preparation for the war and, in crisis, might have proved unusually serious.

The demands of the Negro have had some weight in national and local situations because the Negro is a greater factor in politics today than he was a generation ago. Negroes have learned to divide their vote. They have therefore been elected and appointed to useful and commanding positions.

For further advancement for the cause of Democracy now is the opportune time for the passage of the Anti-Lynch Bill.

Each person is urged to use his influence toward the passage of this bill.

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