

The Voice

Published Weekly

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

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Mississippi Heard From

By Gordon B. Hancock.

One of the marks of promise that there is being born a new south is the growing knowledge at the south that outside criticism is not all inimical.

Those who criticize our faults may be rendering unto us a necessary service. The seething south is stirring in unbelievable ways. Things are daily transpiring before the eyes of old southerners that stir the imagination. Things undreamed of 50 years ago are becoming common place. When I was a boy I read a book written by a southerner questioning whether or not the Negro was a man. Today the question is, what manner of man he is. The doors of full citizenship for Negroes in the south are at least standing ajar, and it is just a matter of time before they will be flung wide. Some divinity has so decreed it. God and Time and Right are on the side of human brotherhood and justice.

The foregoing was provoked by the turn of political events in Mississippi during recent elections. This state has long been cursed with the professional demagogues and supper-rabble-rousers. Because there was a large percentage of Negroes in the population, the old bug-bear of "Negro domination" was resurrected. The nation remembers with shame Mississippi's vaunted Vardamar, its Bilbo and its Rankin. Their shameful political lustre was only eclipsed by Tillman and Bleasie of South Carolina and Hoko Smith and Tom Watson of Georgia.

However bad South Carolina may appear today, she cannot discover a Tillman or a Colo Bleasie who cried "to hell with the constitution" even when he was a United States senator. Talmadge is just a vest-pocket edition of Hoke Smith and Tom Watson. When Georgia gave more than half of its votes against Talmadge, Georgia was heard from in a big way.

And now comes Mississippi voting down a white supremacy advocate. It is well nigh unbelievable that a white supremacy candidate can lose in Mississippi. And yet that is just what happened! Mississippi has served notice on the world that even she is laying off demagogue politics and politicians and that henceforth she is supporting candidates with platforms that face up to world issues.

"The Voice of Democracy"

WASHINGTON. (ANP). "Custom and practice" were the two reasons advanced by Norman J. Nelson, first assistant superintendent in charge of white high schools for the nation's capital, in denying the use of one of the high school auditoriums to finalists in the "Voice of Democracy" contest sponsored by the Washington Junior Board of commerce. The finalists included representatives from eight white and three Negro high schools.

Edward Candee, representing the junior board, said Nelson told him to "look elsewhere" and "hire a hall." Nelson told reporters "we've had no formal request, but I did suggest that they get some other place to hold the finals. It just isn't the practice or the custom in Washington to hold mixed meetings." Some interracial programs have been held here in public school buildings, he continued, "and we got by without any undue fuss."

When the contest was brought to the attention of the school board at its Oct. 15 meeting, the board approved it unanimously. Further negotiations with the school officials were ruled out because of the shortness of time, and the sponsors voted to hire Pierce hall for the finals on Nov. 13 and 14.

The Washington contest is part of a nation-wide competition in which students prepare and deliver five-minute speeches on any subject dealing with the first 10 amendments to the U. S. constitution, known as the Bill of Rights. The speech of the winner will be recorded and will be judged against recordings of state winners.

Our Children

By Mrs. W. B. Davis

Action Proposed

(Continued from last week)

Adoption Laws

a. Adoption proceedings should be before a court accustomed to handling children's cases, in the locality or state where the petitioners for adoption reside and are known. Court hearings should be closed to the public, and the confidential nature of the records should be assured.

b. The interrelated functions of legal and social protection should be recognized by a provision incorporated in the adoption laws which requires the State Welfare Department to be informed of all adoption petitions and through its own staff or through private or local public agencies designated by the department, assist the court having jurisdiction over adoptions by making available to it information regarding the child and the proposed adoption home.

c. Consent to adoption should be obtained from the natural parents or if their parental rights have been legally relinquished or terminated, then from a person or agency having legal responsibility for the child and the right to consent to his adoption home, preferably for a year, should be required prior to issuance of the final adoption decree, so that the suitability of the adoption may be determined.

Provisions should be made for removal of children from homes found to be unsuitable, and for their care and guardianship after removal.

Seeks 10,000 Members

LITTLE ROCK. (ANP). The Arkansas Negro Democratic association has launched a concentrated effort to expand its membership from 3,500 to 10,000 in time for the 1948 elections, according to Dr. J. M. Robinson, president of the association, here last week.

The drive, which centers around Pulaski county, will take in Jefferson, St. Francis and Phillips counties, and then branch out to cover the entire state. Of the 3,500 members, 2,000 are in Pulaski county.

"Our next immediate objectives in the membership campaign will be in Jefferson, St. Francis and Phillips counties," he said.

Each member will be issued a card certifying that he or she is a contributor to the Democratic organization and that he is "entitled to all benefits thereunto belonging." This card will assure the member being permitted to vote in the Democratic primaries.

He revealed that organizations have already been formed in Hempstead, Faulkner, Ashley, Dallas, Desha and Miller counties, to spur the statewide drive. Leaders in the various communities have been contacted to aid in setting up the Democratic units, and letters sent to prospective members.

The letter calls attention to the fact that "1948 will be an eventful political year. We will be intensely interested in the governor and U. S. senator race. Therefore, we are endeavoring to perfect the organization so concretely that we will be easily understood among ourselves.

"We wish to organize the voters of each ward in cities of the first

The Sports Front

By

Howard

"Smoky"

Molden



Discovered Jackie

Jackie Robinson is being eagerly awaited for his return home as the conquering hero to receive the keys to a couple of cities, Pasadena and Ellay; to open on the Million Dollar theatre stage, Nov. 19, to start in his first picture at Screen Guild production, to try out his new gift car on the California highways, and to start that new home, a dream come true for his beloved wife and baby. Rest assured it all won't turn his head. Cheering crowds all the past great season didn't.

Gets Top Award

Jackie Robinson, Brooklyn first baseman, Wednesday night received the Louis Comiskey award as baseball's outstanding rookie of the year. Making the presentation was Chairman Jack Ryan of the Chicago Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association.

What's Doing in Alliance

By Bea Motley

Jesse Watson of Omaha, who won on the late October fight card held at the Municipal Auditorium, is visiting in the city.

Maxie C. Woodlee, Jr., is back home after an extended visit in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mrs. Freeman McGuire and daughter Marsha and son Freeman, Jr., of Indianapolis, Indiana, are visiting at the home of Mrs. Freeman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Chandler, Sr.

Mrs. William Young and daughter Delores have returned from a recent visit in Lincoln. Mrs. Young and daughter were guests in the home of her sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. William Whitmon, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Ealy and sons Robert and Billy spent a most enjoyable week end in Lincoln. Frank Nevels and Melvin Tarpoley of Lincoln motored to the city.

class, and of each township where colored voters reside. Each club will be entitled to one delegate to the state convention for the first 50 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 50 additional members."

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