

# THE VOICE



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## Negro History Week Observance

### Member of Normal Board Appears on Radio Shows

J. Hyde Sweet, editor of the Nebraska Daily News-Press, Nebraska City, and in December appointed to the State Normal Board by Governor Val Peterson, recently appeared on two nation-wide broadcasts.

On Sunday, December 28, he appeared on Columbia Broadcasting System's "The Editor Speaks," and on Monday, January 5, on Morgan Beatty's "News of the World."

Topic for the broadcast was "The State of the Union."

Mr. Sweet used for the theme of his address, "We must not repeat old errors in coming years."

"It is hoped that the errors of the past 25 years, a quick review of which will reveal some remarkable and saddening experiences for the American people, will not be repeated legislatively during the coming year," he said.

"We must not forget that in 1920 the country was faced by the fact that we had a Democratic president and an opposition Congress. It was during that period that our first great chance occurred to take an active and personal part in the affairs of the world, which then, too, was in the depths of despair. We failed to live up to our finest traditions as a friend to mankind for reasons which we need not go into here."

"And now again, in 1948, we have a government which is split in its loyalties, and may unless it is very careful, lose its sense of national direction. At this time the issues at stake, one domestic and the other international, transcend in importance and far-reaching effect anything we have seen in the long and interesting history of the republic.

"The situation differ in some degree, and yet if we do not solve the problems which beset us at home by building up solidarity of purpose and intent which is so pressing needed, then the larger problem of creating harmony and restoring human hope abroad, will remain in status quo, or worse, and engender more and more anguish for all of us in the future.

"It will not be enough for one group in this country to use all its talents to oppose another faction, solely on the grounds that it has been the American custom for political parties to seek the material rather than the spiritual.

"It is my opinion as a small-town newspaper man, and I think I am joined in this thought by many others, that partisan and personal considerations must be laid aside during the coming year. I believe that regardless of a great American presidential election during which all sorts of arguments will be presented in the hope of swaying the masses of people into partisan, emotional disturbances, we have a remarkable and marvelous opportunity ahead of us.

"I believe we may bring peace and joy to millions of people merely by setting a good example to the rest of the world; that thankfulness will fill our own hearts as well as the hearts of others, because we have shown ourselves big and brave enough to

perform a huge task and that by accomplishing that task we once more have attained our God-directed manifest destiny as the exemplars of popular government."

Issues discussed on "The Editor speaks" included America's place in the world; the diplomatic and economic situation at home and abroad, and the proposal to use the Marshall Plan as one means of combatting Communism as a world threat.

Mr. Sweet was appointed to the Normal Board to fill the unexpired term of Edgar Ferneau, Auburn Attorney, who died. The term ends Jan. 19, 1953.

Mr. Sweet has served as president of the Nebraska Press Association, the Nebraska City Chamber of Commerce, the Nebraska Rotary Club, and Congressman from Nebraska. He is listed in Who's Who in America.

### College Students Urged to Apply For Scholarships

NEW YORK.—Dr. Reuben G. Gustavson, chancellor of the University of Nebraska, and Dr. Rowland Haynes, president of the University of Omaha, have joined the presidents of 172 leading colleges who have issued a call for Negro students to apply for ten thousand scholarships. These presidents comprise the Board of College Scholarship Fund for Negro Students.

The Fund helps Negro students to finance their education at 968 inter-racial, non-segregated institutions. According to Fund officials, few Negro students realize that thousands of scholarships are available to them.

Students are urged to send their names and addresses to the College Scholarship Fund for Negro Students, Room 462, 360 West 122nd Street, New York 27, N. Y. The Fund is supported by voluntary contributions and therefore offers its services free of charge.

### Fisk Prexy Gives Short History Of Negro in Britannica Junior

CHICAGO. (ANP). The growing importance of the Negro peoples to the economy of the United States is depicted in a 5,000-word article on "Negroes, United States," written for Britannica Junior, the boys' and girls' encyclopaedia, by Charles Spurgeon Johnston, president of Fisk university in Nashville.

Britannica Junior, published by the 18-year-old Encyclopaedia Britannica organization with headquarters in Chicago, is especially intended for children of grade school age. In the new printing recently published, Britannica Junior has been expanded from 12 to 15 volumes, and completely reset in a type chosen for easy reading by children themselves. Every article in the set has been revised or reviewed, and hundreds of articles are completely new.

In the article by President Johnston, Britannica Junior points out that the Negro first came to America with the earliest explorers.

"Ancient manuscripts mention Alonzo Pietro, il negro (the Negro), as the pilot of the Nina, one of Christopher Columbus' ships. Negroes were with Vasco Balboa when he reached the Pacific, with

### Howard Grad Wins D.C. X-Ray Slogan Contest

WASHINGTON. (ANP). A Howard university graduate, Miss Janet E. Childs, won first prize of \$150 this week for submitting the best slogan among more than 8,000 entries for the city wide X-ray drive.

Her slogan, "Happy? Healthy? Stay That Way! Get Your Chest X-ray Today," opened the capitol city's campaign to give chest X-rays for tuberculosis to 600,000 Washington dwellers and workers.

Miss Childs received her award from District Commissioner Guy Mason at a special ceremony opening the drive. Neighborhood examinations will be given to adults throughout the city until June 15.

Hernan Cortez in Mexico, and with the explorers of Guatemala, Chili, Peru and Venezuela.

"The territory now forming New Mexico and Arizona was first explored by a party led by Estevanico, a Negro. Aviles de Menendez had Negro artisans with him when he founded St. Augustine, Florida in 1565."

Dr. Johnson explains that the importation of Negro slaves did not begin in earnest until 1688, when the supply of white indentured servants was cut off.

By the time of the American Revolution there were a half-million Negro slaves in the American colonies, and by 1880 about one million.

"In 1807, on the earnest recommendation of President Thomas Jefferson, congress prohibited the further importation of slaves. But illegal importations continued on a large scale and the Negro population reached 2,300,000 in 1830 and 4,411,000 by 1860. Many parts of the country shaded in the responsibility for slavery, either as importers, sellers, or buyers," the article points out.

In the article, President Johnston deals exhaustively with the status of both Negro slaves and Negro freedmen during the 19th century. As early as the first United States census in 1790, nearly eight per cent of the total Negro population were free, the article reports. But while technically "free," the Negro in both south and north suffered under many handicaps.

"When the War Between the States came, the status of the Negro was really the central issue. On Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation proclamation became effective setting free all slaves held in the southern states which were at that time at war with the union... More than 4,000,000 Negro slaves were set free, nearly all of them illiterate, without training in self-direction and self-support, and without property."

### Theme: 'The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Whole Truth'

WASHINGTON. (ANP). Communities throughout most of the United States will observe Negro History week February 8-15 with special programs emphasizing the way the teaching of Negro history in schools and colleges can help the democratic processes in America. This celebration has become a regular event in the majority of Negro schools and in many white ones.

### Our Honor Roll

The following is a list of those who are New Subscribers or have renewed their Subscription to THE VOICE.

How does your SUBSCRIPTION STAND?

Mr. Ed G. Craft  
Mrs. H. Spann  
Mrs. Henry Harris  
Mrs. Dennis Brown, Springfield, Mass.  
Mr. Harold Jones, Allentown, Pa.  
Mrs. L. S. Goolsby, Wentzville, Missouri  
Mrs. Ray W. Smith  
Miss Estella Kerns  
Mrs. Irene Weeks  
Mr. Donald Stith.  
Mr. Wm. R. Green, Chicago, Ill.

### Ada Sipuel Jubilant Over Supreme Court Decision

NEW YORK. (ANP). Miss Ada Lois Sipuel, 23-year-old plaintiff in the Sipuel versus the University of Oklahoma case, was jubilant here Wednesday when the U. S. Supreme court awarded a decision in her favor for admittance to the law school of the university. She was enroute from Providence, R. I., to Norman, Okla., where she will enroll in the university law school next semester.

"Oh, it's a wonderful constitution," she exclaimed. "I'm going to be a lawyer, I'm going to learn."

Reflecting a moment on what her reception will be at the school, she said soberly, "The few on the campus at the university who call me names why, I won't even hear them. I don't think I'll be alone for long. Somebody had to be first. It will be hard, but maybe soon there'll be other Negroes with me."

Miss Sipuel, who is the wife of Warren W. Fisher, a Langston university honor graduate, is herself an honor graduate of Langston. Her husband is now working as a machinist in Providence, but plans to join her in Norman. She has a brother who is a law student at Howard university.

Speaking of the events leading up to the court suit, she said, "I got mad when I was a junior at college. We had a state official down to ask for better facilities. We showed him all over the campus, what we needed, and he just shrugged his shoulders and said we were lucky to have any school.

"I didn't see why Negroes should be kept from learning," she continued. "Justice is for everyone. Six of us decided to apply for various departments at the university. Everybody backed out, so I nominated myself as chief guinea pig."

As a parting shot, she asserted, "The state of Oklahoma may not know it, but I think perhaps their whole silly law of segregation is crumbling — and forever and ever."

Begun to teach Negroes of their own background and thus to instill the spirit of self respect, courage and inspiration among Negro youth, the celebration has proved to be helpful in increasing dignity among Negroes and in defeating the inferiority complex which has been tremendously handicapping to some Negro children and adults as well.

Literature and data on Negro history is already available at the offices of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History at 1538 9th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Individuals and groups desirous of securing help on planning Negro History week celebrations in their community should write to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, director.

Three very important things about the celebration, according to Dr. Woodson, are the gathering of local historical data and documents on the Negro, the petitioning of school boards and libraries as well as schools of higher learning to teach Negro history and to have available for students and readers books, pamphlets, reports and pictures by and about the Negro, and the raising of funds for the association.

All schools in the country, white and colored, public and private, are urged to participate in the observance this year. Dr. Woodson asserts that the world crisis heightened by racial hatreds and color prescriptions make it highly necessary that the celebration be held not only in America, but in other parts of the world.

Prejudice based on race, color, creed, sex, national origin and social status is considered one of the chief evils of modern civilization and a condition which lends itself easily to the justification and promotion of modern wars and imperialism. For this reason, it was explained by sponsors of Negro History Week this week, all peace-loving groups and individuals should help sponsor the observance in their communities.

Dr. Woodson, who originated the observance, was born in Buckingham County, Va. He sprang from a poor family, but by dogged determination and self sacrifice he secured a college education and earned the Ph.D. degree from Harvard university.

The Negro people all over America are urged to plan well and execute fully a program in observance of Negro History week this year. Money should be raised in colleges, universities, social, civic, professional and business clubs, in churches and fraternities and sororities to help this cause.

Groups can help the Association by urging white colleges, universities and public schools to teach drama and the arts, race relations, courses in Negro history, Negro inter-cultural relations and movements on inter-racial co-operation.