

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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

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EDITORIALS

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Recently, a group of university of Nebraska students, in choosing the ten greatest men of all time, included the name of Abraham Lincoln in their list. There are many points of view and opinion about President Lincoln, but all agree that finally, his administration gave America some of its best morals and philosophy.

Some historians take the position that until the tragedies of civil war were visited on the United States, Abraham Lincoln was a very ordinary person, and mostly, the pawn of a political machine that put him in the White House. Prior to that time he had been a failure in just about everything except being human, and this quality in the distraught time of war has added elements of greatness. Just what Lincoln's intentions or plans were for the 2,000,000 Negro slaves and 1,500,000 white indentures (that's the high-classed term) is not known, but he did maintain that "they should be free."

As a racial group, Negroes can be thankful for this president who reasserted that all of us are of "one nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

The racial relationships between Negroes and non-Negroes since 1865 has recently been classified by Dr. Yarborough into three phases: The period of readjustment, the period of segregation or of "separate but equal" that failed,

and the period of integration still in progress in which this racial group seeks full participation with others in the privileges and responsibilities of government and economy. Thus a shift in emphasis is sought from that of race and color to that of ability to produce for the good of our whole society.

Lincoln asserted the right of all Americans to life free of chattel slavery. Today, all minority groups, of whatever extraction, religion and color seek freedom from economic enslavement and accept the challenge and the responsibility of full citizenship in a democratic republican state. The concept of civil rights was born with those brave signers of the Declaration of Independence and reaffirmed in principle by the Bill of Rights. Lincoln insisted that these rights should be extended to all "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

The world today believes in Lincoln's last concepts and looks to the United States for leadership in their demonstration and development. Slaves and indentures were morally emancipated by this great, humanitarian president. Today President Truman and the 81st Congress have the opportunity, and the Nebraska legislature has the opportunity, to effect economic emancipation for a significant fraction of the population. God grant that our leaders and law-makers perceive their opportunity.

Mayor Cunningham Appoints Human Relations Committee

OMAHA, Neb.—Omaha has become the 29th city to have a municipally sponsored "Human Relations Committee." Mayor Cunningham announced the appointment of a 14-member committee last week.

Its job will be to investigate conditions in the community which adversely affect inter-group relations; report findings to the community; recommend corrective measures, and to carry out a program of community interpretation for the improvement of inter-group relations.

The mayor's action came as the direct result of the Omaha Urban League's demonstration of the problems of minorities in the city. The league brought recently elected U. S. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey to Omaha in February of 1948.

Senator Humphrey's address on minority problems in urban centers and his explanation of how Minneapolis had attacked their problem awakened the community to the local situation.

In May of the same year the Urban League sponsored a one-day human relations institute

which brought together members of city, state and federal government, and representatives from religious, social, educational, business, labor and health organizations.

Classified

WANTED to Rent—Four or five room house, if you know of such a place, please call 5-6491.

To understand at all what life means, one must begin with Christian belief. And I think knowledge may be sorrow with a man unless he loves.—William Mountford.

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By Kathryn Favors

Well, Negro History Week is here again! Truly, it will be a great day when we can eliminate such celebrations as Negro History Week and Brotherhood Week. One of these days, men will realize that there are more similarities between us than there are peculiarities. One of these days, men will forget to hate because another has white skin—or black skin. We'll realize one day that all men can live in this wide world together and contribute to make it a world which can make God smile. When that great day comes, there will be no need for special weeks to commemorate history or to preach brotherliness.

Now, we need Negro History week to tell men what we have done, and to tell them that we, too, want to give our talents to the world if the world will but allow it. The Negro's inferiority can never be believed because the many accomplishments will disprove any such accusation or theory. Negro history goes back thousands of years ago when black men led the world in civilization. Negro history goes back hundreds of years ago when the Africans were the first people in the world to smelt iron and use the forge. Negro history goes back a few decades ago when Dr. Daniel Williams, a physician of Chicago, performed the first successful operation on the human heart in the world. Negro history goes back to just a few years ago when the brilliant Dr. Charles Drew taught the world to make blood plasma, gave his ideal to the Red Cross and saved millions of soldiers. Negro history is now—right now. Yes, you should be in the history now.

What are you doing? A person whose only interest is social life disturbs me. A Negro has too much to do nowadays to sit at home and grieve about discrimination. Do something about it. I can't blame an employer for not hiring a person if the person is not qualified. Stop complaining and get to work. Find something that you want to do and do it. Don't let money hold you back. Few Negroes who have achieved great success have had only silken carpet to walk on and gold spoons

to eat from. If a high school education is holding you back—get that education. Every single Negro in any city who is young enough to still absorb facts and who is willing to work hard should have a high school education. Too many Negroes quit school—and let me add even in the beloved city of Lincoln, too many quit school. Quit sitting at home brooding and get prepared to do something worthwhile.

A new renaissance will occur all over the world when men are no longer denied the right to work in their chosen field and advance as their work merits. All types of new inventions and discoveries will occur. Great books will be written. Atomic energy will be used only for peaceful purposes. The world will be filled with music, song and dance!

Will you be ready? If your answer is "no," the same will be uttered by Negroes in many parts of the United States and how, oh how, can we then have a part in this great renaissance if we are not prepared.

Knowledge is folly unless grace guide it.—George Herbert.

An old canister set will make it fun for the children to put away their smaller play things, such as beads and spools to string, cut-outs, clay, crayons, chalk, and pencils.

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