

The Voice

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EDITORIALS
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Dialogues— But Barbed

Simple Speaks his mind. By Langston Hughes, 231 pp. New York: Simon & Shuster. Cloth \$3; Paper, \$1.

BY CARL VAN VECHTEN

On frequent occasions the late James Weldon Johnson, Negro author, was heard to observe: "There is no doubt in my mind that the solution of the 'race problem' depends on a sense of humor." Then he would say that persons who would permit Negroes to prepare their food, to lave their garments, to suckle their children, and then refuse to allow these same Negroes to sit next to them in street cars or buses (although they often sat next to them in their carriages and motor cars) must be a trifle cracked. "The only way to make these benighted souls see the light," he would continue, "is to convince them that their conduct is a huge joke."

Langston Hughes, the poet, may be performing that every service in a book which is perhaps not new in form (Mr. Dooley comes to mind as a similar creative effort), but which presents the Negro in a new way. Jesse Simple is wise, witty, as mad as the Madwoman of Chaillot—and invariably race conscious. He is the naive propagandist, through a series of dialogues.

Since these papers were originally written for a Negro newspaper and, consequently, an exclusive Negro audience, there is no attempt at obfuscation. The papers probably exhibit the Negro in bedroom slippers and pajamas—that is, as nearly himself as it would be possible to show him. Simple is completely frank in his opinions about white people: he dislikes them intensely. The race problem is never absent, but the flow of the book is light-hearted and easy.

This is a sane approach to real insanity if this book reaches more people and has wider influence than any volume on a similar subject since "Uncle Tom's Cabin." "Simple Speaks His Mind" will start a lot of people thinking hard. For those who have to swallow bitter pills it provides a sugar-

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coating of humor. Only a Negro could have written this book, and only a Negro as wise as Langston Hughes.

Richmon's First Firemen Take Oath

RICHMOND, Va. (ANP). The first Negro firemen in the history of this city were sworn in last week here. The ceremonies took place in the office of City Clerk William T. Wells. Fire Chief John Finnegan said they will undergo a 30-day training course which actually started July 3.

The ten men who got their new jobs June 30 went on the payroll of the city as of that date. Each is on a starting salary of \$200 a month.

They are William E. Brown, Harvey S. Hicks, Arthur C. St. John, Linwood Woodriddle, Douglas P. Evans, Farrar A. Lucas, Bernard C. Lewis, Adelphus L. Maples, Arthur L. Bailey, Sr., and William W. Kersey. During their training period they will be assigned to the engine house at Fifth and Duval streets. The successful candidates were selected from a filed of 120. Examinations cut the number to 12 from which 10 were selected for the open positions.

Win Fight

(Continued from Page 1)
 posed records of the board to prove porter-brakemen had not been informed that their discharge was being considered and had not been invited to testify.

Job rights is property rights, he argued, thus the Fifth amendment was violated. At the same time, he exposed the "all-white jury" composition of the board.

The NRAB consists of five representatives of rail companies and five representatives of all-white rail unions. They are paid \$10,000 each a year. When the board was stalemated by a tie vote in 1942, a white representative from the South—outside the First division—was called in to break the tie in favor of the white union.

He told Judge LaBuy the set-up was illegal and that paid representatives could hardly rule against their financiers. Westbrook reminded the court that such a board previously had been declared illegal by a special court of three federal judges.



As you travel U. S. highway 20 from South Sioux City to the Wyoming line you go through some of the most picturesque sections of Nebraska—in both landscape and history.

The eastern section of the route takes you through typical Nebraska prairie, with undulating fields dotted with numerous trees. Between O'Neill and Bassett you traverse what seems like an endless plateau, the vast hay-flats stretching to the horizon. Further west, through king-size Cherry County and beyond, you skirt the outlying edges of the sandhills. As you approach the Wyoming line, you are running into the beginnings of the mountain region—the badlands and the pine buttes.

Most of the history of the prairie region is as solid and substantial as the land itself, although Covington, now a part of South Sioux City, was once noted as the hangout for some of the roughest toughs in the state. One of the roughest gambling joints, built on the waterfront, had a long chute extending to the river. Those who complained about losing their money were unceremoniously dumped on the chute and into the muddy Missouri.

At O'Neill, you'll be in the town named in honor of one of the most colorful figures in all of American history: General John J. O'Neill, who helped lead an Irish military expedition to Canada in an effort to free it from British rule. He got a jail term for his activities, and later devoted his energies to bringing Irish immigrants to O'Neill and other Nebraska communities.

Bassett at once time was the stamping-ground of a fast-shooting, hard-drinking, hard-riding band of outlaws known as the Pony Boys. This gang of desperadoes was led by Kid Wade and Doc Middleton, two of the West's most notorious badmen. Wade was hung by vigilantes near Bassett in 1884. Middleton lived on until 1913, dying in the county jail at Douglas, Wyo., where he was serving a sentence for bootlegging.

At Rushville, you'll be near the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. There were exciting times around here during the Indian uprising of 1890 which culminated in the Battle of Wounded Knee. The town's guest list includes the names of many celebrities—Theodore Roosevelt, Buffalo Bill, Gen. Nelson A. Miles, Frederic Remington, and Rex Beach. President Coolidge visited Rushville

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Core Workshop To Open In St. Louis And Washington

NEW YORK. (ANP). Interracial workshops sponsored by CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation will begin July 1 in St. Louis and Washington.

At these workshops students will practice the use of the non-violent direct action methods advocated as part of CORE policy. They will go to restaurants, recreation places, and other areas in which segregation is practiced.

This is the first year the workshop will be held in St. Louis. The group will seek to reopen the Fairgrounds park swimming pool, and also will concentrate on a drive to end discrimination at downtown lunch counters.

In Washington the workshop will seek to reopen the Anacostia pool on an unsegregated basis.

Household Hint Ironing Made Easy

Sprinkled clothes can be kept from mildewing in hot weather if placed in the refrigerator until ready for ironing.

Place the clean laundry, sprinkled and folded, in a plastic bag or wrap it in a rubber sheet. Let it stay in the refrigerator for several hours so that the moisture will become evenly distributed.

You'll find it much easier to iron, too. When the heat of the iron strikes the chilled fabric, it creates light steam which smooths wrinkles easily and quickly.

during his much publicized summer in the Black Hills.

The remainder of your trip will take you through the heart of the last stamping ground of the plains Indians. In particular, there's Fort Robinson, near Crawford. Here much of the Indian resistance to the steady white encroachment was broken. Here Crazy Horse, the strange man of the Ogallalas, was killed. Here the rebellious Cheyennes staged their last plunge for freedom.

It's an interesting trip. You'll enjoy the varied scenery. You'll be fascinated by the region's history.

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