

The Voice

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

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EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice. Pub.

Lack of Good Jobs in Arkansas Causes Negroes to Leave State

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ANP). Two big problems facing the state of Arkansas and possibly other southern states on the question of Negroes are what to do about fair employment practices and how to stop Negroes from leaving the state.

FEPC becomes a big problem because reasons for its demand are the causes of numerous other interracial problems in the South.

For example there is Arkansas. During 1949, in Little Rock, 14,771 persons were hired through the Arkansas State Employment service, according to the department's own figures.

Of this total, 7,268 or 49 percent, were Negroes. But the job breakdown went something like this:

One hundred twelve whites and no Negroes in professional and managerial jobs; six Negroes out of 2,159 placed in clerical and sales jobs; 30 Negroes of 668 persons hired in skilled positions; and 175 Negroes of 1,028 placed in semi-skilled jobs. Most Negroes, 3,137, were hired in private households, while only 275 were employed in manufacturing.

In other words, good jobs for Negroes are scarce in Little Rock. Only the post office gives them a comparatively fair break—116 Negroes and 286 whites work there with more than half the 133

mail carriers being Negro. Two mail handlers and one clerk also are colored.

Otherwise the Negroes fare badly in government jobs, federal and local, also. A few work as policemen, public health nurses, and home demonstration nurses, all serving Negroes.

Many Qualified Persons Leave

Because of this job situation, according to W. Harry Bass, executive secretary of the local Urban League, many qualified Negroes leave Arkansas. Whenever a white approaches him with education as a solution to the employment question he can answer: "Negroes with college education either teach school or leave town. A recent Urban League survey of high schools and colleges here revealed that most graduates have the same ideas about a career that whites do."

"Most of the girls wanted to be nurses. Although Arkansas needs nurses desperately, there is no place in Little Rock where Negro nurses can be trained. They must go elsewhere to study and when they do, they seldom come back. "When Negro boys train for their job preferences they find that in Little Rock they must accept work considerably below their level of training. If they were given a chance they would not leave town."

OUT OF OLD NEBRASKA



by **JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

When Dr. Wayne O. Reed, at 38, assumes the presidency of Peru State Teachers College, he will find himself at the helm of Nebraska's oldest institution of higher learning, and the only one whose original charter goes back to territorial days.

The territorial legislature chartered Peru Seminary, an institution of the Methodist Episcopal church, in 1860. Nothing was done, however, until 1865, when the Methodists of Peru resolved to establish a school in the village and secure J. M. McKenzie, who had been having unusual success with a school at Pawnee City, as principal. They appointed a committee whose members were successful in obtaining the promise of about \$10,000 and 60 acres of land on the condition that a school of college grade be established.

That same year, a charter was secured from the legislature, and early in 1866 the cornerstone for the first building was laid. The building was not ready for occupancy by fall, so Prof. McKenzie opened the doors of Mount Vernon college, as the new institution was called, in a rented building. In December, however, part of the new building was occupied.

Peru's early years, as much as those of any institution in Nebraska reveal the struggle waged by the pioneers for higher education. Much of the money that had been subscribed was not paid—although many of the subscribers gave produce which could be turned into money. Funds were completely exhausted before the new building was roofed, with the result that faculty and trustees secured some rubber paper and tar and put a makeshift roof on with their own labor.

Even when roofed, the building was far from adequate. The floors and partitions were of green cottonwood lumber, and the walls were almost wholly unplastered. The tarpaper roof leaked like the proverbial sieve, and each strong wind carried away large sections of it.

The trustees tried to get the Nebraska Methodist conference to take over the struggling institution, but that body was interested in maintaining it only as a seminary. Hence, the founders offered the school to the state, and the offer was accepted. The legislature provided an appropriation of \$3,000 to complete the building and purchase equipment.

Peru always has been a relatively small school, but from a miserable unfinished building in the wilderness its campus has developed into one of the most beautiful in the country, and its graduates have won distinction in many walks of life.

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LEGAL NOTICE OF MEASURE TO BE VOTED UPON NOVEMBER 7, 1950 (BALLOT TITLE) REFERENDUM ORDERED BY PETITION OF THE PEOPLE

- 300 YES Shall the provisions of Legislative Bill No. 399, Sixty-first Session of the Legislature of the State of Nebraska, the purpose of which is to increase the gasoline tax and the excise tax on motor vehicle fuels and change the allocation and distribution thereof, be rejected?
- 301 NO

TEXT OF LAW

"Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 66-410, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

66-410. At the time of filing the sworn statement as required by section 66-409, such dealer shall, in addition to the other taxes provided for by the law, pay a tax of five cents per gallon upon all motor vehicle fuels, as shown by such statement, until the effective date of this act, and after the effective date of this act, pay a tax of six cents per gallon upon all motor vehicle fuels as shown by such statement, remitting said tax to the Department of Agriculture and Inspection, which shall receipt the dealer therefor, and pay to the State Treasurer, daily, all of the money, drafts, checks, post-office money orders, express money orders, or other mediums of exchange, thus received.

Sec. 2. That section 66-424.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1947, be amended to read as follows:

66-424.01. The Gasoline Tax Fund shall be distributed by the State Treasurer as follows:

(1) The State Treasurer shall first make all refunds as provided in sections 66-413 and 66-414, and credit to the Division of Motor Fuels of the Department of Agriculture and Inspection such amount of the Gasoline Tax Fund as shall be necessary, in addition to such other funds as may be available for that purpose, to pay the cost of administering and enforcing the motor vehicle fuel tax laws of this state; Provided, that in no event shall the amount so credited exceed five-tenths of one per cent of the total Gasoline Tax Fund collected;

(2) The State Treasurer shall then pay all warrants drawn by the Auditor of Public Accounts for all refunds and for such amount as shall be necessary to provide the identifying chemicals, as provided in section 66-447;

(3) One-sixth of the remainder of the Gasoline Tax Fund shall then be transferred to the various county treasurers of the state in

the same manner as provided in section 66-422 and shall be used as provided in sections 39-222 and 39-1001 to 39-1009;

(4) After distribution and payment of the amounts above set forth, thirty per cent of the balance of the Gasoline Tax Fund shall be transferred to the various county treasurers of the state in the same manner and for the same uses as provided in sections 66-422 and 66-423; and

(5) The other seventy per cent of the balance remaining in said fund shall be transferred to the Department of Roads and Irrigation in the same manner and for the same uses and purposes as provided in section 66-424.

Sec. 3. That section 66-428, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

66-428. There is hereby levied and imposed an excise tax of six cents per gallon upon the use of all motor vehicle fuels, as defined by section 66-401, used in this state, except such motor vehicle fuels upon which a tax of six cents per gallon is imposed and due the State of Nebraska under the provisions of section 66-410. Use of motor vehicle fuels subject to taxation under this section shall be allowed the same exemptions, deductions and rights of reimbursement as are authorized and permitted by sections 66-413 and 66-414.

Sec. 4. That section 66-452, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1947, be amended to read as follows:

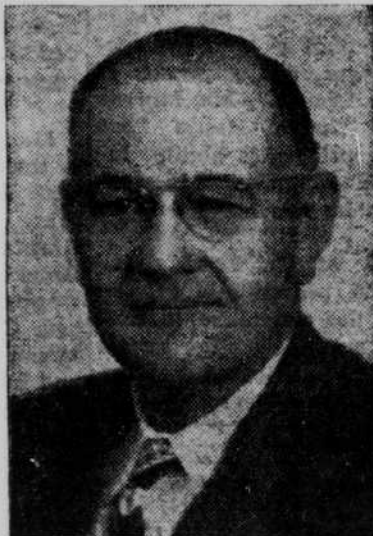
66-452. Every recipient of a permit, as described in section 66-449, shall be regarded as purchaser and claimant, if he has paid, for any one purchase, the excise tax to a distributor upon forty or more gallons of gasoline or motor vehicle fuel, which gasoline or motor vehicle fuel was or is to be used solely and exclusively by such person for propelling or operating a stationary gas engine, tractor, combine, or machinery used solely for agricultural purposes in the state. As such purchaser and claimant, he shall be entitled to a refund equal to (1) four-fifths of the amount so paid, if he paid five cents per gallon under the provisions of section 66-410, or (2) five-sixths of the amount so paid, if he paid six cents per gallon under the provisions of said section, upon compliance with the provisions of sections 66-445 to 66-466, and not otherwise; Provided, no refund shall be made to anyone other than the actual purchaser of such refund tax gasoline or motor vehicle fuel.

Sec. 5. That original sections 66-410 and 66-423, Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, and original sections 66-424.01 and 66-452, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1947, are repealed.

Sec. 6. Since an emergency exists, this act shall be in full force and take effect, from and after its passage and approval, according to law."

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