

# The Voice

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

**Melvin L. Shakespeare**  
 Publisher and Editor

Business Address 2225 S Street Phone 2-4085  
 If No Answer Call 5-7508

Rubie W. Shakespeare.....Advertising and Business Manager  
 Dorothy Greene.....Office Secretary  
 Mrs. Joe Greene.....Circulation Manager

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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.

## NEEDED: State Department FEPC

The hardest person to find in the foreign service of the United States is a colored American.

True, there are colored citizens employed in our foreign service but excluding watchmen, doormen and an occasional clerk, you can count the rest on the fingers of the hands.

Indeed, there are less colored Americans in the foreign service than there were 50 years ago when qualified Negroes were few and far between.

In June, 1949, there were 21,203 employes in the state department at home and abroad, but it is highly improbable that all of the Negro employes together would total more than 50.

Fifty years ago Negro college graduates were few in number, certainly not as many as one thousand, while the total graduated from college since 1912 is 80,000, and the number which has attended college is 650,000.

Today there is a larger number of American Negroes in college proportionately than there are college students in the United Kingdom: respectively 70,000 to 82,500.

Certainly the state department should experience no difficulty in finding numerous Negroes just as qualified as most of the whites who are in foreign service.

It is like looking for a needle in a hay stack to find any Negroes in the state department's information service on any continent. There may be some but we have not heard of them and this newspaper has correspondents almost everywhere.

So far as we have been able to learn, the "Voice of America" is a white voice, and if there are any Negroes preparing broadcasts, pamphlets and other propaganda, their identities are unknown to us.

For its various services the state department is forever seeking re-

ruits and likely prospects in the colleges and universities of the land, but for some strange reason it cannot seem to find the Negro institutions of learning or the numerous Negro students in "white" schools.

Obviously what the state department needs is its own fair employment practices commission to integrate some colored Americans into its lily-white setup.

Moreover, one can think of no better way of putting over the democratic idea abroad than letting foreigners come in contact with some colored American consuls, secretaries, labor attaches and information specialists.

A few of these dark faces in the consulates, embassies and information offices from Helsinki to Casablanca and from Hong Kong to Rio de Janeiro would do more to prove where America stands on color, democracy and freedom than the biggest battery of radio transmitters obtainable.

—Courier

## First Negro Gridders At Philadelphia, Penn.

PHILADELPHIA. (ANP).—When the University of Pennsylvania takes the football field this year, two Negro tackles will be on the squad, the first Negroes to play on a Penn team. They will be given every opportunity to cinch varsity berths, Coach George Munger says.

Bob Evans, six feet two, weighing 225 and Eddie Bell, six feet one, both 18 years old, are the two Negroes.

Penn has played teams with Negro players opposing them, but this event of Negroes being on the Penn team is something new and will smash the barbs directed at the Quaker outfit.

## Army Bias in Japan Hit Again

NEW YORK. (ANP). Roy Wilkins, NAACP administrator, this week renewed his request that the Department of the Army take steps to correct reported discrimination against Negro troops in Japan.

Responding to Mr. Wilkins' earlier complaint about racial discrimination, Frank Pace, jr., secretary of the army, cited the President's Executive Order 9981 and the Department of the Army's regulation on equality of treatment and opportunity. He also expressed the opinion that Mr. Wilkins' letter mentioned only "generalities, which should not be regarded as indicative of flagrant racial discrimination throughout the Tokyo area."

### "PROMPT ACTION"

Secretary Pace gave assurance that "prompt corrective action has been taken whenever specific violations of our policy have been brought to the attention of the Department." The Army Secretary added that the Department

had not previously "received reports of racial discrimination in the Far East Command."

In his letter, Mr. Wilkins repeated the specific report that Gen. Walter Leo Weible "had issued an order restricting Negro Army personnel to one of the four swimming pools in Tokyo used by occupation forces." If this order was issued, Mr. Wilkins continued, "it violates clearly not only the most recently revised policy of the Department of the Army, but also the practice which had been adopted by the Army itself in the latter years of World War II with respect to the treatment of all personnel on Army installations."

"We are sure you will agree," Mr. Wilkins further stated, "that aside from its unfairness to the Negro personnel, this demonstration of differentiation based upon color to the Japanese people is harmful to the entire American policy in the Far East."



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

### Nebraska's Governors

John H. Mickey, who served as governor from 1903 to 1907, was born on a farm near Burlington, Iowa, September 30, 1845. Thus, when first elected in 1902, he was considerably over the average age of Nebraska's chief executives. As a matter of fact, the only man to be older when first elected was Governor Thayer.

Governor Mickey's early life follows the pattern of many of our influential pioneers. He grew up on a farm, attended the rural schools, and did farm work during the summers. He served in the Union army during the Civil War (as a private in Company D, 8th Iowa Cavalry). After the war he attended Iowa Wesleyan College for two years, then taught school.

Young Mickey emigrated to Nebraska in 1868, taking a homestead in Polk County. He immediately threw himself into public affairs, and two years after his arrival was elected treasurer of Polk County, a position he held for 10 years. Following that, he served two terms in the state legislature.

Mickey's nomination for the governorship by the Republican party in 1902 came on the 13th ballot after a heated convention battle with John B. Dinsmore of Sutton. The campaign, too, was hot, and he defeated W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, fusion candidate, by a narrow margin.

In 1904, Governor Mickey, seeking re-election, had to meet George A. Berge of Lincoln, who made a whirlwind campaign on the fusion ticket under the slogan, "abolish the free pass." Again the margin was close, but again Mickey was victorious.

Governor Mickey's messages show a deep interest in all phases of government. He urged the direct primary, adopted during his successor's term of office. He was much concerned with the establishment of an adequate auditing system. An unusual feature of his administration was the record number of instances in which he granted executive clemency to prisoners—12 pardons and 65 commutations.

Following his retirement from the governorship, Mr. Mickey returned to Osceola to engage in banking and farming. He had been the first president of the

## Better Nebraska Association

The 1949 Road Program, increasing gasoline tax and motor vehicle registration fees, was recommended and supported by this Association after study demonstrated that with the increased revenue the overall road needs in Nebraska would be improved.

Of great importance to Nebraska roads is the "farm to market" program which has made much progress in getting farmers "out of the mud." This progress has been made under the provisions of the mail route graveling legislation passed in 1947, generally known as the Schroeder Road Bill, by which 1c of the gas tax goes to the counties for this purpose. The Better Nebraska Association recognizes the importance to farmers of access to main highways, markets, schools and churches, and believed that this legislation and this principle of rural road improvement should be retained.

Of equal importance to Nebraska roads is the 1949 Road Program which will permit the repair, rebuilding and construction of our uncompleted and badly worn state highway system. This is being made possible by reason of a 1c increase in gasoline tax and increased registration fees passed by the 1949 Legislature. Due to our use of the truck to transport livestock, produce, grain, implements and agricultural supplies from the farm to the terminal markets and return, state roads have become an integral part of the "farm to market" program.

In 1949, for the first time, a part of the registration fees paid on vehicles owned within city and village limits are provided to repair and rebuild city and village streets.

This Association approves the State Bank of Osceola, organized in 1879.

Mr. Mickey was in all respects a public-spirited citizen, and was particularly active in the affairs of the Methodist church. He helped to organize the Methodist Episcopal Church at Osceola, and served as president of the board of trustees of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

He died at his home in Osceola, June 2, 1910, after a prolonged illness, leaving his wife and nine children.

## Television Girl Debut in London

LONDON, England. (ANP). Rose Murphy the "Chee-Chee" girl made her London debut in television just a few days after she arrived here recently. She is not unknown in England for her records have built up a great popularity among the fans. She is being referred to as the "Chee-Chee" girl and her personality and charm have struck a fascinating theme with every one she meets.

In her luxurious home, Adelaide Hall honored her with a tea party. Including among the guests were her manager husband, Eddie Matthews, and Bruce Howard now playing in "Streetcar Named Desire."

policy of sharing highway user funds on rural and state roads and city and village streets, because all three road systems, state highways, rural roads and city and village streets, must be planned and improved through co-operative effort.

Everyone knows that road costs are much higher than ten years ago. The legislation passed in 1947 and 1949 is essential to these increased costs. Now all roads in Nebraska have had legislative consideration and financial assistance. These increases should remain the law and policy of Nebraska until prices, road conditions or other facts require in justice and equity that further study and consideration be had.

BETTER NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION

By: Ben H. Hughes, Chairman, Executive Committee.

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