

The Voice

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



Booker T.

— UP-TO-DATE and BEYOND —

By S. J. Phillips, Pres.

Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial
Booker Washington Birthplace, Virginia

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I begin this series of articles to my fellow citizens with mixed feelings; aware of the tremendous pressure under which most of us live today—the threat of all-out war, the loss of loved ones, heavy taxation, fear of an atomic attack, shortages, rationing—these and hundreds of other situations and conditions cause grave concern. Yet, I am not unmindful of other serious events in this country when proved to be beneficial to Negroes. World Wars One and Two enabled Negroes to make great strides in many fields of activities.

If others would be little, we can be great; if others would be mean, we can be good. If others would push us down we can help push them up.

—Booker T. Washington—

HOW SERIOUS IS COMMUNISM?

To answer that question, I might ask one: How serious was Nazism and Fascism? We know that both of these isms were the causes of World War II. These ideologies, imposed upon the people of Germany and Italy by ruthless dictators, flushed with political and minor military victories, became a challenge to our form of government. World conquest was their ultimate aim. They lost.

Imperialist Russia has similar designs, according to authentic sources. Before the physical struggle with Russia actually begins however, the Kremlin seeks to impose its thoughts, its form of government, its ideas upon the unsuspecting, weak-minded, un-

prepared nations of the world. Many countries have already been swallowed into the Russian orbit. Korea is the last, and there the free nations of the earth are taking a stand toward off the spread of Communist domination. Is Communism serious? Yes, deadly. Many people seem to think that Communism is a myth. They belittle its influence. They say it hasn't touched them—they wouldn't know a Communist, if they saw one. Is this a witch-hunt, a red-herring—what is Communism?

Because of the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and our counter-espionage, plus recent laws requiring agents of a foreign government to register, Communists are no longer parading the streets and holding meetings. They have gone into hiding, making their activities harder to check—by the public. They are still working though... stealing our war plans, disrupting our war production with strikes, infiltrating our organizations, screaming about the in-

justices to Negroes (Martinsville case), staging boycotts, inventing grievances, picketing, and spearheading minority group complaints whenever there is the slightest chance to arouse, cajole, and inflame. They do these things in the name of liberty, justice and freedom. Democracy is not perfect, yet. But no Russian or Communist has ever been able to prove or show that people in Russia, or any other Communist-dominated country have as much personal freedom, opportunity, spiritual and mental independence as we have in the United States of America.

What To Do About Communism

Communism is more than a political theory based on the supremacy of the state; it is totalitarian. Its purpose is complete control of thought and action.

Since Communism thrives upon deceit, you can help to expose them. Get to know the facts about organizations and movements you are asked to join.

If you are a worker, skilled or unskilled, become more proficient; don't shirk on the job. Help to improve living conditions in your neighborhood; work with civic groups to clean-up and paint-up. "Cleanliness is next to Godliness": Communism is atheism.

Communism is a real danger inside our churches according to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, who said: "I confess to a real apprehension, so long as Communists are able to secure ministers of the gospel to promote their evil work and espouse a cause that is alien to the religion of Christ and Judaism."

Here are two of the most vicious so-called religious organizations in this country: The People's Institute of Applied Religion, Birmingham, Alabama, and Methodist Federation for Social Action, New York City. Neither of these have official 'church' connection. Both use the church to teach Communist ideas.

"The Protestant" is a magazine which spreads Communist propaganda under the guise of being a religious journal. Its purpose is to 'build a bridge' between Christendom and Communism.

Communism is an ever-present danger. Don't be misled by false claims of a more abundant life under imperialist communism; if you can't make it here, you can't make it anywhere.

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

My column a few weeks back on the naming of Nebraska has prompted requests that I discuss the naming of Omaha.

Nebraska's first city appropriately is named for the tribe of Indians who owned the land on which it is built. The Omaha, a tribe belonging to the so-called Dhegiha group of the Siouan family. The Dhegiha lived at one time on the Ohio and Wabash rivers. In the course of their westward migration, possibly about 1500, a separation occurred. The Quapaw went down the Mississippi and the Omaha went north, ranging through Iowa and into Minnesota, and eventually located in what is now eastern Nebraska. In 1854, in a treaty negotiated at Washington, they ceded their lands in Nebraska to the United States Senate, with the exception of a reservation.

The word Omaha means, "those going against the wind or current." Sometimes this is translated to mean, "the upstream people." The early pioneers of Omaha translated it as "above all others upon a stream," expressive of their hopes for the future of the city they were founding.

It is a little uncertain just how the name was applied to the town. Omaha was founded in 1854 by the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company. On May 6 of that year, Bernhart Henn, who represented western Iowa in Congress, wrote Dr. J. D. Test, of Council Bluffs, that he had got a post office established at "Omaha City" and had A. D. Jones appointed postmaster.

Alfred Sorenson's *History of Omaha*, published in 1889, quotes Experience Estabrook, first United States attorney for Nebraska and a delegate to Congress, to the effect that the name Omaha was adopted by the ferry company simply because it was pretty and was borne by the

nearest tribe of Indians in the vicinity.

It has been suggested that credit for adoption of the name should go to Dr. Enos Lowe, president of the ferry company and later a prominent citizen of Omaha. Still others claim that Joseph E. Johnson, editor of the *Omaha Arrow*, the city's first newspaper, and one of Nebraska's most colorful journalists, should have credit for naming the city.

In any event, all will agree that the name was well chosen. The town was first known as Omaha City (every place with any pretensions at all had to have the word "city" in its name), but the legislative act incorporating it used as the official designation, the "City of Omaha." The town soon came to be known simply as "Omaha."

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