

# 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 of The Voice.—Pub

## Between the Lines

By Dean Gordon B. Hancock, For ANP

Harry Truman will go down in history as probably the hardest-headed president that ever occupied the white house. A few weeks ago the republicans and their sympathizers were trying to stampede President Truman into dismissing Acheson as secretary of state.

Truman refused to be stempeded and Acheson is still secretary of state and the clamor has subsided. A weaker man would have succumbed to the clamoring crowds but not Harry Truman of Missouri! I thank God for a man of Truman's stamina who refuses to let the obscurantist republicans and disgruntled democrats call his signals.

Harry Truman is the president of these United States in his own right, and the people gave him the presidency because he espoused civil rights and its accessories. It is true that northern reactionaries headed by Robert Taft and the southern state righters have thwarted Truman's program, but Truman is still president of the United States of America. It is better to be a hamstrung president with a backbone than a grand-slam president with a wish--bone.

The fact that the proposed posed civil rights program is languishing in the committee pigeon holes of the senate and house, in no way detracts from the moral stamina of one hard-headed Harry Truman who hails originally from Missouri. They have tried to disparage Harry and belittle him; but Harry Truman, hard-headed Harry, is still president of these United States and there is no help for it.

The reactionary southerners and their northern counterparts have done their darndest to make Harry Truman look small in the eyes of the world; but hard-headed Harry still functions in the white house. Truman is not a Roosevelt by a long sight but he does not need to be. Truman is president in his own right and not merely the successor to the lamented Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the paramount genius of the generation.

We needed a Roosevelt and we need a hard-headed Truman now. It was heartening to see how impervious Truman was to the clamors of the multitudes for the head of Acheson.

More recently these same head-hunters were clamoring for the ambassadorial head of O'Dwyer who returned from Mexico to testify in the crimes probes. Truman refuses to deliver O'Dwyer to the ravening political wolves. The world must applaud the moral stamina and courage evinced by Truman who refuses to be stampeded into sacrificing O'Dwyer.

The world admires a man as history will abundantly attest. It must therefore admire Truman

the hard-headed president from Missouri. It is highly gratifying that such a person is at the helm of the state at such a time as this. The dixiecrats and reactionary republicans have done their darndest to make Harry Truman look bad, because he championed civil rights; but hard-headed Harry is still to be reckoned with in the affairs of this nation.

His executive orders to abandon race lines in army and air forces have met with a somewhat satisfying response. It remains for the army alone to try to thwart hard-headed Harry's directives. The shame is not on Truman but on those who are trying to defeat his hight and holy purpose. Truman will go down in history as one of the truly great spirits of the time.

He is not now nor have ever been as bad as some elements would have him appear. His greatest crime has been his advocacy of civil rights. This will in the years to come, prove to be his crown and glory. The political wolves appeared once to have Acheson on the toboggan but they reckoned "without" hard-headed Harry the host.

That same crowd wanted to destroy O'Dwyer but Truman would have no part in it. The world must applaud such stubbornness of purpose. This world is in need of more moral stamina instead of the weather-vane politicians who know not what they want nor where they want to go.

Hard-headed Harry Truman is a moral ballast in such times as this. The shame of the century will be centered on the clique of northern republicans and their dixiecratic cohorts who have thwarted Truman's program which is easily one of the most farsighted of the century. Hurrah for hard-headed Harry Truman, peerless president of these United States!

### Negro Heads Mass. Welfare Board

MEDFORD, Mass. (ANP)—The city of Medford which, since 1937, has had a Negro member of the City Planning board, continued to make civic history this week in the election of Elmer B. Kountze as the first race chairman of the Medford Welfare board.

Rio de Janeiro means January River.



One of the greatest terrors to the pioneer settlers of old Nebraska was the prairie fire. Fanned by strong winds, a fire once loose on the dry prairie was almost impossible to stop. It raced along, destroying everything in its path—range, hay, feed, barns, animals, homes, and occasionally even the settlers themselves.

To protect their homes from the ravages of fire, the settlers plowed a fire break around them. This customarily consisted of two sets of furrows two or more rods apart, with the grass between them burned off. This, in itself, was a fairly hazardous undertaking, and required a calm day. Occasionally, actual prairie fires were started through carelessness in burning a fire-break.

The annals of Nebraska are replete with accounts of prairie fires. Some of them are noted here.

The year 1872 brought a most disastrous October fire to Butler County. According to one old settler, the entire county was singed over by the blaze which swept in from Polk County, destroying hundreds of acres of standing corn, more than 5,000

bushels of wheat, 1,000 tons of hay, 200 cords of wood and poles, a great deal of farm machinery, and scores of farm animals. All told, the loss was estimated at from \$15,000 to \$20,000, figures which, though large, are misleading because in many instances settlers lost everything they had.

A year later—October 14, 1873—a disastrous fire broke out in Red Willow County. Driven by a strong wind from the south, the flames jumped fire breaks with impunity, sweeping hayricks and sheds away in a moment. The home of G. B. Nettleton was burned with all its contents, and the inmates barely escaped with their lives.

Moses H. Sydenham, prominent freighter and settler of the Platte Valley, once told of travelling more than a day over burnt prairie: "On all sides was a perblackness as far as the eye could see, the only relief being the blue

sky above and here and there some partly burnt white bones of some buffalo or other animal. It was a perfect picture of despair, with hope left out."

Sydenham, incidentally, lost many avluable documents relating to the freighting business in a prairie fire.

Otham A. Abbott, Nebraska's first lieutenant-governor and a pioneer lawyer of Grand Island, tells in his reminiscences of danger from sparks struck off by passing trains. A fire started in this fashion once threatened Grand Island.

### Notes of Interest

John Johnson, 1310 A, underwent surgery at St. Elizabeth the past week.

Mrs. Charlotte Jackson received surgery the past week. Both are recuperating nicely.

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