

# 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 necessarily, a reflection of the policy are those of the writer and not of The Voice.—Pub

## Can We Afford the Luxury of Slums?

Satan, while chatting to a companion, stated that of all the evils, discouragement was the greatest—that if he could discourage a man, he could control him today, tomorrow and always.

Slums and the cause for them are the Satans in our modern age.

A broad definition of the word "slum" means sub-standard housing. Over 400 such houses exist in Lincoln according to the 1950 report by the Lincoln Housing Authority.

Slums are the product of poverty, and the effect of poor people crowding together. As far as the Negroes are concerned, slums are one part of the price we pay for discrimination. Discrimination as pertains to limiting Negroes to a certain area in the city and restrictive covenants to prevent Negroes from renting or buying outside of this area.

There is another kind of discrimination that causes slums. Negro and white job patterns are an example. Consider the following jobs ranging from bottom to top: Service and labor, factory workers, clerical-sales, etc., craftsmen-foremen, etc., proprietors-managers-officials, professional and semi-professional. The Urban League's study revealed that the white pattern shows the largest number of jobs at the middle levels. If this were true for Negroes, too, it would do a great deal to wipe out slum rentals, and the high price we pay for continuing them.

But it is not—the Negro pattern shows the largest number of jobs at the lowest levels. Low-paying jobs among Negroes perpetuate crowding. Crowding in slum areas perpetuates high rents paid by

Negroes, giving them proportionately less to spend for other things—which in turn perpetuates the slum conditions that are costly to the budgets of all of us. When Negroes are restricted to low-paying jobs by job discrimination, a vicious circle is created.

After all has been said and printed about slums, some people have the audacity to believe that we can continue with the same policy toward housing. They see several "for rent" signs and a few new houses and proclaim that all is well—continue as you are.

Can we afford the evil of discouragement and the luxury of slums?

Who pays for slums anyway? Landlords don't pay for it. Negroes don't pay for it, except in the coin of misery. **WE ALL PAY—IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.**

How can we prevent slums? By making it possible for people who live there to move out; end job discrimination in business and industry; let the Negro earn more money in better jobs.

Elmo Roper, public opinion expert, estimates the nation loses \$6,000,000,000 yearly because of job discrimination because of color. Lester Granger, Executive Director, National Urban League, said the death of approximately 50,000 American Negroes in 1944 was due to prejudice and discrimination. World political conditions make it mandatory that the United States take positive steps to show that our democratic philosophy applies equally as well to our minorities as it does to the majority group.

Slums and job discrimination are not only heartless and wasteful, but are a dead-end street.

## OUT OLD NEBRASKA



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Delegates to Congress

The first man ever to represent Nebraska in Congress was Napoleon Bonaparte Giddings, elected December 12, 1854, as the first delegate from Nebraska territory in a hotly-contested, five-way election which clearly revealed the bitter partisanship characterizing Nebraska's early early politics.

Giddings's principal opponent was Hadley D. Johnson, who had been elected (but not seated) delegates from the provisional territory of Nebraska. Others were Bird B. Chapman, who would succeed Giddings as delegate; Joseph Tyson, who plugged for land reform in his campaign; and A. W. Hollister, who received votes only in Dodge County, but who got all of the votes cast there—all 14 of them.

Giddings was a carpet-bag politician typical of many who held office in the early days of Nebraska territory. At the time of his election, he nominally was a resident of Nebraska City. Actually, he resided in Savannah, Mo., and came to Nebraska only a couple of weeks prior to the election. Indeed, it was generally believed that the fact that he was from Missouri was the strongest point in his favor in the river counties south of the Platte where he found most of his strength.

Because of a change in the election laws, requiring a new delegate to be elected in the autumn of 1855, Giddings served only about two months in Congress. He was admitted to the House of Representatives January 5, 1855, and the Congress adjourned March 4. During that time he introduced bills to establish post roads and land offices, to protect the proprietors of towns in their town sites, and to provide for surveying, marking and opening roads in Nebraska. He made one speech—a very short one—urging Congress to allow the legislatures of Kansas and Nebraska the right to designate where their territorial capitals should be located.

## Pressure of NAACP Is Forcing Va. to Improve Negro Schools

BY CARTER JEWEL

RICHMOND, Va. (ANP). Pressure from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People through court suits on school equalization has forced many localities in Virginia to improve school buildings and other facilities for the education of Negroes.

Richmond will have a new \$1,500,000 new Negro high school in the Churchill section possibly by the opening of the 1951-52 school year. The Maggie Walker High school on Lombardy street and Baker school on Baker street, both erected in recent years, are modern structures.

Just last week the school board of Petersburg made an inspection tour of the new \$950,000 Peabody High school which is complete except for a few minor details. Supt. of Schools John D. Meade said dedicatory exercises would be held later in the year.

Classes will begin in the building in September with about 500 pupils attending complete academic and shop programs along with courses in home economics and commercial subjects.

Plans were recently drawn for a new \$76,000 Negro elementary school in the Campstella section of Norfolk. To be built on Cypress street near a large Negro housing project, the school will contain 18 class and auxiliary rooms. This school is the sixth project

of Norfolk school board's \$11,000,000 building program.

Although members of the Bedford county school board agreed that a new Negro high school is needed now, they decided last week against hasty action. Members voted to follow Lynchburg's example and awaits a U.S. Supreme court in the segregation case before proceeding with its expansion plans.

Dowell J. Howard, state superintendent of schools, disclosed recently that of \$40,496,212 already planned for state school projects \$13,965,228 will be spent on Negro school buildings. Howard said.

"This is good evidence that the localities are making every possible effort to bring colored school facilities to an equal basis with white schools.

"You must remember that Negro pupils comprise only 26 per cent of our total enrollment."

New school construction over the next four years, including additions, is expected to cost \$229,357,912, Howard said. Of this amount, he explained, \$68,723,891 will be spent on Negro schools.

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