

# The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"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.

## The Negro Press Is YOU

The Negro press is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its birth this week. For over a century the Negro newspaper has been the eyes, ears and voice of the American Negro. It has recorded the every day happenings among this minority group, its achievements, pointed out its shortcomings and voiced its protests against the injustices and discriminations practiced against it.

The Negro press is the Negro's most vocal representative and its most forceful spokesman. It is the medium through which Negroes express their views, their desires, their ambitions. The voice of the Negro press has contributed greatly to the change in status of the Negro in America during the past 125 years.

The Negro press, and its allies such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League and other organizations working in the interest of the Negro, have improved the Negro's lot in America a hundred-fold. Without the Negro newspapers to work in cooperation with these great organizations, the Negro would not have advanced as far toward first-class citizenship as he has.

The Negro newspaper exists primarily to furnish to the Negro public the news, the opinion, the inspiration and the guidance that the colored man, woman and child in America can get nowhere else. The daily press, in most cities, even in this age of improved racial relations, still ignores for the most part the news which con-

cerns Negro Americans. There are exceptions, of course. There are those few papers which consider all Americans alike and treat the news of Negro people like that of anybody else. But no matter how fair-minded the daily paper, there is little space for the routine news of Negroes in their church, civic and social life. They must depend upon the Negro press for this. The Marian Andersons, Jackie Robinsons and Ralph Bunches among us get adequate space in the daily press but Mrs. John Jones and Jack Brown must wait for their weekly paper to come off the press to read about their family and friends.

The Negro newspaper is a public agency with the editor and the publisher the servants of the people. The sincere editor and publisher do not operate a newspaper for their own personal gain, but for the good that they can do for the public as a whole. The Negro publisher, especially, is conscious of his obligation to the people. He recognizes himself as the voice of his people. He takes his responsibility seriously and strives to be worthy of the trust which the people have in him.

Every day in every way open to it, the Negro press works to abolish segregation and racial discrimination from American life. When that great day comes when there is no distinction based upon race, the job of the Negro newspaper will have been done. Its great battle will have been won. The Negro paper at that time will either go out of existence or it will become a publication of interest to the general public.

The Voice is happy to be among



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

We frequently think that the Indians' only contribution to the settlement of the West was an effort to impede the process. Actually, the Wyandot Indians, a branch of the Huron, who moved from Ohio to Kansas in 1843, were very active in promoting the organization of Nebraska territory. The westward trek of the Wyandots was made pursuant to the government's early 19th century policy of removing all of the Indian tribes to the region west of the Missouri. The tribe ceded its lands in Ohio to the government in 1842, and the next year bought land from the Delawares in the fork of the Missouri and Kansas rivers.

The Wyandots, last of the tribes to relinquish their lands in Ohio, brought a highly developed culture with them. They had a well-organized Methodist church (the result of earlier effort among them by Methodist missionaries), a Free Mason's lodge, a civil government, and a code of written laws which provided for an elective council of chiefs, the punishment of crime and the maintenance of order.

Under the leadership of William Walker, the Wyandots pressed for a treaty which would recognize them as citizens of the United States. When they failed in their effort to secure this concession they did their best to foster the organization of Nebraska territory.

During the winter of 1851-52 they petitioned Congress to establish a territorial government for Nebraska. When this effort failed, they decided to elect a delegate to the Thirty-second Congress and send him back to Washington to plead their cause in person. Abelard Guthrie was their unanimous earlier choice, he thus became the first delegate to Congress from Nebraska territory, if only from the provisional territory.

the more than 200 weekly publications rendering these services.

## 'The Challenge of Lent'

by

**Dr. Frank A. Court**  
Pastor, St. Paul Methodist Church  
Lincoln

A week ago as I flew from Miami to Chicago I could not help but think of the words, "North with the spring." Looking down from the plane, you pass from the warm summer days of Florida, through the late days of spring where the farmers were out working, to where spring was still a suggestion and then into Chicago where a snow storm was raging. But spring is on its way north.



**Dr. Court**

So Lent is a time of life's renewal when we turn our thoughts to a suffering Saviour and the healing power of God. The forty days of Lent are the most meaningful in any church year.

In the old Fifty-First Psalm we read: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Lent is a time of life's renewal through the gift of God's spirit.

Throughout the church Lent has come to mean sacrifice and discipline. So sometimes it is kept by giving up some trivial thing, foregoing entertainment and in other ways foregoing some luxury. Yet Lent is always more than this.

Primarily it means that one tries to keep in step with the thought and spirit of Jesus. If one truly kept Lent it would mean that they would try wholeheartedly to give their life for the principles for which Christ died. The brotherhood of man, the Fatherhood of God, the oneness of His spirit should be foremost in our thinking. If we truly kept Lent we would try to make the Spirit of Christ in our relationships one with another. This past summer I toured Europe with a party of ministers and church leaders and one of them was Dr. Samuel Sweeney, pastor of St. Mark's Methodist Church, Har-

lem, New York, which is the largest Negro Methodist Church, or of any denomination for that matter, in New York City. He has close to eight thousand members. My, what a gracious Christian spirit permeates the life of Dr. Samuel Sweeney at all times. I suppose he was the most popular member of our party for his hearty laugh, or his readiness to pray, or his ability to take things in stride as they came along, endeared him to all.

Yet, I think the thing about him that appealed to me the most was his ability to find the best in any situation. Perhaps this ability came out of his own background of overcoming and finding success in the ministry, not through a way of ease, but growing strong through facing difficulties.

So Lent is a time when we return to the message of the Cross and the defeat of a Good Friday being turned into the victory of an Easter resurrection morn. So beyond days of sacrifice, Lenten days are also hopeful, leading up to the great day of victory in the Christian Church.

Men, through inhuman acts and un-Christlike deeds, continue to crucify Christ. In John Masefield's great play, "The Everlasting Mercy," Saul Kane, a prize fighter, is challenged by a Quaker maid. In one place in the play she said to Saul Kane,

"Saul Kane, when next you drink

Do me the gentleness to think That every drop of drink accursed

Makes Christ within you die of thirst

That every dirty word you say Is another flint upon His way, Another nail and another cross All that you are, is our Christ's loss!"

And it would not be difficult to carry that thought out into the world today and say that much that we do seems to be our Christ's loss and another flint and another stone upon a Calvary's Way. Yet we believe in peace and that the dreams of God will still come true. Such is our Lenten

(Continued on Page 3)

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

## "THOUGHT IT BEST FOR NEBRASKA"

Editor Lauds Butler's Big Sacrifice



Senator Hugh Butler

McCook, Neb.—"No man ever made a greater sacrifice for Nebraska" than Senator Hugh Butler did during the 80th Congress, when he turned down the chairmanship of the Senate Finance Committee.

This is the opinion of H. S. Strunk, editor and publisher of The McCook Daily Gazette, who explains the reasons for Senator Butler's decision as follows:

"His seniority entitled him to the chairmanship of the Finance Committee when the Republicans took the Congress in 1947. Since that committee writes the nation's tax laws, he would have had the country's financial leaders waiting in his office for just a moment of his time.

"But Senator Butler

waived that position of great trust and elected to take the chairmanship of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, because it was that committee which had under its jurisdiction the critical subjects of IRRIGATION, FLOOD CONTROL and SOIL CONSERVATION.

"He thought it would be best for Nebraska.

"Senator Butler continues to hold the rank of minority leader of that committee, and would again become chairman in 1953 if the Republicans took the Congress this fall. And he continues to be a high ranking minority member of the Finance Committee, as well . . ."

Keep this great Nebraskan in the U. S. Senate.

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