

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
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The Fight for Civil Rights Plank

The Negro vote is perfectly capable of swinging the 1952 Presidential election in either direction, and the position of the NAACP on political matters is held in respect by at least 45 per cent of Negroes—these were the two most noteworthy points stressed by Elmo Roper, noted public opinion analyst, in his Sunday afternoon broadcast over the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company.
"Probably no other group in America is as conscious of a single issue, and votes according to that single issue, as the Negroes do on discrimination and civil rights," Mr. Roper stated.
Non-punitive FEPC approved last week by a Senate Labor subcommittee for educational purposes will get nowhere, according to experts in D.C. Negroes want something with teeth in it.

The fight for an unequivocal civil rights plank in the 1952 platforms of both major parties will be carried right to the source, with four top executives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People maintaining civil rights headquarters at the Republican and Democratic national conventions in Chicago.
Walter White, executive secretary; Roy Wilkins, administrator; Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington Bureau; and Henry Lee Moon, director of public relations, have been designated by the NAACP board of directors to represent the NAACP in Chicago. The association has also invited the 52 organizations that participated in the 1952 Leadership Conference on Civil Rights to join in on using the civil rights headquarters established by the association.

States' Rights—or Wrongs?

An editorial States' rights—or wrongs? from America, June 28 merits a reprint for consideration.
Every candidate for the Presidential nomination has had the question of a Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission put to him squarely. Our people realize that well over a billion humans in Asia, Africa and the Middle and Near East are watching our every move on the question of racial discrimination.
In 1948 the Democratic platform committee reported out a "safe" plank on civil rights. By a vote of 51½ to 58½ the convention substituted for this plank the straightforward minority report identified with then Mayor, now Senator, Hubert H. Humphrey. It called for congressional action to guarantee
... the right of full and equal political participation, the right to equal opportunity of employment, the right to security of persons, and the right of equal treatment in the service and defense of our Nation. Today's Democratic contenders are likewise split on FEPC: Averell Harriman alone is for a compulsory commission. Senator Kefauver opposes compulsion but will accept the decision of the convention. Senator Russell has not even accepted the principle of non-discrimination. He invokes "free enterprise" to defend present discriminatory practices, but would favor compulsion to settle major labor-management disputes, "where the whole country has a vested interest." Surely America has at least as much interest in non-discrimination, so this just doesn't add up.
The Republicans, in 1944, accepted without dissent Senator Taft's plank favoring a purely investigative FEPC. In 1948, again

without dissent, they accepted Senator Lodge's much stronger civil-rights plank:
... We favor the enactment and just enforcement of such Federal legislation as may be necessary to maintain this right (of "equal opportunity to work," etc.) at all times in every part of this republic.
Of the leading Republican contenders today, only Governor Warren seems ready to do "whatever may be necessary" to abolish racism in hiring practices.
Unquestionably, the FEPC issue has become political bait, on both sides. Nevertheless, underlying the political issue is a grave normal issue. Barring American citizens, or any human beings, from the chance of earning a decent livelihood merely because of the color of their skin is a very serious injustice, an arbitrary denial of a basic natural right.
We have no quarrel whatsoever with those who sincerely want only to give the States more time to right this wrong. We do not care what particular methods they use to right it. The question is: how many States really have any serious intention of ever righting it? Only eleven of them have adopted any sort of FEPC, compulsory or voluntary. None of the rest has adopted nondiscrimination even as a matter of public policy. They are allowing citizens of the United States to be kept in economic thralldom for racist reasons.
If the states come clean on this issue, so much the better. If they don't, how long do they expect the Federal Government to tolerate racism practised against U.S. citizens in laggard States? Are "States' rights" merely a cloak for "States' wrongs"? That's the issue, and only the States can produce the answer.



Nebraska was settled quite largely during what we now call the Victorian Era, and the fine homes which developed in virtually every community reflected the tastes of that period in their recreation. By present-day standards they were heavily over-decorated, but the taste of the middle and late years of the 19th century revelled in the ornate.
The period was one of great creative activity in the decorative arts, and the housewife whose husband had been able to build a fine home felt obliged to beautify it with objects of her own handiwork. Many of these home-wrought objects of art are preserved in the State Historical Society's museum in Lincoln.

Among the most interesting are the wreaths, made of a wide variety of materials, and framed in oval glass and wooden frames, bordered with gilt.
A favorite material for making wreaths was human hair, frequently from the head of a departed loved one. Occasionally the wreath surrounded a tintype showing the likeness of the departed. One of the most elaborate hair wreaths in the Historical Society's collection was made in the late seventies, using hair from various members of the family, including ten children. The wreath has a dark border, the hair for which was provided by the family's favorite horse.
Buttons, feathers, wool and seeds also were frequently used to make wreaths. All were very complicated, and one purpose served by the wreaths—usually made by young ladies—was to impress the young beau or prospective suitor. The David D. Whitney Collection in the museum includes many objects of this sort. Particularly noteworthy is a many-colored, highly-elaborate seed wreath made in 1865.
Another similar type of framed decoration was known as pictorial embroidery. This was a combination of embroidery and painting and was taught young ladies in finishing school as an indispensable part of their education.
Keepsakes and heirlooms frequently were framed and hung on

Receives Assistantship To University of Iowa

BALTIMORE, Md. (ANP)—A. Clifton Lamb Sr., associate professor of English at Morgan State college, has been named a recipient of a half-time assistantship in the department of Speech and Dramatic Art at the University of Iowa.
The award, made by the Graduate Council for the academic

the parlor wall. Baby hoods were particular favorites.
Tho these objects would hardly fit in today's ranch-style home, they seemed most appropriate to the Victorian housewife on the walls of her crowded and heavily-decorated parlor. In the museum today, they are somewhat poignant reminders of a by-gone era.

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