

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

Melvin L. Shakespeare

Publisher and Editor

Business Address 2225 S Street Box 2023 4-4085
 If No Answer Call 3-7060
 Editor Melvin L. Shakespeare Advertising and Business Manager
 Dorothy Green Office Secretary
 Mrs. Joe Green Circulation Manager

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EDITORIALS

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Between the Lines

By Dean Gordon B. Hancock for ANP

As one moves along Richmond's famous Monument Avenue, one is struck by the monument to Stonewall Jackson, who was mortally wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville during the Civil War. In one of the fiercest engagements of the war, one of the soldiers said of Jackson, "There he stands like a stone wall," while shot and shell and Hell in a hundred forms raged about him.

The name Stonewall stuck; and it is by this name that he will be remembered by posterity.

President Truman's stand on civil rights is one of these "stone-wall" stands. While lesser souls are dilly-dallying and quibbling and quarreling and quaking amid uncertainties and expediencies, Truman stands like a stone wall. In so doing he is giving this nation its most dramatic lesson in statesmanship and moral brilliance.

Truman the politician has been supplanted by Truman the statesman. Truman the successor to the immortal Roosevelt has become Truman the Great in his own right. When an inspired history of our great nation's president is written, Harry Truman will tower among them like the lofty peak of a mountain, majestic, in its pristine and imposing beauty.

Without the historic ancestry of the Roosevelts and minus their Harvard background training, Truman has commanded the respect of mankind because he was strong in the strength of a moral conviction that civil rights are the birthright of all elements of our nation, Negroes included.

Today he is paying with his political life for his courageous stand on the civil rights issue. But the political life he is giving will be found in greater abundance when posterity accords him the immortality that lesser men would deny him.

We are being treated to the sorry spectacle of two Republican candidates, Taft and Eisenhower, sacrificing a great principle for political gain. Both Taft and Eisenhower are willing to sacrifice Constitution and the future

of minority groups if they can only win the Republican nomination which carries with it the seeds of national calamity.

Expediency as formula for political success will not regain the lost prestige of this nation. One of the calamities of current times is this self-same loss of prestige by the United States which fed the hungry and clothed the naked and sheltered the homeless in the uttermost parts of the earth.

Why this moral debacle? Why do nations have this subtle hatred of us in suite of our endless philanthropies and benevolences? Why do we of all nations have to buy our friends who refuse to stay bought for any length of time?

It is because of the thing that Taft and Eisenhower are offering the people—expediency above principle. Taft and Eisenhower know the justice and righteousness of civil rights, but they lack the honesty and the courage to openly advocate civil rights, as they pertain to Negroes. Only civil rights do Negroes pose any problem.

While Taft and Eisenhower sell their souls—and scar them as well—over the sordid issues of civil rights, Truman comes out and takes the stand that will send him down in history as one of the moral stalwarts of his generation. In fact Truman's is the most positive voice in these critical times.

Truman is a great blessing to our nation as he stands unafraid and undeterred and undismayed before the puny taunts of men like Taft and Eisenhower who are willing to "play-ball" with the dictocrats. Trumanism is the only hope of redeeming the sacred name of our nation among the peoples of the earth.

The call of the hour in this nation is not for candidates of expediency, but for moral courage which Truman is evincing in this critical hour of our nation's history.

"Stonewall Truman" is a moral redemptionist. Hear ye him! The fate or fortune of Trumanism will determine the fate or fortune of our great and mighty nation!

Appeals For Christian Candidates

A prominent clergyman last week appealed to the American people to join him and his church in a pledge to support a candidate for the presidency who will work for a true democracy.

He is Dr. J. C. Austin, vice-president of the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc., which represents some 5,000,000 citizens.

He pleaded for the end of democracy based on color in America and the beginning of true democracy based on Christian ideals. In his appeal Dr. Austin said in part:

"I move that we do here and now pledge ourselves to give full and united support to the candidate for the presidency of these United States of America whose platform and policy stand for true democracy, for equality of all citizens, for a form of government of for and by the people, for a

form of government which makes us 'one national indivisible,'

"A candidate who will give himself unreservedly to the full-filling of the purposes of needs of the nation under our constitution which promises full protection and equal rights to all citizens regardless of creed, color, or conditions.

"We pledged to support the man who guarantees to each and every citizen equal rights and protection in his pursuit for life, liberty and happiness, and who promises that every citizen as a toiler or laborer in these United States of America will be guaranteed equal and fair employment.

"I make this motion in the faith that our performances will coincide with our promises contained in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Anything else makes democracy a deception and our pretense of Christian liv-



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nebraska's Senators

Of Charles H. Van Wyck, U.S. Senator from 1881 to 1887, the late Dr. Addison E. Sheldon once wrote: "(He) was the most hated man in Nebraska politics—at least until the arrival of George W. Norris."

Senator Van Wyck was indeed a controversial figure, and from almost the day of his arrival in Nebraska an active force in the political development of the young commonwealth.

When Mr. Van Wyck moved to Nebraska in 1874 to take up lands he had acquired near Nebraska City in 1857 he already had made for himself a rather considerable record as a soldier and politician. A native New Yorker, he had been a congressman from that state for four terms, and had served as a brigadier general in the Union army, commanding the 56th New York volunteers.

In Nebraska he continued his political career almost without interruption. He was a member of the Nebraska constitutional convention of 1875, and was elected to the state senate for three successive terms. In the legislature he was an active advocate of railroad rate legislation and tax relief.

Mr. Van Wyck went to the United States Senate in the hotly-contested legislative fight of 1881. Senator A. S. Paddock, seeking re-election, was opposed by half a dozen candidates, and it was not until the 17th ballot that any man was able to gain enough strength to secure the election. That Van Wyck was the winner was attributed in part to the powerful support given him by the Omaha Bee.

Senator Van Wyck was elected as a Republican, but from the beginning of his term pursued a course so highly independent as to alienate strong elements within his party. He was a vigorous supporter of tariff reform, railroad regulation, protection of the public lands, and direct popular election of senators. Before the end of his term, he was considered to be much more of an Anti-Monopolist than a Republican.

He received an overwhelming plurality for re-election on the preferential ballot, but was turned down by the legislature in favor of A. S. Paddock, whom he had defeated six years earlier.

ing a curse.

"I offer this motion conscious that the critical eye of the world is watching America today as she offers democracy to others while failing to practice it at home. The world is watching the United States and not the state of Georgia or Florida or Mississippi or Illinois.

The President is the representative of the United States to all the world. Therefore, we will support a candidate for President who will consider it the responsibility of the United States to see that the American promise is fulfilled, and that the American dream does not become a nightmare to its colored citizens.

"The United States cannot continue to be the leader in the family of nations if it continues to have the reputation of mistreating people because of their color."

Dr. Austin also is president of the Illinois Baptist State Convention, which includes some 125,000 persons and pastor of Pilgrim Baptist church, one of Chicago's largest congregations.

The Political Picture

By ANP

Five minority parties to have presidential candidates current interest centering on the activities of the two major political parties—the Republicans and the Democrats—has almost dwarfed the fact that at least five other political parties will have presidential candidates on the ballots.

Most of the minority parties on this year's presidential ballot probably are more to the left than either the Republicans or the Democrats. They include:

Progressive party, Socialist party, Trotskyite Socialist Workers party, Socialist Labor party, and Prohibition party.

The Progressive party, which polled 1,157,172 votes in 1948 with Henry Wallace as presidential candidate, will meet at Chicago during the July 4 week-end to formally nominate Vincent Hallinan of San Francisco for President and Mrs. Charlotta Bass of New York, former editor of the California Eagle, as vice-president.

Darlington Hoopes, Reading, Pa. was selected presidential nominee in place of Norman Thomas, the Socialist party's candidate for some 20 years. Thomas opposed any presidential campaign for the party this year. Samuel H. Friedman, New York publicity man for the United Jewish appeal, is the party's vice presidential candidate.

The Socialist party once polled nearly a 1,000,000 votes, but sank to a measly 139,521 last time. The party is assured a place on the ballot in 18 states already and expects to be on those in 25 to 30 states.

Farrell Dobbs is the Trotskyite Socialist Workers party candidate for president. The vice presidential candidate will be chose at a New York convention July 17-20.

Dobbs, a candidate for mayor of New York in 1945 and for governor in 1946, served some 13 months in prison after his conviction with others in Minneapolis on charges they conspired to create insubordination in the Armed Forces.

The party maintains that its members are "the only true Communists and the only true socialist in the country—there's no difference." It expects to be on the ballot in 15 to 18 states this year.

The Socialist Labor party, on the ballot as the industrial government party in some states, is running Eric Hass, editor of the party magazine, Weekly People, for president, and a New York subway dispatcher, Stephen Emery, for vice president.

The party platform has just one plank—"abolition of capitalism." Its candidates polled 29,061 votes in 1948 and they expect to be on the ballot in 22 states.

The Prohibition party's candidates is California singing cowboy, Stuart Hamblen, who said he is a reformed drunkard. They are expected to name E. A. Holtwick as Hamblen's running mate and come out for a platform against communism, universal military training, high taxes, extravagance and corruption in government and the production and consumption of intoxicating liquors.

Other minority parties which have an outside chance of being on the ballot in some states, include the American Vegetarian party, and the Greenback party.

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