

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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EDITORIALS

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Negro Member of ICC Can End Jim Crow In Interstate Travel

The most humiliating daily occurrence affecting more millions of Negroes than any other indignity and insult is Jim Crow travel on railroads, busses, steamships, and ferries. For years the Interstate Commerce Commission, a federal agency at Washington, commonly known as ICC, has been the real enforcer of segregation by approving every segregation regulation and Jim Crow seating rule of the railroads and busses operating in the South and border states. The ICC has consistently ruled against Negro litigants complaining against unjust discrimination by railroads and other carriers. In the last several years it has ruled against Elmer Henderson 3 times, and also against Dr. Benjamin E. Mays (1947), Mesdames Vashti Brown, Muriel Holcombe, and Lillian Falls (1948), James E. Stamps and Ennis L. Powell (1948), Helena and Charles Haley, Loncie Maloy and Prunela Norwood (1951), Rev. C. S. Stamps (1942), John L. LeFlore and Alfred S. Crishon (1945) and Yolanda Barnett (1945).

The ICC has ignored, disregarded, and flouted the decisions of the United States Supreme Court in the Morgan vs Virginia, Mitchell, and Henderson cases which held invalid segregation statutes, Jim Crow seating arrangements and other discriminations, and still continues to do so.

A vacancy now exists on the Interstate Commerce Commission arising from the recent resignation of Commissioner John L. Rogers, one of those voting in the majority of 7 to 4, on February 19, 1952, upholding new Jim Crow Southern Railway regulations for dining cars in a new decision by the Commission against Elmer Henderson. The appointment of a qualified

and capable Negro would undoubtedly help to change the ICC's hostile, biased, and prejudiced attitude towards a group of 15 million American citizens. The ICC is composed of 11 members of both major political parties appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for a term of 7 years at a salary of \$12,000 per annum.

The time has now come to create an overwhelming public opinion which will compel the Interstate Commerce Commission to observe and follow the decisions of the United States Supreme Court and other federal courts and to stop ignoring and flouting the law and the Constitution and to cease and abandon its role of enforcer of segregation and Jim Crow in interstate travel.

Will you call for the appointment of a Negro to the ICC? Will you also continuously cooperate with and call all progressive and democratic minded interested national and local organizations, such as the NAACP, American Civil Liberties Union, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai Brith, American Friends service Committee, Race Relations Department of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in U.S.A., the Southern Regional Council, Southern Conference for Human Welfare, National Bar Association and all local bar associations and law clubs, National Council of Negro Women, the Press, labor unions and organizations, national and local, fraternal organizations, clubs and other civic organizations, all churches, their bishops, ministers and pastors, and all church bodies, conferences, agencies, commissions, committees, officers and members, to bring their



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

One of those who helped propagate the idea that the Nebraska Country was little more than a desert was John B. Wyeth, a young Bostonian who went through the Platte Valley in the summer of 1832 as the historian of the first Oregon expedition conducted by his more famous cousin, Nathaniel Wyeth.

For five years Nathaniel Wyeth tried to promote an agricultural and commercial venture in Oregon. Though his activity resulted in the establishment of Fort Hall—later an important stopping place on the Overland Trail—and greatly popularized Oregon in the East, Wyeth failed in his primary objective and returned to his native New England without establishing a successful colony in Oregon.

John Wyeth's account of the first journey—entitled *Oregon, or a Short History of a Long Journey*, and characterized by Nathaniel Wyeth as a book "of little lies told for gain"—emphasized the seemingly hopeless future of the enthusiastic Nathaniel's dreams.

John Wyeth was most unfavorably impressed with the Platte Valley. The water of the river he described as "foul and muddy," and he reported that the caravan was compelled to travel along the banks of the stream "on account of the scarcity of water in the dry and comfortless plains."

Of the region in general, he wrote:

"The Missouri Territory is a vast wilderness, consisting of immense plains, destitute of wood and of water, except on the edges of streams that are found near the turbid La Platte. This river owes its source to the Rocky Mountains, and runs pretty much through the territory, without enlivening or fructifying this desert. Some opinion may be formed of it by saying that for the space of six hundred miles, we may be said to have been deprived of the benefits of two elements, fire and water. Here were, to be sure, buffaloes, but after we had killed them we had no wood or vege-

powers, influence and opinion to bear for the correction of this great evil and to abolish Jim Crow and segregation in interstate travel NOW.

To accomplish these purposes will you set up permanent action committees, bodies, agencies, and commissions to follow this up and to cooperate with other similarly interested until JIM CROW TRAVEL IS ABOLISHED?

Will you consider and adopt other appropriate measures and take steps which in your opinion are suitable and designed to eliminate the evil of Segregation and JIM CROW IN TRAVEL?

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Presidential Candidates

(Con't from Page 1, Col. 2)

ternate.
New Jersey: Arthur Chapin, delegate.
Ohio: John O. Holly and Charles V. Carr, both of Cleveland, delegates.
Virgin Islands: Honorable Oswald E. Harris.

There undoubtedly are those whose names were not available at this time. Among this group will be those from the District of Columbia where Negroes contributed heavily to W. Averell Harriman's primary victory.

Democratic possibilities for the presidency include Truman, Harriman, Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn), Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn) and Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga). Here is a rundown on the aspirants and their position on civil rights.

President Truman, who has consistently stated that he does not intend to run again for the presidency, possibly still remains the strongest choice among Negroes. It is considered that the man who has his backing probably will receive the nomination.

One of the top contenders to succeed Truman is Harriman, who advocates a stronger civil rights plank than does Truman. Many of the Negro delegates probably will go to the convention with instructions to vote for him.

Harriman has come out for a stronged federal FEPC law with compulsory powers to enforce its decisions. Because of this, many southern delegates already have launched a "stop-Harriman-move."

The "dark horse" liberal in this campaign is Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn). Chief op-

tables of any kind wherewith to kindle a fire for cooking. We were absolutely compelled to dry the dung of the buffalo as the best article we could procure for cooking our coarse beef."

Historian Wyeth also had a few words of caution about the buffalo: "Buffaloes were plenty enough. We saw them in frightful droves, as far as eye could reach, appearing at a distance as if the ground was moving like the sea. Such large armies of them have no fear of man. They will travel over him and make nothing of him."

John B. Wyeth's intention was to discourage Americans from attempting the journey to Oregon. His tale of woe may have had some effect, but like all prophets of doom he was soon passed over by the force of events as Young America moved westward.

position to him comes also from southerners who object to his stand on civil rights. Another reason for his slight chance of being nominated is his age—41.

Probably the choice of most of Democrats is Adlai Stevenson, governor of Illinois, who supposedly has the favor of Truman. Stevenson earlier in the campaign stated that he was not interested in running for president; however, lately he has indicated that he might be interested.

Sen. Kefauver, the man who earned prominence as head of the senate crime investigating committee which bore his name, has been vague on civil rights and, consequently, has not endeared himself to many Negroes? At the same time few southerners have come out for him.

He has stated that he is not in favor of a federal FEPC law with enforcement provisions. However, he later agreed to support one if it is put into the national platform at the convention. Still later he said that he doubted that it could be enforced.

Generally speaking, followers of Kefauver are dissident Democrats who are dissatisfied with the regular Democratic organization. Regular party organizations have not supported Kefauver. Because of this, he has lashed out at what he termed city bosses and their attempts to hamper his campaign.

Stevenson is considered by many to be a compromise candidate who would be acceptable to all diverse elements within the party. On civil rights he is a middle-roader who approves a limited amount of federal action.

Many possible slates have been suggested in an effort to bring about harmony among the various elements. Chief among these is the Stevenson-Kefauver team. Another is Stevenson-Barkley.

However, with as many diverse groups as are now in the Democratic party, any combination could result. The convention promises to be packed with action.

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GOVERNOR'S WIFE FOUNDS NEW AFRICAN UNIVERSITY— Lady Arden-Clarke, wife of the Gold Coast governor, recently helped found the new University College of the Gold Coast in Accra, the nation's capital. Around this college will be built a "university city" with its own utilities to house thousands of people. Her role in the new school also illustrates an awareness of the further active roles of native women in Gold Coast civic and educational activity. In the above scene Lady Arden-Clarke is speaking at ground breaking ceremonies.—(ANP)

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