

# The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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

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Publisher and Editor

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Member of the Associated Negro Press and Nebraska Press Association  
Entered as Second Class Matter, June 9, 1947, at the Post Office at Lincoln, Nebraska, under the Act of March 3, 1879.  
1 year subscription \$7.50 Single copy 15¢  
Out of State 1 Year Subscription \$2.50—Single Copy 10¢



### EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

## Civil Rights

(The following was written by Edward Thomas, Senior, College of Civil Engineering.)

This election year presents many, many problems to the American people worthy of serious thought. The problem, however, that is causing the most discussion is Civil Rights, better known as Fair Employment Practice.

Just what is the Civil Rights Program and how will it affect the American way of life?

I am interested in this question because, being a member of a minority group, I am directly affected by such legislation. I favor the Civil Rights program because I feel that discrimination in employment is unconstitutional, is a hindrance to the progress of minority groups, is the chief cause of industrial strife, and last, but far from least, is a handicap in achieving success in foreign relations.

America was founded on the idea that men have individual rights and that one man should respect the rights of others. In other words, America was founded on the definite principle that all men are created equal, as well as free. Since our country was founded on such an idea, how does any group have the power or the right to restrict or hinder the progress of another group of Americans?

Our country can tolerate no restriction upon the individual which is based on his race, his color, his religion or his social group. As stated in section 26 of the Ives Charles bill (s.984):

The right to employment without discrimination because of race, religion, color, national origin, or ancestry is hereby recognized and declared to be a civil right of the people of this United States.

This bill, however, is not the creation of a new Civil Right, because the right to make a living is a property right which is guaranteed by the fifth and fourteenth amendments to the Federal Constitution.

Fair employment legislation would be a means of subduing industrial strife because of men

in industry are hired and promoted because of ability and achievement and not because of racial differences, there will be no friction of resentment bred in the minds of workers. "It is well known that racial and religious frictions have an adverse affect upon industry. The practice of discrimination in employment, aimed at by this act, has a strong tendency to keep alive antagonisms that would be ameliorated if the restrictive practice disappeared." By outlawing job qualifications and wage differences based on creed or color the civil rights program would minimize racial economic competition and the fear and hatred which it generates.

Legislation to prevent employment discrimination would also have a prodigious effect on our Foreign Relations. At the present time, when discrimination is so pronounced in our country, our representatives are having a rather difficult time convincing other peoples of the world that our methods are the best.

Throughout Central and South America, in India, Japan, and other Asiatic Countries, in Africa, in Italy, in France, totalitarian expansion and the struggle against democratic forces is closely allied with anti-American propaganda. Every item of discrimination which can be shown to exist in the United States serves as fuel for the totalitarian propaganda machine.

The United States is not so strong, the final triumph of the democratic ideal is not so inevitable that we can ignore what the world thinks of our record.

In view of the apparent overwhelming need for civil rights, legislation I conclude by saying that unless our country makes a definite stand on discrimination by passing on anti-discrimination law "with teeth" we will continue to have industrial strife, difficulty in our foreign relations and last, but of vital importance, racial tension which, if allowed to grow, will destroy everything for which the ideal of America stands.

Only the weakness of good men gives evil men their power!



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the 1880's a favorite form of entertainment in Nebraska's larger cities was to go for a ride on the horse-drawn cars of the street railway. The horse-cars were part of the urban real estate boom that hit Nebraska during the eighties, and altogether 15 Nebraska cities sported that definitely "metropolitan" form of public conveyance.

The horse cars appear to have been particularly popular in the summer months, and many city dwellers boarded them for a ride on warm summer evenings just to cool off. The street railway companies usually provided special summer cars, with plenty of ventilation and with seats running crosswise of the car. The conductor had to be something of an acrobat as he made his way from post to post along the running board at the side of the car.

The horse cars seem to have been used a good deal on Sunday by people who were just out for a ride. In Hastings, for example, the cars were first run on Sunday "for the accommodation of the church-going public," but the demand from Sunday excursionists was so great that there was no thought of curtailing Sunday service once it was started.

Many of the horse railways ran lines to parks or athletic fields at the edge of town, and during special events—the chatauqua, a circus, the fair, and unusual speakers or an important baseball game—special cars were run on these lines.

Baseball was a particular boon to the horse railway companies. Referring again to Hastings, when that team was enjoying a winning streak in the Nebraska State League the horse car business out to Cole's Park on game days was so heavy that extra cars had to be run and even then passengers rode on the roof. In Omaha, the street railway company donated \$500 to the local Western League club.

Despite their slow rate of speed, the horse cars provided considerable excitement and even a little danger for their passengers. Passengers were injured in street railway accidents, and a few were even killed. Most of the accidents appear to have resulted from poor

## Reunion of Van Derzee Family Attracts Ninety

A two day reunion of more than local interest was held July fifth and sixth at the farm home of Mrs. Anna R. Coffee. It was the get-together of the five members of the VanDerzee clan—including Anna VanDerzee-Coffee, Bigelow, Kansas; Perry F. A. VanDerzee-McWilliams, Blythe, California and Alice VanDerzee-Coffee, Bigelow, Kansas.

Their parents, Elder and Mrs. Wm. H. VanDerzee came to Lincoln from Norfolk, Nebraska in 1895. Elder VanDerzee established the Third Christian Church at 23rd and P streets.

Mrs. Anna R. Coffee, widow of the late Sherman Coffee, formerly taught at Tuskegee Institute, and was dean of women at Kansas Vocational School, Topeka, Kansas. Mrs. Coffee is still active in church circles serving in the capacity of Spiritual Life Chairman of the Bigelow, Kansas Methodist Church.

Perry F., a radio technician now retired from R. C. A., was accompanied by his charming wife, Mrs. Emma VanDerzee. He was the first Negro radio operator to serve on the high seas, and, it will be recalled, was one of the pioneers in the wireless telegraphy field having his tower at 2151 South 10th St., Lincoln, Nebraska.

Wm. E. VanDerzee (Bert to his old friends) was unable to attend, but plans to reach Bigelow before all have scattered to their homes.

Ruth E. McWilliams, who finished Cotner University and did post-graduate work with Sidney Silber at State University, is still

control of untrained horses. Horses balked, ran away, kicked out dash boards and generally misbehaved.

In Omaha, so the Herald reported, a balky horse, "turned around in its traces and fell down, then it struggled up, and sticking its head through a window tried to bit a lady in the front set."

teaching piano in her home town of Blythe, California. Her husband, Ralph W. McWilliams, passed away two years ago.

Alice C. Coffee, a former teacher at Bethune-Cookman, is now connected with South Dakota's school system for the fifth year.

The family dinner around a large turkey, was held Saturday and was a delightful repast—full of reminiscing, of "Do you remember when?" and "What became of such and such a person?" Old relics and pictures and letters belonging to the family were shown. Many tender memories were (Continued on Page 8, Col. 2)

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