

THE VOICE

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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.

Between the Lines

By Dean Gordon B. Hancock
For ANP

Speaking of Sparkman

Shortly after I had organized the department of economics and sociology in Virginia Union 30 years ago, field trips for my classes were inaugurated.

The most interesting was the annual trip to the Central State hospital, where a clinic was held showing the various stages of amentia and dementia, feeble-mindedness and insanity. The various treatments for the insane were stressed.

It has been interesting to note the steady improvement in the ways and means of treating the mentally ill. Within recent years insulin as a therapeutic in certain types of dementia has been indicated, with reassuring results. The writer once inquired of the clinician what was the particular therapeutic effect of insulin in those certain cases of dementia?

His reply was to the effect that insulin produced a kind of shock to the patient that often left him improved both mentally and physically. Shock therapy is receiving more and more attention today.

The writer was once an inveterate, and apparently incurable Republican. It took the New Deal and the Square Deal of Roosevelt and Truman to shock him out of Republican psychosis that possessed him. It was not a little shocking to compare the little that Negroes gleaned from their loyalty to Republicanism with the widely extended benefits that

came to them under the New and Fair Deals.

Today Negroes are again at the political cross-roads. They may again rest their hopes on the Republican party with its Eisenhower, seeking the support of the dixiecratic south, or they may chaise to stick with the Democratic party which has in a pronounced way made valiant attempts at integration.

While far from complete, integration is going apace with even the dixiecratic south laboring with the question, not whether, but when and how?

This release is addressed rather to those "incurable" Republicans who are trying to find excuses for biting the hand that has led them far along the high road of full-fledged citizenship. These incurables dwell long on vice-presidential candidate Sparkman, a southerner, whose record in his voting on civil rights legislation is not impressive from the Negroes' point of view.

If this writer were asked to give an appraisal of Sparkman's record, he would have to admit that it lacks much of being satisfactory. But this writer also appreciates the fact that being dependent on certain elements in Alabama for his election to the congress of the United States, Sen. Sparkman had to speak the language of his supporting constituency who unfortunately are against civil rights for Negroes.

But the stubborn fact must ever be borne in mind that one of the chief duties of a man in politics is to get elected, failing this, his influence is decidedly limited. Roosevelt had to get elected. Truman had to get elected. Lincoln



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An election year inevitably brings forth memories of hot political campaigns of the past, and in Nebraska such memories sooner or later focus on the election of 1890, one of the most spirited and confused in the history of the state.

Describing it, the late Dr. Addison E. Sheldon wrote: "There never has been such a political campaign in Nebraska as the campaign of 1890 and there never can be such another. The later presidential campaigns of 1892 and 1896 were full of fire and enthusiasm, but none of them approached the sublime energy of the human tornado which swept the prairies from August to November in 1890. As one of the speakers in that campaign said from the platform in the hearing of the writer: 'We farmers raised no crops, so we'll just raise hell.'"

The long-endured economic grievances suffered by the farmers of the West erupted in 1890 into a series of third parties whose vigorous campaigning threatened—and frequently defeated—parties who had been entrenched in power since the Civil War.

In Nebraska, the People's Party,

had to get elected. Sparkman had to get elected, and that by respecting the wishes of those who supported him.

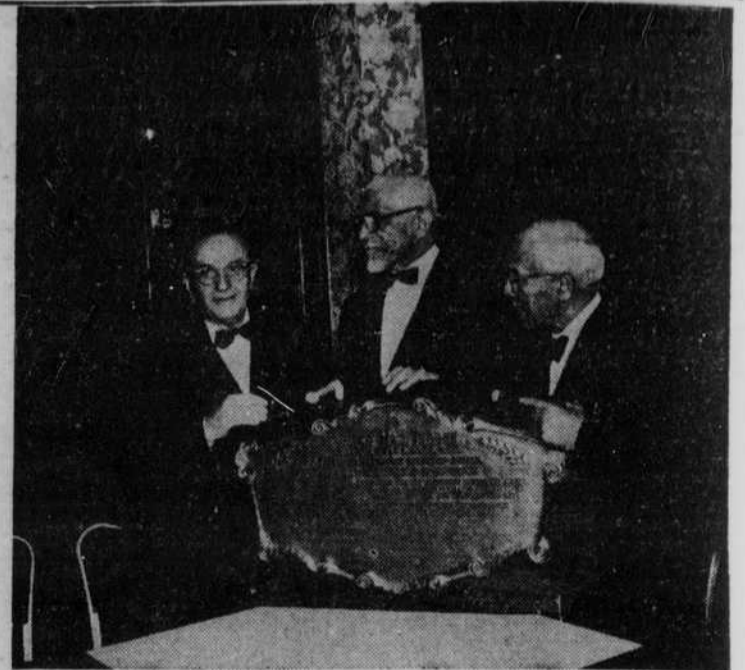
One of the strong points in favor of Sparkman is, he is a southern Methodist. And this is especially significant in view of the fact that Southern Methodists have always led in programs of interracial co-operation. They are the most liberal of all the denominational groups throughout the South.

The interracial gestures now being made by the other denominations were made by the Southern Methodists years ago. In race relations Southern Methodists lead and the other denominations follow. This is Sparkman's religious background, and a great one.

The principle behind Sparkman's religious training is far more important than any expediences foisted upon him by his political necessities. The motivations of Sparkman, the devout Southern Methodist, are far more important than the maneuvers of Sparkman the politician.

Sparkman, a southerner, had to get elected! But it is also one modern history that once a southerner sees the light, he becomes invincible. What about Mr. Justice Black? What about Harry Truman? What about the Judge Warings, the moral titans of this generation?

With Sparkman on the spot, Negroes have nothing to fear.



NEGRO MEDICS HONOR HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS—At a special dinner at the Bismarck hotel in downtown Chicago, a group of 20 of the nation's greatest Negro surgeons last week honored Dr. Max Thorek of Chicago, the founder and permanent secretary-general of the International College of Surgeons.

The 20 Negro surgeons, in Chicago for the 57th annual convention of the National Medical association, Aug. 11-15, presented to Dr. Thorek a bronze plaque for "his courageous devotion to the ideals of democracy."

Shown above left to right are: Dr. Thorek, the honoree; Dr. Rivers Frederick of New Orleans, and Dr. Ulysses Grant Dailey, recently elected to the board of trustees of the International College of Surgeons.

Dr. Frederick also is a member of the International College of Surgeons. (ANP)

organized out of the Farmers' Alliance at a convention in Lincoln, July 29, 1890, swept across the state to win control of the legislature, elect a Democratic governor, and unseat all three Republican members of the House of Representatives.

As Dr. Sheldon wrote, "there never has been such a political campaign in Nebraska." Crowds turned out in unprecedented numbers to listen to Independent orators and to sing Independent songs, most of which were set to the tune of well-known gospel hymns. Indeed, the Independent campaign took on much the color of a religious crusade.

At Wymore on Sept. 23, 1,050 farm wagons were counted in an Independent parade, and 1,600 wagons paraded at Hastings the same day. Parades from two to ten miles long were the order of the day everywhere. At Cushman Park near Lincoln, 20,000 people assembled on Sept. 1. The crowd was so great that orators spoke from different platforms so that all could hear.

Quoting again from Dr. Sheldon: "It was like one continuous Fourth of July celebration with delegations from different alliances and precincts headed by pioneers driving to some ample woodland and spending the entire day in visiting and politics."

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LIFE ABNER By Al Capp

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