

OMAHA MONITOR

Successor to The Monitor

The Militant Defender of the Rights of the Race

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Declaration of Policy

The name of this paper will be slightly changed. It will now be the "Omaha Monitor" instead of "The Monitor," as formerly. In the main, the policy of the new management will conform to that of the preceding one. The editorial policy of the Omaha Monitor shall be:

- 1—Independent in thought and action.
- 2—Liberal in attitude and interpretation.
- 3—Honest in convictions and writings.
- 4—Militant in its fight for justice.
- 5—Non-sensational in composure.
- 6—Instructive in subject matter.
- 7—Conservative in viewpoint.
- 8—Decisive in judgment.
- 9—Broad in its interests and subjects.
- 10—Free from political alliances.

G. W. H. BULLOCK, Editor.

AN IMPORTANT WORD TO SUBSCRIBERS

The postal regulations require that for newspapers to be sent through the mails subscriptions must be paid in advance. A reasonable time, thirty days, is allowed for renewals. At the expiration of this period, where subscriptions are not renewed, the paper must be stopped. If this is not done, postal privileges are denied the publication. Those, therefore, who desire to continue receiving The Monitor must see to it that their subscriptions are paid, as the law requires, in advance. Statements are being sent to all those who owe, or our collector will call—and unless your subscription is paid we will be compelled to cut off your paper which, of course, we do not want to do.

We, as publishers, MUST comply with the law or pay the penalty.

A CITY OF HOMES

There are some features about Omaha that perhaps we do not appreciate as we should. Among these should be mentioned the large percentage of home-owners. It is stated upon the authority of real estate men that 30,000 of the homes in this city are owned by them that live in them. Omaha has 51,000 homes, and 30,000 of these, think of it! more than 60 per cent, or three out of every five of the homes in this city, are owned by the occupants. This is a record unequalled by any other American city. We can point with commendable pride to the fact that Omaha holds the record for home ownership. And it is noteworthy that our own race contributes to this splendid record, the estimate being that 45 per cent of the Negroes are home owners.

Engene Kinckle Jones, the alert, observant executive secretary of the National Urban League, on a recent visit to Omaha, stated that the housing conditions and the home-ownership among our people were the best that he has seen in any city in this country. True, there are few that can be classed as either pretentious or palatial, but taken as an average, they are comfortable, attractive, and HOMEY, well-equipped with modern conveniences. This is a most significant and encouraging fact and speaks eloquently for the character of our citizens. Home-ownership bespeaks ambition, thrift, industry, stability. It is indeed an honor and an inspiration to live in a city that holds such a record as Omaha. When we are inclined, as inclined at times we all are to underrate our privileges and opportunities and belittle our city, enchanted by distant scenes which seem brighter and more promising, let us be enheartened by the fact that we live in a city of homes, which foretell a greater and better city, despite its faults, if only we will do our part to make it so.

Omaha, my own city. A city of homes. A city to be proud of, and to be a better and greater city, as I and everybody else does his part to make it so.

ATTENTION, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Apropos of what we have said about Omaha being a city of homes, we wonder if something could not be done to prevent the transfer of many of our railroad men, who are home-owners, to other places. Every so often the railroads take dining car men and porters who own their homes here and are raising families and give them runs from Chicago to the Pacific Coast, compelling them to give up their homes here or else seldom see their families. We wonder if this could not be remedied. It certainly does not help Omaha. This is a matter which we would respectfully refer to the attention and consideration of the Chamber of Commerce. This policy certainly does not contribute to the up-building of Omaha.

WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

We wonder if our people appreciate as they should certain welfare organizations which function among our group in this city. We have especially in mind, at this time, such organizations as the North Side Branch of the Y. W. C. A., and the Omaha Urban League. The "Y" has demonstrated its usefulness and merits unstinted and enthusiastic support. It has been most fortunate in securing such an able, well-trained and competent executive secretary in the person of Miss Margie L. Danley to direct the work. Not a novice, but a well-trained executive who has won success in another field that was unwilling to release her. The community should give her and those in charge of "Y" affairs whole-hearted co-operation.

The Urban League during its brief service here has fully shown its wonderful possibilities for not only racial but interracial co-operation and welfare. Those who have come in touch with him can well understand why Milwaukee, where he worked so successfully for five years, was unwilling to let Omaha have J. Harvey Kearns, executive secretary of the Urban League. Omaha is to be congratulated upon having trained social workers of this character working here. Let our citizens realize the value of our welfare organizations and of those in charge to our city.

Then, too, there is need, urgent need, for a strong Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here. Build one up.

All these organizations are co-operative organizations working for the best interests of the community. Let us give them our whole-hearted support.

COASTING TRAGEDY

Omaha was saddened Sunday by the news that six children ranging from the ages of 11 to 15, were either killed or seriously injured in what seems to have been unavoidable accidents, while coasting on streets set aside for that purpose.

At this writing, one of the victims, Earl Smith, Colored,

of 2302 North Twenty-seventh street, was killed outright, his companion, Louis Strowder, Colored, is not expected to recover, while four other children are in a very critical condition.

There seems to be nobody who could be held reasonably responsible for this accident, although very serious.

The City authorities did all that was in their power. "Slow Signs" were placed at every intersection, while automobiles were discouraged in traveling those streets. The law did not permit any further authority. Nevertheless, the accident happened, and it is up to somebody to suggest a plan whereby such may not occur and at the same time permit this necessary childish sport to continue.

Our suggestion is to place policemen to walk those streets to keep cars well to the curb during the periods the children are coasting.

LEGAL ASPECTS of the NEGRO PROBLEM

By JAMES WELDON JOHNSON Secretary, N. A. A. C. P.

THE VOTE

(Continued from Last Week)

Grandfather clauses were common in the south. The particular form which came before the supreme court was that embodied in an amendment to the constitution of the state of Oklahoma, imposing an educational requirement upon all voters, of being able to read or write any section of the Oklahoma state constitution. From this requirement, the amendment specifically exempted all those who, or whose ancestors, had voted anywhere in the United States on or prior to January 1, 1866. Two questions were submitted to the supreme court in connection with the requirement: first, was the amendment to the Oklahoma constitution valid; and second, was it void insofar as it attempted to bar Negroes from voting.

In a brief submitted in behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Mr. Moorfield Storey pointed out the real nature of the exemption from the educational requirement:

"The language employed is just as effective as if it distinctly enforced a peculiar disqualification on all descendants of Negro slaves. The purpose and effect of such amendments as this have been openly avowed, and there is not an intelligent man in the United States who is ignorant of them. If it is possible for an ingenious scrivener to accomplish that purpose by careful phrasing, the provisions of the constitution which establish and protect the rights of some ten million colored citizens of the United States, are not worth the paper on which they are written, and all constitutional safeguards are weakened."

Mr. Storey further pointed out that:

"The choice of January 1, 1866, as the decisive date is in itself enough to show conclusively what the real purpose of the amendment was. . . . The effect of the amendment is to allow almost anybody to vote, whatever his education or extraction, unless he happens to be a Negro, for it is well known to the court as it was to the framers of the amendment that practically all residents of the United States, other than Negroes, enjoyed the right to vote in 1866."

The decision declaring the amendment void and invalid, as it violated the 15th amendment, did not, however, prevent the unequal administration of the general educational and other requirements which were adopted in the south following the Grandfather clause decision, and to which Senator George referred.

One more recent case before the United States supreme court illustrates the lengths to which legislation has gone in the south in the attempt to make disfranchisement of the Negro legally binding. In Texas, where owing to one-party domination by the democrats, nomination in its primaries was tantamount to election

to office, a so-called White Primary law was enacted in 1924, specifically excluding Negroes from the democratic primaries of the state. This law paralleled other similar enactments in the south. A duly qualified Negro democrat, Dr. L. A. Nixon of El Paso, Texas, endeavored to vote and was prevented by the election judges who issued to Dr. Nixon a certificate showing they had acted in accordance with the Texas law.

This White Primary case, Nixon vs. Herndon, 273 U. S. 536, was carried on appeal to the United States supreme court. In a reply brief filed after the state of Texas had intervened, by the attorneys for the plaintiff, including Messrs. Louis Marshall, Moorfield Storey and Arthur B. Spingarn of the national legal committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the character of the legislation was clearly defined:

"The vice of this legislation appears on its face. It lays down a general principle which confers the right to vote at a democratic primary election upon all voters qualified under the constitution and laws of the state of Texas who are bona fide members of the democratic party. Then follows the discrimination, couched in the most emphatic terms, that in no event shall a Negro be permitted to participate in a democratic primary election held in the state of Texas. Not content with that explicit discrimination, there follows the provision that should the Negro vote in a democratic primary election, his ballot shall be void, and then, to emphasize the humiliation sought to be inflicted upon the Negro, the election officials are directed by the statute to "throw out" such a ballot and "not count the same."

It is like administering a kick to a murdered man as an evidence of malice and contempt.

If this is not arbitrary classification by race and color; if it does not constitute a complete deprivation of the equal protection of the laws; if it is not an abridgement of privileges and immunities of a citizen of the United States, then it is impossible to conceive of any acts which come within those terms. . . . We are not here concerned with a political question. It is one that transcends all politics. It is one which involves the supremacy of the constitution both in its letter and in its spirit."

The supreme court coincided in this point of view, saying that it was unnecessary to consider the 15th amendment:

"—because it seems to us hard to imagine a more directed and obvious infringement of the 14th.

And declaring in the final paragraph of its decision: "States may do a good deal of classifying that it is difficult to believe rational, but there are limits, and it is too clear for extended argument that color cannot be made the basis of a statutory classification affecting the right set up in this case."

Since the supreme court's decision in the Texas White Primary case, which sets a precedent for the south, there have been attempts in other states, notably Virginia and Florida, to bar Negroes from the polls at primary elections, with resulting court struggles. The White Primary decision has not settled the primary is-

sue in the southern states. But it has established once and for all a principle of which Negroes in time may make effective use.

To Be Continued Next Week)

CHARGE JANITOR WITH THEFT

Collins, Miss., Dec. 14 (ANP).—The sheriff is searching for Davis Strange, janitor of the Collins High school, who is suspected of robbing the safe of the school of cash to the amount of fifty dollars, a goodly portion of which was Red Cross funds.

TO OUR ADVERTISING CLIENTELE

Gentlemen: The policy of this paper shall be to give you the best returns on your investment. To do this we shall work for you while you support us. We shall make no false claims about circulation, but shall represent only the genuine subscribing class that is honestly and truly our own. We can vouch for their worth to you because we know all of them by name. We know that they lead in intelligence and progress; and are the most successful citizens among our group in business, finance, home ownership, home and community loving. A check of the records of The Monitor subscribers shows that 98 per cent of them own or are buying homes. Ninety-three per cent of them are heads of families running from two to 12 people. That they spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually with the various merchants and business houses of the communities in which they live. That a big majority of them can and do pay their bills promptly. That the great majority of them are engaged in business or other gainful occupations. With this kind of clientele, we come to you for your business and feel confident that we are offering you a fair assurance for returns on your investment. Gratefully yours, THE EDITOR.

TO OUR CIRCULATION CLIENTELE

Dear Friends: You have subscribed to this paper, some of you, from the first issue until now. You have been its most worthy and loyal supporters. We have reason to believe that you have enjoyed its reading matter and policy. For this, the new management, returns most humble and hearty thanks and the hope that you will continue with it. If you are behind on your subscription, please send remittance to BOX 1204, Omaha, Neb., or call WEBSTER 1984 and I will be glad to send or come for it. Our existence and legal status depends upon paid up circulation. Thank you. THE EDITOR.

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