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# EDITORIAL

THE GOVERNMENT AND STATUS OF THE NEGRO. WHAT?

By M. L. Harris

It causes us to often ponder over the unequal status under which we are made to groan in our effort to adjust ourselves to the principles of democracy which by the constitution of our Government Vouchsafes to all its Citizens equal privileges under the law and guarantees to them life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. We have for years cryed and prayed for relief to our Government from the curse of Jim Crowism, segregation and lynching. Bills to that effect have been introduced in the Congress and Senate, but for various reasons, chief among them was that the Government could not give any aid on the ground that any law to that effect would be class legislation and would conflict with or run afowl of the doctrine of State Rights, whatever that may mean. Negroes have been burned at the stake, their homes have been desecrated and destroyed, innonce men have been the victims of mobs and gangs of hoodlums, crying and thirsting for blood. Petitions have been made to the Federal as well as the State Government in which these crimes were perpetrated. We were told that the Federal Government was power less to act. The countries in which these dastardly crimes were committed made futile gestures of bringing the culprits to justice, only in a very few isolated cases were conviction obtained with very light sentences imposed if any at all.ffl These results were so frequently the case that even the N. A. A. C. P. at times seemingly dispared of ever succeeding in their efforts of placing them behind prison walls. Even in the face of the grave injustices practiced in the Scottsboro Case where-in the innocence of those boys was conclusively proven the persecution continued. Yet, not a voice was raised in the legislative halls of our Government.

A Government guarantees to every citizen previous conditions of servetude. Not one bill presented calling for the Federal Government to step in and do that, which the States, either was powerless to do, or for reasons best known to themselves they would not do. After thousands of Negroes had been lynched and burned to the stake, and hundreds of homes was destroyed, it remained for the Federal Government to awaken to the fact that she could reach out her long arm and stretch it from State to State, no to stop the wanton destruction of life and property of thousands of defenseless Negroes, but to stop the kidnaping of American citizens (white). No one decrys the fact that it was necessary that this should be done, but what the Negro want, if the Federal Government can alley her fears long enough without violating the policy of State rights to pass drastic laws to reach her arm from one State to another to punish the kidnapers and murderers of Lindberg baby and men and women of wealth and affluence why is she not able to use the same methods to pass drastic laws that will give to her the same power to reach out ehr arm to punish the (not the kidnapers) by lynchers and burners to the stake of some innocent Negro man or woman-Yes, we wonder why.

## March Events

By REV. ALBERT KUHN

Our national program of recovery has by no means easy sailing. One of the snags which it hits are the conflicting ambitions of the leaders of labor on one side and of capitol on the other. Labor leaders like Green, head f the American Federation of Labor, and Lewis, Head of the United Mine Workers, want to use the N. R. A., to become dictators to the industrial managers of the country making it impossible for the latter to conduct the details of their business without daily consulation with and deference to a non resident Labor Bureaucracy. Anyone who has had to deal with local labor unions and labor bosses knows how unreasonable, arbitrary and overbearing they can be. Once in a while their conduct is not much different from that of regular racketeers. On the other hand, where labor cannot bargain with the employer coilectively the individual employee is absolutely at the mercy of the latter who may regard labor as so much machinery which he is buying as cheaply as possible, which means in times in which there is a surplus of labor, at starvation wages. The only sensible method of insuring fair treatment to everybody in our present complicated system is the setting up of boards of arbitration so constituted that they can impartiall balance the interests of the employers, the employees and he consuming public. Such boards our President is trying to establish and to invest with power. In this undertaking he ought to have the backing of the whole nation.

In Western Pennsylvania violent strikes have developed among the miners in which scores of men have been killed. Many of the mines have had to stand a regular siege. The government has been reluctant to show its strong arm in the matter, for fear that its action might be misinterpreted either by capital or by labor as a one-sided stand, depending upon what action the federal troops would feel constrained to take. Henry Ford also has had some serious strikes on his hands. On account of slow business he had to curtail the hours of labor at the plant at Chester, Pa. The men struck for a five-day week at a \$25 minimum. When Ford retaliated by closing the plant, the strikers moved on his other plant at Edgewater, N. J., to induce its two thousand workers to engage in a sympathy strike. They boastingly talked of closing every Ford factory in the country. Methods like that of course confirm Ford more than ever in his refusal to allow his plants to become union-

In Cuba President Grau's student supporters fired upon a crowd of Communists, killing scores, while government troops forced the surrender of 500 officers who had entrenched themselves in a prominent hotel at Havanna in defiance of the new government. The position just been completed by the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, and the facts discovered will be given to the public at a nearly date, according to an announcement by George Fort Milton, editor of the Chattanooga News and chairman of the Commission.

·Trained investigators representing the Commission have been on the case for some time, according to Mr. Milton, and have gone as fully as possible into every angle of the situation. Interesting revelations are promised relative to the probable guilt or innocence of the victims lynched, the part played by officers and courts, and the state of mind of the of the ew government is still very insecure. So far it has not obtained recog-

nition by the American government. Many people find fault with the slaughter of millions of young pigs by the government. Yet, when the market is glutted with hogs and the farmers do not get half of the cost of feeding out of their shipment, who of these critics digs into his pockets and makes up the deficit? For over twelve years the rest of the public have let the farmer sink deeper and deeper into debt and by buying below his cost have robbed him of the fruit of his labor, simply because it was impossible for our farmers to organize for planned production like industries which are in the hands of a few huge corporations. It is pretty near time that the farmer have his turn. By assisting him to fit the amount of production to the actual demand the government is doing a good thing.

#### COMMISSIO NON LYNCHING STUDY IS BUSY AGAIN

Careful Study Made of Tuscaloosa Situation — Report Promised Public at **Early Date** 

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A careful study of the recent lynchings around Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and of attendant community conditions and attitudes has community.

The request for the investigation, Mr. Milton stated, was made by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, a Snuthern agency with headquarters in Atlanta, which felt that action in the case on the part of some responsible Southern group was imperative, since the while South must share in the stigma attaching to such crimes and is responsible for their correction.

The facts revealed by the investigation will be given to the press and otherwise made available to the public, said Mr. Milton, as soon as they can be formulated, in the hope that they may suggest immediate action in the Tuscaloosa cases and also prove ultimately helpful to Alabama and to the South.

The Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching was set up in 1930, made an exhaustive case study of the twenty-one lynchings of that year, and published its findings in a volume of 500 pages. The membership of the Commission consists of George Fort Milton, Julian Harris, John Hope, Benjamin F. Hubert, Charles S. Johnson, W. P. King, R. R. Moton, Howard W. Odum, Alex W. Spence, Monroe Work, W. W. Alexander, and W. C. Jackson.

#### ICKES KEEPS EYE ON NEGRO EM-PLOYMENT IN PUBLIC WORKS

Washington, D. C.-Even though there are many problems facing the Department of the Interior and the Public Works Administration, Secretary Harold L. Ickes is keeping a close watch on the employment of colored men on the various public works projects financed by loans from the federal government.

This assurance was given personally by Secretary Ickes in an interview here Wednesday to Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mr. White commended Mr. Ickes for the instructions he issued under date of September 21 to all state engineers on public works that there must be no discrimination between applicants for work on account of "color or religious affiliation.

Secretary Ickes agreed with the N. A. A. C. P. head that this was only the first step and that undoubtedly many employers would seek to bar Negro work men by one trick or another. Mr. Ickes was watching to see that everyone got a square deal. Mr. White suggested a follow up order with teeth in it and Secretary Ickes expressed great interest in the new Indiana and New Jersey state laws prohibiting discrimination and placing a penalty upon violation.

#### WHERE IS THE MONEY TO COME FROM

"The nation is soon to call upon the public utilities to place huge 'capital' orders for material and machinery in order to revive the 'heavy' industries which are large employers," says an editorial in the Riverside, California, Enterprise. "A glance at the present quotations of utility stocks, which drop with each new onslaught of the public ownership bri-

gade, makes one wonder how they will raise the money for an expansion pro-

Elsewhere, the Enterprise speaks of demagogic efforts to "harpoon" the utilities. That describes the situation aptly. They have been attacked, on the one hand, with tax-free, subsidized public competition, and on the other by the assessment of many special taxes which have appreciably raised operating cots and in many instances imperiled the paying of dividends. They have been the victims of an insidious campaign of halftruths and untruths. They have subscribed to codes to lower working hours and raise wages—and in a number of the states commissions have said definitely that this increased expense made in the interest of national recovery, at the request of the President, would not be considered grounds for rate adjustments.

That is the position the utilities are in now. They have always been among the first to expand and encourage progress, when community and national intersts made it desirable. They have been, and still are, one of the two or three greatest tax-paying and wage-paying industries. And it is doubtless true that utility managements are eager to do their part in buying materials and supplies to invigorate other industries. they are unable to earn or attract the capital which would make this possible, demagogic political policies which have been undermining them, must take their full share of the blame.

#### GLASS WILL BREAK

Insurance men are celebrating the 66th anniversary of the fourth oldest casualty coverage in the United States -plate glass insurance.

It was first written in Philadelphia, where the vanguard of modern shops, department stores and merchant estab-lishments appeared. Plate glass was then an expensive property, even as now. Insurance to protect the investment was

demanded.

Today, underwriters count this insurance as one of their best services in the public. However, numerous difficulties beset them, especially racketeering. To a racketeer breaking plate glass seems an obvious means of expressing his displeasure, settling labor disputes, wreaking vengeance, or intimidating merchants into phony, racket-run "protective societies." Vandals destroy thousands of plates annually with machine gun bullets, ice cubes, dornicks, stones, other missles and sprayed acid.

Among the many non-racket hazards which threaten the safety of plate glass, according to the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters, are wind and hail storms, cold contraction, heat expansion, jarring, falling on display, burglars, explosions, window dressing and cleaning, settling of buildings, street fights, riot and civil commotion, stones thrown by children, stones or other objects thrown up by automobile tires, warped window frames, heat from radiators placed too near to glass, persons leaning against windows or show cases, articles dropped on show cases, black paint glass exposed to sun, etc.

The insurer's business is to replace this broken glass. Many municipalities have ordinances compelling its replacement within a specified time for the safety of children. The insurance companies are to be conratulated on this anniver-

BE YOUR OWN FIRE INSPECTOR will receive in exchange.

ledge. A couple of hours spent in be kept only in closed metal cans. searching for fire hazards on one's property, and planning a program to valuable still, human lives.

ion tour is in the furnace room. Thou sands of disastrous fires result from defective or dirty heating equipment. nections inspected for possible faults, derwriters' standards? which must be near the furnace, with to accumulate nearby.

If you're at all uncertain about it, 1932.

has not been allowed to deterorate Dodge Corporation, totaled \$10,876,- land and material, Many householders, however, haven't 000 as against \$8,812,300 for the same had it examined since the day it was period last year-a gain of 23 per ut in-many others have committed | cent. This marked the fourth consecu-

An article in Safeguarding Amer. Keep your eye out for oil or rain. standstill, and existing structures ica Against Fire suggests that each soaked rags that have been dropped were subjected to more than usual person be his own fire inspector. It about in corners. Thousands of spon\_ depreciation, because of in attention is not a difficult job, and requires taneous combustion fires occur and to needed repairs. This wasn't due to ing, Mr. Walter White, Miss Anderonly a little time plus a little know\_ nually because of them. They should lack of desire. It was due principally son, Dr. Mordecai Johnson and Dr. to lack of funds in thousands of families, and to a psychology of fear that to the Joint Committee. Another ordinary household hazard prevented others, having ample funds, Committee Sessions Held During Day eliminate them, may save thousands is gasolne. It is often carelessly from spending. The first class is reof dollars-and something much more stored, in unsafe containers and close turning to its jobs now, and regular mittee were held at the Whitelaw to flame. Its use as a household pay envelopes are brought home on during the day and after the banquet, A good place to begin the inspect. cleaner is simply an invitation to Saturday nights. The second is dis- Complete plans for securing fair disaster with R. S. V. P. written in covering that rising prices will short- treatment of Negro workers and pro-Finally, turn your attention to the buildings or to improve old ones at suming groups were discussed and Clean out the furnace before it is put house itself. Has it properly installed bargain prices. And both classes are approved by the Committee to winter service. See that non burn- fire\_stops? Are fire extinguishers going into the market for better living able containers are provided for ash\_ handy and in good working order? Is quarters. Still another beneficial ines. Have the varous parts and con. it really fire resistive, and up to un. fluence is the Home Owners' Loan sound one. How much unemployment Corporation, which makes possible has been caused by the trek from Protect any combustible material Get going on that inspection tour! home financing that could not other- farm to city is problematical—but it wise be obtained.

asbestos. Make certain that rubbish BUILDING BOOM GETS STARTED Yes, there's every indication that These young men, for the most part and papers and waste are not allowed Figures show that the long awaited we're on the verge of a major building are untrained and inerperienced and residential construction boom is revival that will be particularly strik- unfitted for factory work. They rare-The electric wiring is worth look\_ beginning to make itself felt. During ing in the residential field. All who ly find jobs above the common labor ing at next. It's safe—if it has been the first half of August, construction can should aid the relief program by level. They are the first to be disinstalled by a licensed electrican, and of this type, as reported to F. W. taking advantage of low prices for missed when times get hard-and the

BACK TO THE FARM!

the very dangerous practice of mak- tive month in which advances were in a suggestion made a short time good and for that of the nation. It is ing amateur extensions and additions. made over the comparable months in ago by Editor Walter P. McGuire of on the farm that they have their the Scuthside Virginia News, Peters. chance to prosper and live happy and

NECRO RECOVERY GROUP PLANS DETERMINED BAT. TLE FOR NEGRO RIGHTS

WASHINGTON - (CNS) - The battle cry of more than three million Negroes was sounded Wednesday, when John P. Davis, executive secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery, declared at a banquet given by the Committee at the Whitelaw Hotel that "the work of Negro organizations united in the effort to free black labor from economic slavery will not be cone until real dollars find their way into the pockets of black workes, and hungry Negro men and women no longer wander the

Mr. Davis spoke at the banquet attended by officially designated representatives of fifteen major nation ol organizations who have joined in the work of the Joint Committee on National Recovery to secure a square deal for Negro labor.

Outstanding leaders of both races were present at the banquet and expressed themselves as enthusastic over the formation of a united committee of leading racial and interracial, church, civic and fraternal organizations. An unduplicated membership of more than three million colored citizens estimated to have representation on the Joint Committee,

The following organizations were reported by Dr. George E. Haynes, executive secretary of the Race Relations Department of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ of America, and Chairman of the Joint Committee to have become members of the Joint Committee: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Independent and Benevolent Order of Elks of the World, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People National Baptist Convention, U. S. A; Department of Race Relations-Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, National Catholic Interracia Federation, National Negro Bar Association, Negro Industrial League, National Negro Bar Association, Negro Business League, National Technical Association, National Board of the Y. W. C. A., Public Affairs Committee \_\_ and the Women's Auxiliary, National Baptist Convention. Prominent Guests Present

Important guests present at the panquet included: Miss Andersen, head of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, Mr Lambert Heinger Member of the Industrial Advisory Board of the N. R. A; Miss Mary Va Kleeck, director of Idustrial studies of the Russell Sage Foundation, New York; Mr. Arthur Holden, president of the New York Urban League; Mr. C. C. Spaulding, president of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company: President Mordecai Johnson of Howard University. Walter White of the National Association for the Advance ment of Colored People, Dean Kelly Miller of Howard University, Mr. Chares E. Micthell, former United States Minister to Liberia, Dean Charles H. Houston of Howard University Law School, Mr. Garnet C Wilkinson, firs assistant superintendent of Schools of this city, Miss Frances Williams of the staff of the National Board of the YWCA, Dr. Clark Foreman, advisor to Secretary of Interior Ickes on the Economic status of Negroes; Miss Mabel Byrd of the Bureau of Research and Planning of the National Recovery Administration; Mr. Frank Coe of Brook ins Institute, Miss Elizabeth Eastman of the National Board of the YWCA; A. Phillip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; years building was virtually at a and Mr. Channing Tobias of the Nat-

Other speakers at the banquet were: Miss Van Kleeck, Mr C. C. Spauld-Robert C. Weaver, technical advisor

Business sessions of the Joint Comly make it impossible to obtain new tecting the interests of Negro con-

last to be taken back when recovery

They know farming-and the farm call in an expert. Whatever his charge is, it will be cheap in view of the probeen a definite home shortage in that farm boys keep on the farm. tection for person and property you America—for at least three of those It's a simple suggestion, and a very city boys going home again