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EDITORIAL

The Most Abominable Racket

The mild, persuasive, yet most pernicious and abominable racketeer is the Negro pan-handling politician, who practices his nefarious art upon the political candidates, who should know better than to give serious consideration to the glib tongue of these racketeers who wear silken gloves to hide a horny hand, who are not what they profess to be, but are rather "chislers and grafters of the first order; some even so audacious as to use the title of "Reverend," and a mythical church to further their greedy ends, bringing condemnation on the race generally and an honest and upright ministry into disrepute. Are we to permit these racketeers to bring a striving race into ignominy and disgrace, ever blocking our progress to proper race recognition?

It is of no avail to stand idly by and watch the harmful offense being committed. The tactics and schemes of these pan-handlers are known from beginning to end, from bringing the church and ministry into unfavorable light by soliciting for mythical churches and mythical church activities to house meetings, that are never held, for the famous program racket.

The "program racket" as practiced by the pan-handler" who leads the candidate to believe that he, the pan-handler, carries great political influence among the Negro voters, seems to be the "King Bee" as a money maker for the pan-handler. The pan-handler generally approaches the candidate, soliciting an ad on a program to be printed for some auspicious and entirely fancied affair to be held in the near future, at which affair there will be a large number of voters, offering space from fifty cents to ten dollars, depending upon the size wanted by the candidate. All candidates having been canvassed and fleeced for as much as possible on the spot or by a promise to pay upon delivery of the program, the pan-handler then hires himself to a printer and has enough programs printed to supply one to each of his advertisers, who have promised to pay on delivery; if all candidates pay in advance, there are no programs printed. The pan-handler pats himself on his slimy back and says, "Well done, my boy, now for the house meeting rally."

These ingrates must be fought within and without the race. They are retarding our progress, and delaying the recognition that we are fighting for. We must make known their practices, and our opposition to their pan-handling methods.

They promise to deliver the Negro vote for a price, an impossible thing to do with an enlightened Negro electorate. It is time the office seeker should know that the Negro vote may be had only by proper recognition by way of employment and appointments to public office.

How long must we be tormented and our progress impeded by these pan-handling politicians with their most abominable rackets?

Underlying Causes of Crime

Reprint From The Omaha Bee

"We are determined to continue the campaign and get at the UNDERLYING CAUSES of crime."

The foregoing sentence was uttered by Homer S. Cummings, attorney general of the United States.

It was prompted by the arrest in Chicago of a lawyer, a former prosecutor, accused by federal investigators of harboring the Dillinger gang, even to the extent of providing office seclusion in which robberies were planned!

A grand jury has been impaneled to examine the substance of the charge. Pending court action, comment on the case in question would be out of place.

Right now the important fact about the attorney general's declaration is that it evidently puts the federal government definitely into action against the notorious alliances of criminals and criminal lawyers and grafting local politicians which are and have been among the chief "underlying causes" of our era of violent crime and racketeering.

As the attorney general further phrases the purpose: "We will seize those who PROFIT BY CRIME without taking any risks."

Insofar as it goes—and may it go far, indeed!—the federal campaign means a demand for law enforcement By LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS which the Hearst newspapers have been making insistently for month and years.

As the public very well knows, public officials everywhere have been prone to offer excuses for NOT ENFORCING the law, instead of ENFORCING IT.

Crime conditions, we were told by men in official life, were "due to the indifference of the American people."

Gangsters and blackmailers could not be prosecuted because "terrorized witnesses" would not testify.

In a signed editorial published on Sept. 2, 1933, William Randolph Hearst pointed out plainly the speciousness of these pleas. Mr. Hearst wrote:

"Existing criminal conditions are NOT due to the indifference of the American people. They are due to the inefficiency of American government."

In this connection, a phase of the attorney general's campaign is to be a series of crime conferences in Washington in December, in order to gain the "confidence and cooperation" of the public in the war on crime. Mr. Cummings explained:

"The hearings will be open to the public. To the hearings we shall invite heads of metropolitan police departments, university men interested in criminology, heads of all government agencies dealing with crime and all others who we think may aid."

There can be no quarrel with this idea, so long as the government's campaign does not BREAK DOWN into a series of mere conferences. For conferences are necessary to arouse the public. As Mr. Hearst said in his editorial:

"The American public is SUFFICIENTLY AROUSED over the criminal situation. There is NOW a strong public sentiment over THE FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE THE LAW."

Uniting federal, state and local agencies behind aggressive law enforcement efforts on a nation-wide scale will be constructive action. But the federal government must continue in the role of leadership, and the federal government is ON THE RIGHT TRACK in running down not only Criminals, but also the "respectable" allies of criminals.

Very lately, the bar associations have shown some disposition to aid in riding the legal profession of lawyer-criminals. The government should hold them to this duty.

And also, when ferreting out for punishment the LAWYER FRIENDS of chronic crooks, let the government not overlook the other "underlying cause" of crime—the PRETENTORY LOCAL POLITICIANS, in office and out, without whose protection and connivance few if any of our criminal rackets could either exist or continue.

Small Hope for Will's Hope

WHILE FLYING OVER HOOVER DAM ON A RECENT AIR TRIP FROM CHICAGO TO THE COAST WILL ROGERS DROPPED OFF HISS DAILY MESSAGE TO NEWSPAPERS. ONE OF HIS REMARKS WAS:

"HOPE THEY DON'T IRRIGATE MORE LAND SO THEY CAN RAISE MORE THINGS THEY CAN'T SELL, AND WILL HAVE TO PLOW UP MORE ROWS, KILL MORE PIGS TO KEEP 'EM FROM BECOMIN' HOGS."

OUR POLITICIANS STILL TALK GLIBLY OF POURING NEW MILLIONS INTO IRRIGATION SCHEMES TO MAKE MORE FARMS OUT OF WASTE LAND IN DESERTS, THUS BOOSTING OVER-PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS, WHICH ANOTHER GROUP OF POLITICIANS WILL EXPECT THE TAXPAYERS TO PAY FOR, TO BRING ABOUT FARM RELIEF.

LEADERSHIP

BY ANDREW STUART

Every time there is an election, candidates who want the Negro votes, goes to some of them, that they think has some influence and ask them for their support. In many cases the candidate is promised more votes than there are Negroes in the state. If they fail to win the election and see that the Negro districts did not go 100% for them, they blame every Negro in the state for what those politically minded individuals have promised. If they are elected and some Negro goes to some of them to remind them of their promises, they tell them that they have paid Rev. So & So, or some other person; and show him a receipt for the amount of money that they sometimes ask. What do your people want out there, meaning North Omaha? Why don't you people get together? Have you no leaders? I admit that these are hard questions to answer. In the first place they seek the support of those who cannot deliver it. If they can make the candidates hold receive credit a think that they are leaders. They should receive credit as good salesmen. A little investigation on the part of the candidate would save lots of trouble. We have Negroes who are self-supporting, who do not want political jobs, and do not have one. For instance, such men as Dr. Wesley Jones, Dr. J. H. Hutton, Dr. G. B. Lemox, Messrs. R. C. Price, William Haynes, Tom Mahamitt, Rev. J. F. Black, 2520 "J" St., and many others too numerous to mention. These gentlemen are members of the Democratic and Republican parties. And if consulted would give correct information.

Economically we have the beginning of Fascism here in the United States. Codes are limiting production and the government is ordering the farmers to burn their wheat, plow under their cotton, and kill their little pigs. Why? Because people have no need of these things? Not people in order that their profit system can be maintained only if there is a scarcity of goods, and the masters are determined that there shall be profits even if it means starvation and misery for the vast majority. We are suckers if we allow them to get away with it, and by "we" I mean everyone, for all but the very few on top are going to suffer more and more as this thing develops. It means, first of all, starvation. It means further the suppression of all liberties and the enslavement of mankind. The churches will become the handmaid of the state, just as they have been made to buckle under in the Fascist countries of Europe. All who prize religious freedom must oppose Fascism. Educators are enslaving—witness what has happened to them in Germany and Italy. Trade Unions will be put out of business. Civil liberties will most certainly be ruthlessly denied, with anyone daring to express an opinion displeasing to the masters either killed or thrown into a concentration camp or prison.

PLAIN TALK ON WAR AND FASCISM

BY WILLIAM B. SPOFFORD

Editor of The Witness, Episcopal Church Weekly - Secretary of the Church League for Industrial Democracy

A lot of smart people are writing these days on the Choice Before Us, but it seems to me that few of them get down to brass tacks. They all know that the world is in a mess and that changes are inevitable. But most of them are looking for an easy way out.

As a well-known writer said, people are willing to do anything for the workers but get off their backs. So today we find mild reforms advocated by all sorts of people. I was talking with one of them the other day. He was arguing his head off about the permanence of the present economic order, slightly reformed; but ended the convention by saying

"Well, whatever happens I am set. I bought the farm the other day so that if things smash completely I can raise potatoes and turnips and at least eat." That is the amount of confidence that he has in the reforming capitalism which he was defending so deligerently.

The simple fact is that the present order is washed up. There is no possible way for the present-rulers to maintain their power short of dictatorship and capitalist dictatorship means Fascism. And Fascism doesn't mean fundamentally Jew-baiting Black or Brown Shirts, castor oil and all the rest of the silly business that we read about in the papers as bad as those secondary characteristics certainly are. It means the limiting of production by the owners of the machines and the starvation of the great masses of the people in order that their profit-system may be maintained a while longer. It means even worse than that—it means War for part of their program is to seek expert markets for the goods denied the starving millions.

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We are suckers if we allow them to get away with it, and by "we" I mean everyone, for all but the very few on top are going to suffer more and more as this thing develops. It means, first of all, starvation. It means further the suppression of all liberties and the enslavement of mankind. The churches will become the handmaid of the state, just as they have been made to buckle under in the Fascist countries of Europe. All who prize religious freedom must oppose Fascism. Educators are enslaving—witness what has happened to them in Germany and Italy. Trade Unions will be put out of business. Civil liberties will most certainly be ruthlessly denied, with anyone daring to express an opinion displeasing to the masters either killed or thrown into a concentration camp or prison.

All of us—Christians, Jews, Atheists, Conservatives, Liberals and Radicals—must fight this thing before it develops any further. The way to fight it is, first of all to understand the economic forces that are driving us rapidly in that direction. The only ultimate escape, I believe, is into a new social order. There we will find not starvation but plenty for all; not dread of destitution in old age but the assurance of security; not the denial of all that makes life worth the living but the releasing of powers in man that makes for the free and abundant life.

PROVERBS AND PARABLES

"Taking the Will for the Deed" by A. B. MANN

(For The Literary Service Bureau) Frequently is this axiom glibly quoted and very often misapplied. It means that if an individual desires to do a thing worthwhile, perform a noble deed or render a needed service, and is hindered because of insuperable difficulties, he should be given the same credit as if he had accomplished what he willed to do. But it is a misapplication to use this maxim to excuse indolence and negligence.

The saying is honestly used only when a person has striven earnestly and found it impossible to accomplish what was desired and what was willed in such a case and from an ethical point of view, the individual is entitled to the same credit as if the deed had been performed.

SHOULD STRIKERS SHARE RELIEF?

by A. ADAMS (for The Literary Service Bureau)

Thousands of men have given up work and gone out on a strike. Now comes the question as to whether or not they are entitled to share emergency relief. There are two sides to this question. Some who Whate'er may be your pain or loss; are in sympathy with the strikers contend that they are forced to do this, hence, they should have support while they fight against unjust capitalism. But this view seems unreasonable.

The other view, and the more logical one, is that since these people deliberately give up the employment which afforded them a living, it would be manifestly wrong to take money from the taxpayers of the nation to support them while in idleness.

These capitalists are citizens. They are large property holders. They pay heavy income taxes, property taxes and taxes for the privilege of conducting their business. Should the money of these industrialists go to support the men who are fighting them? Should they be required to maintain men who force the closing of their industries and the cessation of their revenue, and who will not hesitate to commit arson, sabotage and even murder, to accomplish their ends?

It seems unreasonable and unjust to impose on these citizens and supporters of the nation. If the directors of relief compel this injustice they will do so in the interest of politics and against the principles of justice and equity.

EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

(From The Bristol, Va. "Herald Courier," September 2, 1934) Another Closed Lynching Incident

A recent dispatch from Nashville carried the discouraging information that the Davidson County Grand Jury had reported a "no true bill" following its investigation of the kidnapping and lynching of Cordie Cheek, young Negro whose body was found hanging from a tree in Morgan County last December. In other words, the Grand Jury failed to indict any person in connection with that lynching. This probably closed the incident.

The time of which this Negro was accused was an attempted attack on a white girl in Maury County. The Grand Jury of that county, after inquiring into the charge, declined to indict Cheek and he was released from jail at Nashville, where he had been sent pending the investigation. But that might or the night following was done to death by a mob. The Davidson County Grand Jury investigated the case because it was reported that Cheek was abducted from a home in that county.

The lynching of Cheek under any circumstances would have been a lawless and indefensible act. His lynching after a Grand Jury had failed to indict him was an outrage which stirred the indignation of all right-thinking people, including Governor McAlister and other responsible authorities who announced that every effort would be made to apprehend the members of the mob and bring them to account. Doubtless those efforts were made, but it now appears that this is another lynching for which no one will be punished.

Thus is presented one more argument for the enactment of the Federal anti-lynching bill now pending in Congress. The measure was offered because lynching mobs long had operated with impunity, and it will be passed because mobs continue to operate with impunity. After its enactment mob murder will become more hazardous. Were this bill now a law the members of the mob that lynched Cordie Cheek probably would be found.

EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

(From the Bristol (Tenn.) Herald Courier, August 15, 1934)

TWO MORE LYNCHINGS

There has been a double lynching in Benton County, Mississippi. The outrage was perpetrated by two separate mobs but the victims were hanged to the same tree. Both were Negroes who were accused of the murder of a white man more than a year ago.

The trial of the two Negroes was to have started Monday in Circuit Court at Ashland. They had been confined in different jails in other parts of the county and officers were taking them to Ashland. In each case the officers were stopped by a dozen or more masked men, the prisoners were seized and the mobs came together and put them to death.

For these lynchings, as for all others there was no defense or excuse. The Negroes were in the hands of the law and on their way to court. If they were guilty, there could have been no doubt as to the fate that was in store for them. If they were no guilty, they had as much right to live as other innocent men.

The sheriff says he is going to do his best to find the guilty parties and the District Attorney says he is going to see that a rigid investigation is made. These statements sound familiar. Two more accused persons have been deprived of life without due process of law, in violation of all the principles of justice and of the American Constitution, and it may be too much to hope that something will be done about it.

That is why Congress will yet, and probably at an early day, enact a Federal anti-lynching law. It is protested that such legislation would infringe on State rights. But States have no right to bow to mob rule and if they and their Governors are so strongly against a Federal law designed to prevent and to punish mob murders they can make it unnecessary as well as undesirable.

WINGS

Over WASHINGTON

By Len De Caux Federated Press

WASHINGTON—(FP)—The next time you read the newspaper jargon about "strikers breaking into a riot," just stop and check up. What is this "rioting" that fills the papers? What causes it? Who killed and how does it happen?

Take the textile strike. Twelve persons killed in less than two weeks and many more injured in many street battles. Who are they? All but one or two are strikers or strike sympathizers. How are they killed? Nearly all are shot in the back. Who does the killing? Company gunmen (deputized and armed to break up picketing), police or National Guardsmen.

How does it all start? To read the accounts in newspapers which dare not offend rich advertisers and owners, or might imagine that the strikers suddenly "break into a riot" by running backwards into the bullets and bayonets of the "preservers of peace."

What actually happens? Any conscientious reporter who has covered a number of such "labor riots," whether they involve strikers, demonstrating unemployed, farmers or any other underdogs, will recognize that most of them follow a certain pattern.

On the one side, in nearly every case, are the rich and powerful, weak in numbers but mighty in the armed resources that money power places at their disposal. On the other side are the poor, without arms, without money and political power, but mighty in numbers and in an aroused sense of burning resentment.

How do these two forces come to clash? The poor seek to mobilize their chief weapon, the power of numbers and solidarity, in self-defense against oppression (whether this take the form of low wages, inadequate relief or what not). They go on strike, they picket, they meet in mass demonstrations.

Immediately the rich are panicked. They call upon all the political power and armed force which their money can command. At Honea Path, S. C., the mill-owners had strikebreakers ar-

ed and deputized. In Rhode Island and many other states, National Guardsmen were called out to aid the police, and federal troops are called as a last resort.

So large groups of strikers, unarmed, peaceful in intent, but determined to demonstrate the power of their numbers in bringing out their fellows on strike, suddenly find them selves confronted with formidable armed forces. Who fires the first shot or the strikers the first blow? Seldom, if ever, is it the strikers or the unemployed, for the gun-power is all on the other side.

Usually the police, the troops or the deputized company gunmen make some provocative move, or some stoopigee makes it for them. Then the slaughter begins. The workers have only rocks or such other improvised weapons as they can pick up to defend themselves; the agents of the rich have rifles, machine guns, gas bombs and every weapon of modern warfare, the bravery shown by unarmed workers is amazing. In battle after battle, American workers have refused to be cowed into submission by almost overwhelming armed force.

Where lies the crux of the whole question? Obviously in the control or armed force. If the strikers or the unemployed had the guns, if the police, militia and federal troops were on their side, there would be no bloodshed. The supposed law of democracy that the will of the majority should prevail would take its natural course. But it is precisely the fear that the majority would have their way if undeterred by violence, that drives the rich panicked to bloody suppression of the aroused masses.

Which side controls the armed forces? No theoretical arguments are needed to answer this question. Every shooting, every killing, every battle of every strike or demonstration shows police, deputies, state militia, federal troops in action against labor.

That's why hardened reporters gasped with surprise when U. T. W. leaders in Washington suggested that the president call out federal troops on the side of the strikers. It sounded completely absurd to them. And the next day the same strike leaders were having to protest that federal arms were being used against the strikers by National Guardsmen, and having to place the final responsibility directly on the federal authorities.

Federal responsibility was admitted in 1929 by the legal division of the U. S. War Dept. After protest from the American Federation of Labor against state militia attacks on Elizabethton, Tenn., strikers, I advised Sec. of War Good that federal arms and equipment should only be used when state militia were acting as national guards and not as state police.

And ironically enough, a few days after U. T. W. leaders had suggested use of federal troops, these troops were in fact mobilized for call to Rhode Island, but at the instigation of mill owners had not at labor request nor for use on labor's side.

DARING DEATH IN MOTOR CARS

By R. A. Adams

(For The Literary Service Bureau) They are spooning. They were in a motor car. It was night. The car was parked on Highway 40, the most dangerous highway in America, and the lights were out. The car was not far down the hill. Another car dashed down the hill at fifty miles an hour and crashed into the rear of the parked car. It was thrown into a ditch and caught fire.

The spooners were crushed, mangled and burned. Both are dead, and the young people in the death car will never forget their experiences as they struggled to release the boy and girl from the burning car.

When those young people parked their car on the highway and turned off the lights, they were daring death and thousands do this almost every day. Driving while under influence of rum, driving with one hand on the wheel and the other arm around a girl, driving at reckless speed, passing cars on grades, driving with defective steering gears and defective brakes racing when it is raining and the road is slippery, all are different phases of the folly of daring death in motor cars. But death will not always take the dare, as the daily records show.