

# EDITORIALS

## The Omaha Guide

Published every Saturday at 2418-20 Grant St., Omaha, Neb.

Phone WEbsr 1750

Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927 at the Post Office at Omaha, Neb., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Terms of Subscription \$2.00 per year.

Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good citizenship in time of peace, war and death.

Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, MAY 18th, 1935

### A Message to Southern Black Men

From The Chicago Defender.

We have no hesitancy in stating—and this statement is based upon a belief in the better conscience of American citizenry—that the will of the American people has been thwarted and defeated by a minority. It is our opinion that the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill in its intent and purpose embodied the principles for which the great majority of American citizenry stands.

The people who defeated the anti-lynching bill and the forces combined to make possible this defeat did not represent nor speak for the intelligent and cultured white people of the South. Those forces which succeeded in preventing the passage of this measure typify and represent that element of the white South whose chief gratification finds its highest attainment in a form of cruelty that has its birth in sex and mental perversion.

This small minority, smoke-screening its purpose under the guise of protecting "Southern womanhood," was able to muster to its side sufficient strength under the skillful direction of a much advertised constitutional lawyer to defeat the enactment of a piece of legislation which would have stilled the palsied hand of the murderer and lyncher.

The better thinking white women of the South gave their moral support to the passage of the measure. They knew, only too well, that the fight made by certain senators to the end that lynching should be maintained in the South as a security of their virtue, was bold and brazen hypocrisy of the worst kind. They further knew that when senators on the floor of the senate declared, "that the local authorities could solve the lynching problem," that that statement was a travesty upon reason and experience.

The intelligent white people of the South are well aware of the fact that only too often the law officers themselves are a party to the lynchings. They know that officials for public office in certain Southern states are elected to office because of their attitude and their favorable consideration of lynchings and lynchings. This is all known to the intelligent and cultured white people of the South.

Unfortunately for the South the political status of most of the states is shaped and controlled by the descendants of the poorest type of the slave holding class. The politics of the South is in control of the descendants of that type of Southern white men who were, during slavery the holders of such positions in the social and economic life of the South as plantation overseers and paddy-rollers.

This class of Southern white men, by virtue of their responsibility during the slave era, developed a brutalizing instinct, in fact a sadistic mind in that the agony and misery of others became a joy and happiness to them. The supporters and defenders of lynching are the heirs apparent to the throne of the savagery and mental perversion of their ancestors.

But to every black man of the South we are sending this message: "You are supposed to be freemen; the Constitution of your country says that no freeman shall be taken, or imprisoned, or disarmed, or outlawed, or banished, or in any way injured, unless by the legal judgment of his peers or by the law of the land. This law came down to you in common with other men from England's highest legal authorities.

In view of the repeated infringements upon your rights and privileges by mobs with no authority of law and without any legal sanction for their action, it now becomes your imperative duty as men to defend yourselves. You have observed the refusal of the United States senate to enact into law a bill which would have sustained you in your citizenship rights. In view of its refusal you have no other alternative but to exert every possible effort to resist the murderous mob when they attempt your home or your person.

When the law enforcing agencies of your counties refuse your aid, in fact connive with the mob to destroy your life and property, your only refuge is to stand up and die like men. No man is violating any law when he defends himself against a mob. Mobs are both cowardly and criminal at heart; if you must go, then take somebody with you. Answer terror with terror; you can die only once; this is the message to the South.

### The Bonus Becoming a Reality

From The Pittsburgh Courier.

From all present indications, Uncle Sam will soon be saying to the World War veterans, "Come and Get it!"

The debate and vote in the Senate indicates that the Vinson plan will win over that of Senator Har-

rison or Representative Patman. The House will in all likelihood follow the footsteps of the Senate.

The Vinson plan calls for an expenditure of \$2,263,545,000. At the very least, 200 million dollars will come to colored veterans, including the loans they have already received.

Either the Vinson bill or one closely resembling it will pass within the next few weeks. It is doubtful if the President will veto it. If he does, Congress is more than likely to pass it over his head.

With all respect to the various New Deal agencies, the payment of the bonus will constitute the first real "break" Negroes have received.

### The Slaughter Pen

From The Chicago Defender.

Mississippi has been rightly named the "slaughter pen of the South." Lynchings are so prevalent in Lawrence County that the corner's jury is now calling them suicides. Whenever a white farmer wants to steal a black man's land or crop, a mob is organized and soon the black man is found dead.

This happened in the case of R. J. Tyrone, a prosperous farmer and respectable citizen. The very fact that he was these things made him an undesirable citizen in Lawrence County.

William Evans, white, living near Tyrone's farm, had made several dishonorable attempts to get a portion of Tyrone's valuable land. His efforts were of no avail so he decided to murder the owner. This he did with the knowledge, and it might as well be added, with the consent, of the law enforcing agencies, because Evans is still at large.

That such a thing could happen in what is termed a civilized community, and yet no self-respecting white people would intervene, would be beyond belief were the facts not available to the contrary. Such conduct is the product of a mind steeped in all the putridity of a passing civilization. The South cannot rise above its own thinking. So long as murder, concubinage and robbery openly and willfully committed continue, just so long will the South typify the headhunters.

Right thinking cannot find any lodging in a foul mental container. Children born under such environment will, throughout their lives, image the character of their parents. The communities which tolerate such crimes are the play writers and those who commit them are the actors. They are so closely inter-woven that one shapes the character of the other.

### The Anti-Lynching Bill

From The Pittsburgh Courier

The Anti-Lynching Bill was defeated in Washington last week, but in the face of that defeat, a calm review of the history of the struggle for an anti-lynch law reveals that progress is being made.

During all the Republican administrations, the Anti-lynch Bill never made the progress that the Costigan-Wagner Bill made in the present Congress. The ground work was laid permanently by Messrs. Costigan and Wagner, ably assisted by other white people who, down in their hearts, know that crime will move from community to community and attack any and everybody, regardless of race, creed or color. The practice of lynching began with Negroes as the victims, but it now extends to white people, and the more the practice is tolerated, the more white people will be lynched. The white people of this country, North and South, expressed a desire to see the Costigan-Wagner Bill made the law of the land. A few reactionary Senators from the South stopped the program of the bill. They have accepted full responsibility for the defeat of the bill. They did not seem to realize it, but they were jockeyed in the position of blocking the legislation, desired by the President of the United States, and they accepted that position fully aware of their predicament. It was not so much a demand from their constituents that compelled the Southern Senators to vote against the Bill; it was their own personal convictions, due to the age in which they were born. The grandsons of these same Senators will frown upon the records of their forefathers. They will wear the scarlet letter in years to come, because future generations will point to them as the sons and daughters of grandfathers who went on record for lawlessness and for lynching.

What care these Senators now about their grandchildren? They live only for today. They think in terms of today and not tomorrow. They are making it dreadfully hard for their children and their children's children, but what care they for the offspring? Short-sighted men like these are expected to oppose progressive legislation, but we are making progress. These same men will face a constituency opposed to lawlessness and lynching. The intelligent people of the South will stop sending Senators like Bailey, Bankhead, Byrnes and Smith to the Senate, because the South prefers to be classified on a par with any other section of the country, and the South will yet rise up against its reactionary Senators and retire them to the corn fields and shade trees—forgotten, forsaken and unused.

This involves time, but what is a decade in the progress of a race or a nation? What is a decade against rights and privileges, guaranteed for life? The fight is well worth the sacrifice, and the American people everywhere are quite satisfied that, within a few years, the obstructionists of the South will constitute forgotten men who lived for themselves and a tradition, and nothing more. The Negro must keep his head up, keep his spirit, save his money, and be prepared for that larger life which is sure to come, even in the United States of America.

## YOUR CHILD AND THE SCHOOL

By Dr. ALLEN C. IRELAND  
Director, Physical and Health Education  
New Jersey State Department of Public Instruction

### Summer Camps

The summer camp is one of our most valuable gifts to childhood. There are camps to fit almost every purse, and nearly all give more than money can buy.

In selecting a camp, look first to the leaders. If there is understanding of children, kindness, and tolerance, you have a safe foundation. To run a successful camp, one must have a sincere love of children. Look next to the camp facilities, especially sanitary features and water supply.

Inquire into the daily menu. Are the food essentials provided, both in quality and amount? How about the milk supply? Children on vacation will need lots of it. At home, vegetables can be purchased in cans; at camp, they should be bought fresh from the farm.

Finally inspect the program, but be wary of the overworked day. Fatigue may offset every benefit the camp has to offer. There should be outdoor sports, woodcraft, scouting, handicraft in moderation, balanced by long restful nights of sleep in the open. If you can afford a camp for the son or the daughter, by all means unite the apron strings. If it does no more than that, the camp justifies its existence.

"Do explorers drink milk?" asked a little girl. Dr. Ireland tells next week how she was answered.

### It's The Dime That Counts

The sign on a little unpainted wooden building just east of New Albany, Miss., "High Brown Cafe" your Pullman porter, who happens to be high black enlightens you. "We have our social distinctions among colored people although I don't think much of them. The highest class is the 'high-yaller.' They sit down in the front pews in colored churches in Washington. Then come the next lightest the 'high brown' and after that the plain blacks, like me. But, Boss, if I was to go into that high-brown cafe with ten cents in my hand, they'd wait on me quick as if I was the angel Gabriel."

They probably would. When a "white" in the north gets suddenly and violently rich, he becomes "high-white," and has no difficulty in getting waited on anywhere from Newport to Palm Beach.

### The Emergency Conservation Work

Fort Thomas, Ky., May 13.—Five Negro Educational Advisers were among the seventy-five CCC Educational Advisers in attendance at a special meeting held here, under the auspices of the Fifth Corps Area, which comprises the States of Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. They were: P. C. Smith, Sinking Springs, Ohio; James Gray, Mitchell, Indiana; Karl Howell, Corydon, Indiana; Cecil Morris, Bloomington, Indiana; and James Rowland, of Portsmouth, Ohio.

The speech delivered by James Rowland, the oldest Negro Educational Adviser of the Fifth Corps Area in point of service at a CCC camp was commended by the Washington officials present. Rowland took occasion to emphasize the all around program of the Emergency Conservation Work, the real contribution being made in a well conceived technique for the development of a finer character of citizenship and manhood, and an equal understanding of the pressing elementary and cultural phases, which have been stressed for the colored enrollees the whole gamut from teaching the boys to read and write to the artistic excellence, comparable to the "Southern Aries," the nation's singers of the Negro Spirituals.

Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work this week made public a report disclosing that during the month of January a total of 167,003 CCC men; which includes 12,000 Negro enrollees had voluntarily participated in the Civilian Conservation Corps educational program. This figure, amounting to 53 per cent of the total number of CCC men enrolled during that month represented a new all time peak for attendance in the educational courses at the camps.

The report, prepared in the office of Dr. John W. Studebaker, Commissioner of Education, and transmitted to the Director through the War Department summarized the educational activities in the camps for the year that the educational program has been in operation. The office of Education acts in an advisory capacity to the War Department in the administration of the CCC educational work.

Based on information forward-

ed to Washington by the nine Army corps area educational advisers, the report showed an increase from month to month in attendance in the camp schools. A total of 22,642 courses were being conducted for the men in the camps during the month of January, as compared to 15,796 in October, 19,156 in November and 21,219 in December. The number of men enrolled in classes was increased from 118,034 or 39 per cent in October to the present figure of 167,003. At the present time, a total of 13,660 persons are cooperating in providing instruction for the young men in the CCC camps. The instructional staff of the CCC includes 1,468 camp educational advisers assigned to full time duty in the camps. The balance is made up of camp military and technical personnel, public teachers who are contributing their services voluntarily and other public spirited citizens.

A survey of courses taught in the camps in January disclosed that 43 per cent of the subjects are vocational. Of the balance, 18 per cent were of elementary level, 32 per cent of high school level, 5 per cent of college level and 2 per cent general.

A breakdown of statistical data covering the various other phases of the educational program disclosed that in January 29,506 men were enrolled in courses in nearby night schools; 20,700 were enrolled in correspondence courses, 70,832 were carrying on hobbies and 95,602 were doing reading under supervision. Further educational activities included the showing of 4,988 educational films and the circulation of 334,102 books. A total of 209,881 guidance interviews were given.

One of the highpoints of the educational report was the statement that 2,388 illiterates are being taught to read and write and to solve simple arithmetic problems.

"Three different means are employed to carry out these aims:

1.—New skills and trades are taught enrollees in classes and on the job as members of the camp work crews. With the hope of earning a livelihood, enrollees are learning to be butchers, cooks, cobblers, carpenters, masons, tree surgeons, etc. The new skills developed by these trades strengthen the morale of enrollees by giving them the confidence and the pride of achievement.

2.—Elementary, high school, and college subjects are taught in classes. More than 2388 illiterates are learning to read and to write, and to solve simple arithmetic problems. Such subjects as English, economics, history, civics, health and hygiene, agriculture, and language, taught as part of the high school and college work in the camp school, give enrollees a better understanding and appreciation of life. Thus they become better citizens, capable of intelligent participation in the belief of their home communities, and awakened to the responsibilities of Americans toward their country.

3.—To provide enrollees with something worthy to do during their leisure time, both in camp and at home, hobbies and handicrafts are stimulated. A number of these are photography, woodcarving, pottery, leather work, metal craft, and weaving. When enrollees learn the satisfaction of "making things" in their spare time, there is less likelihood of idle hands and loafing after the camp period is over.

"The United States Office of Education selects and appoints Camp Educational Advisers, and recommends to the Secretary of War the outlines of instruction, teaching procedures, and types of teaching materials for use in the camps. Administering the educational program in the field, under Army officers, are nine Corps Area Advisers. In Camp is an Educational Adviser responsible to the Camp Commander for directing the classes in Camp and on the job. He also contacts nearby communities, which often open up their schoolhouses for enrollees, lend books, and supply teachers to the camps.

An important phase of the Adviser's work is the counseling and guidance of enrollees on such matters as health, vocations, education, and adjustment. At present, 1468 Camp Educational Advisers are on duty, while a total of 13,660 persons are giving full time or part time instruction to enrollees.

"In addition to camp instruction, and instruction in nearby schools, instruction is given through correspondence courses from various schools, colleges, and universities. During January, 22,642 classes and discussion groups were being conducted for men in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and 167,003 enrollees were carrying on efforts at self-improvement.

"Educational facilities in the camps, include libraries, educational movies and often projectors, and frequently classrooms equipped with blackboards and desks.

"Class attendance is not compulsory, nor is the curriculum prescribed, nor the specific methods mandated. Enrollees study what they wish to study. If their attention is caught and held, their

study interest is expanded to include supporting materials. The job of the CCC Camp Educational Adviser is to counsel with the enrollee, guide him, arrange for him suitable study materials, and point him toward greater vocational effectiveness."

## ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

In the words of Time, President Roosevelt, on his return from the Bahamas, "seemed to White House observers almost as tired, supersensitive as when he went away. Three mutually aggravating circumstances had helped to make him so. They were:

1.—Congressional delay, caused by a unwieldy party majority, lax leadership and the customary rebelliousness of Congressmen at Presidential mid-term.

2.—Steadily holder hammering at his legislative program by critics.

3.—Growing confusion among plain citizens as to the direction of the New Deal program, growing doubt as to whether the President himself knew where it was leading."

In an attempt to make these circumstances a little less aggravating, President Roosevelt sat down in a White House study, stared at a microphone, and made his first "fireside chat" in many months to the American people.

First part of the talk was confined entirely to generalities. The President said that the public at large was feeling much more confident that recovery was on the way; something that, in view of most commentators, is highly debatable. He then said that Congress is making distinct progress; something that is likewise debatable.

Finally he got down to specific items. These were in the same nature of a answer to a new bulletin of the National Association of Manufacturers, which said that the threat of New Deal reform measures was all that blocked the early appearance of recovery.

On the NRA, the President said that he wished it continued. He asked that the measures whereby the Interstate Commerce Commission would be given the authority to regulate all transport, not just railroads; a bill to achieve this has passed the Senate, now pending in the House. He threw his weight behind the Banking Bill, which would give the Federal government almost absolute control over all the nation's banks, as the utilities bill would give it absolute control over all power and light concerns, holding or operating. And in conclusion, he said, "Never since my inauguration in March, 1933, have I felt so unmistakably the atmosphere of recovery."

Response to the talk tended to be less favorable to the President than it has been in the past. Most newspapers and business men seem to favor the Transportation measure, most want a modified NRA continued. But the Banking and Utilities Bills have no friends in industry or commerce. Further, it is believed that they have few real friends in Congress, outside of left-wing groups; many Congressmen will vote for them simply because they are Administration; backed, will pay them public tribute and at the same time will hold severe private doubts as to their wisdom.

In brief, the gap between the Administration and industry is now widening. Direct criticism of the President, which was almost entirely lacking a year ago, is appearing now in many quarters. Business spokesmen who formerly made polite objections to bills and named no names, are laying the blame at the White House door, are saying that Mr. Roosevelt is running the show and must accept the responsibility if the tent collapses.

As for the future of legislation, there is a good chance that Congress will not be so eager to pass Presidential measures as it was in the past. The Social Security Bill, in the reasonable and moderate form in which it passed the House, will probably go through; many business leaders endorse it. It is probable that a modified NRA will be continued, with principal stress laid on hours and wage provisions, and that the Transportation Bill will be passed. But most think that the Banking and Utilities Bills will either be beaten or will be so rewritten as to make them hardly recognizable to their original sponsors.

—oOo—

It has often been said, during the past five or six years, that the way to solve a depression is to develop new frontiers. The only trouble with that solution in the present depression is the lack of frontiers to develop.

One frontier is still left, however: Alaska. Only a minute portion of its food is produced within its boundaries; the rest must be imported from Continental U. S. As a result, a scheme which FERA officials set upon in Janu-

ary, is now getting under way.

In Southern Alaska is the Matanuska Valley, with 76,000 rich acres, which now houses but 117 families. FERA plan is to transplant bankrupt farm families to the valley from United States farming regions, put them to work producing necessities. Winter temperatures in the valley are higher than those in northern Michigan, Minnesota, etc. so there is no climate problem. Each family will be given equipment, livestock, a house and forty acres, worth \$3,000, which they can repay to the Government with 3 per cent interest over 30 years. First families started for the valley a fortnight ago.

The plan has vast possibilities; has enlisted the sympathy of many observers.

### Southern Heat Over Anti-Lynch Bill

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

As is usually the case when an anti-lynching bill is discussed in congress, the senate debate on the Costigan-Wagner bill has been characterized more by heat than by light. Members from the south seem unable to discuss the question dispassionately, as was pointed out recently by the Greensboro N. C. Daily News, in an editorial reprinted on this page, the Daily News said:

"Honestly, we, who have never lived or moved and had been anywhere else save right down here in the midst of those who believe in the high hand as the savior of womanhood, have never met more than half a dozen southern gentlemen to whom we would delegate the right to lynch.

"None of these, we might add, was had been or expected to be right soon a member of congress."

What are the facts about lynching? Briefly, they are: Since 1882, there have been 5,071 lynchings in the United States, and these by no means have been confined to the southern states. In the past 35 years, the records show, fewer than 1 per cent of these crimes have been followed by prosecution. In only 12 instances have convictions resulted. These figures bear out what everyone knows—that it is next to impossible for local government to deal with lynching.

In 1922, when the Dyer anti-lynching bill was before congress, it was defeated by a filibuster of southern senators who contended that lynching is a matter for local government alone. Since then, 280 lynchings have occurred, with a prosecution record of approximately zero. It is interesting to observe that while the Dyer bill was pending lynching decreased; that when the agitation for federal action weakened after the defeat of the bill, lynchings rose in number. The same phenomena occurred in connection with the Berger bill of 1928. If the mere threat of federal action has a salutary effect upon lynching, passage of a law permitting federal intervention under certain circumstances might well make lynching one of the rarest of offenses.

The Costigan-Wagner bill has its constitutional basis in the right of all persons to equal protection under our laws. Willful failure on the part of peace officers to protect prisoners from mobs or to arrest persons who had taken part in a lynching would be made a felony. If prosecutions were not commenced by the state within 30 days after commission of the offense, the bill would empower the federal government to act.

Under a further provision, which is regarded by many as the most powerful feature of the bill, a county in which a lynching occurred would be held liable to the injured person or to his heirs or legal representatives. The recoverable damages would be not less than ten thousand dollars or more than 10 thousand dollars. It is believed that to place financial responsibility on counties would have the effect of cooling off the ardor of would-be lynchmen who are also taxpayers.

Is this measure constitutional? Senator Connally of Texas says no and quotes numerous authorities to prove it. Senators Costigan and Wagner, who have given much thought and labor to the proposed legislation, say yes. They also cite numerous authorities. Certainly, the constitutional question will never be settled in congress. It is one that must await the decision of the courts.

The question for congress is whether or not an attempt is to be made to deal with an evil by which more than five thousand persons since 1882 have been deprived of their legal rights; an evil which has reached heights in the United States duplicated nowhere else in the civilized world; an evil which has resulted in the death of many innocent persons; an evil which menaces respect for our courts and our processes of justice.

We believe it to be the duty of congress to act.