

# EDITORIALS

## The Omaha Guide

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**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, JULY 13, 1935

### ETHIOPIA APPEALS IN VAIN

The white world has just about voted curtains for Ethiopia. The only nation active in her behalf is Great Britain, and her motives are always suspected. Indeed, the British government has been barring the exportation of arms and ammunition to Ethiopia for months.

The French, who control Djibuti, Ethiopia's only port of entry from the outer world, are putting such great obstacles in the way of arms manufacturers wishing to export arms to the black empire that they are reluctant now to accept Ethiopian orders.

Last week Haile Selassie complained bitterly that French, Belgian, Danish and Czechoslovak authorities were blocking the exportation of arms to his country, even though many of the orders had been paid for and were actually awaiting shipment at European ports.

From Russia, that great Union of Socialist Soviet Republics which has long pretended to be deeply interested in the problems of weaker peoples, not one word has come about Italian aggression in Ethiopia. Maxim Litvinoff, the erstwhile traveling salesman, who, as Russia's foreign minister, used to annoy European diplomats by demanding immediate disarmament, has not lifted his voice in condemnation of Italy.

The French, great believers in liberty, justice and fair play, are said to be working hand in glove with the Italian robbers, especially since her old ally, England, recently gave her blessing to German naval expansion.

Even America, the Home of the Brave and the Land of the Free, has seen fit to reject Ethiopia's appeal. The Emperor asked President Roosevelt to find some way to make Italy observe her obligations under the Kellogg-Briand pact by which all the signatories, including the United States, renounced war as an instrument of national policy.

Mr. Roosevelt declined to invoke the pact which America signed with such a flourish a few years back, saying that this government is "loath to believe" that either Ethiopia or Italy "would resort to other than pacific means as a method of dealing with this controversy, etc." This after Italy has attacked and killed hundreds of Ethiopian troops over 60 miles within the Ethiopian boundary, mobilized 100,000 troops nearby and publicly announced that nothing can stop her from invading Ethiopia.

So it looks like curtains for Ethiopia. There is no great power to come to her aid except Japan, and Japan is too busy robbing China and exploiting Korea, Manchuria, Formosa and other stolen territories.

It looks as though Haile Selassie will just have to do the best he can by himself. Meanwhile the old belief of Afro-Americans is corroborated: that what the white nations say solemnly about honor, justice, love of mankind, Christianity and peace is to be taken with a shovel of salt.

### A STRANGE PROVISIO

Secretary of the Interior Ickes is to be commended for awarding to the Harlem section of New York a \$4,700,000 housing project which will provide dwellings for 1,627 families and single persons. There is admittedly a great deal of congestion in certain areas of Harlem where a large proportion of New York's colored population lives.

It is difficult to understand, however, why Mr. Ickes should have made the provision that title to the land on which the apartments are to be erected must be obtained by condemnation proceedings within 30 days. This has been done in no other instance that we know of. Land has been condemned all over the country and title turned over to the government before building began on it, but this is the first time that a deadline has been set.

The land in this instance is owned by the Rockefeller interests, which do not care to part with the property at the price the city of New York feels is adequate. If necessary the Rockefeller interests can go to court and tie up the project indefinitely while the colored people continue to suffer.

The PWA statement on the project assailed the property owners of Harlem for exacting extortionate rents from the Negro tenants and thus boosting the price of land far beyond its value, and also pretty thoroughly demolishing the old argument that Negroes depreciate property values.

Mr. Ickes is in error, however, when he asserts that there is a "lack of other areas to which the present tenants could be transferred" from con-

gested Harlem because of the "many peculiar local problems complicating a program of direct clearance of sites."

There is no lack of other areas either in New York City or other communities in the North, East and West, to which Negro tenants may be transferred. Government-owned or subsidized apartment houses are going up everywhere. All Mr. Ickes has to say is that on all such housing projects erected with government money, renting agents will see to it that there is absolutely no discrimination against tenants because of race, color and creed, and see to it that the law is enforced.

If the Federal Government has not become committed to a policy of fostering residential segregation, which the Supreme Court outlawed in the Louisville case decision in 1915, it will make a far more strenuous effort that it has to see that colored people are not barred from housing projects elsewhere than in the so-called black belts. In States like New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, with strong civil rights laws, there is even less excuse for the government being lax in this matter.

Negroes will be very foolish, however, if they sit idly by and wait for the Federal Government to fight their battle. No Administration has ever really done that since Grant's and then the Republicans permitted the South to re-enslave us in exchange for the election of Hayes. Negroes must demand the right to move into ALL PWA housing projects, and where and when they encounter refusal they must carry the matter to the highest courts.

Otherwise, with most new buildings being done by the government, we shall find ourselves isolated as never before.

### YOUR LIFE AT STAKE

During 1934, accidents of all kinds caused 101,000 deaths—the highest total on record—in addition to almost 10,000,000 non-fatal injuries.

The total cost of those accidents, including wage loss, medical expense and property damage, amounted to \$3,500,000,000.

Accidents are responsible for more deaths to persons between the ages of five and nineteen than any other cause. Among persons of all ages only three diseases result in more deaths than do accidents.

There are facts that should make the public pause think and remember. The waste of accidents, both in lives and materials, is complete and irrevocable. It cannot be repaired. And it is almost entirely unnecessary.

Of all forms of accidents, those caused by the automobile are of course the most serious. Between 1913 and 1934 motor vehicle deaths increased from 4,227 to 36,000 a year, while other kinds of accidents dropped from 78,233 to 65,000. That is largely due to the increased number of cars in use—but the fact remains that at present motor accidents per thousand and gallons of gasoline consumed, are on the rise. The reckless driver is becoming more reckless—the incompetent driver is becoming still more of a menace to all who use the streets and highways. The automobile accident record is in striking contrast to that of industry, which has made magnificent progress in reducing both the severity and frequency of accidents in even the most hazardous factory operations.

The war on accidents is every citizen's war, and every citizen should "join the colors." Thousands of lives, to say nothing of billions of dollars, are at stake—and your life and your dollars are among them.

### ELIMINATING THE FIRE-BUG

One of the more encouraging phases of fire prevention work is the decline in arson. According to a committee report from the National Board of Fire Underwriters covering the fiscal year that closed on April 30, 1935, conditions now are better than at any time since the committee was started. Incendiarism is at a relatively low ebb and is further declining. Investigators and prosecutions are being made more efficient, and with better results. Weak and ineffectual arson laws have been corrected and strengthened. Public officials especially prosecuting attorneys, are showing themselves to be much more determined than in the past to stamp out the fire-bug.

The statistics tell the story. During the year, arrests for arson were the lowest in any year since 1928, while the rate of conviction was high. Convictions were obtained in 77 per cent of the cases tried as against 70 per cent in the year before. A Number of these convictions were of members of organized arson gangs which had caused hundreds of thousands of dollars of property loss throughout the country.

Much of the credit must go to the fire insurance industry which has worked unceasingly against the incendiarist. It has prepared model law, which have been widely adopted. It has sent out trained investigators to aid local officials. And it has carried questionable fire-loss cases to court, and helped to uncover evidence of arson that might otherwise have never been unearthed.

The arsonist, who works in the dark, has been called, with justice, the most deplorable of criminals. He deserves no mercy.

## The Way Out

Loren Miller

### Best Seller

If all of the sympathetic sentiments uttered in behalf of Angelo Herndon were placed in a book they would make a sizable volume. The book in turn might get to be a best seller and win a place in the magazine sections of the Sunday papers. Unfortunately this is not the case and as the matter stands much of the genuine sympathy with him has been lost to posterity.

On the other hand it was never so necessary to gather up the vanguard indignation expressed over the performance of the Supreme Court in ordering his return to the Georgia chain gang. A petition for a re-hearing is pending and the court has always exhibited a strong tendency to temper its decisions to the winds of public opinion.

### Animal Cage

With that in view the International Labor Defense has just completed plans for a novel tour of the country by Herndon. He will make it in a truck that is a replica of the contrivances used to haul convicts to their daily labors down in Dixie. The sight is gruesome enough and reminds me of the cages in which the small time circus used to exhibit their animals in the street parades.

To give it added weight pictures and documentary proof are on display which portray in a startling fashion the tortures awaiting any Negro unfortunate enough to get a chair gang sentence. One glance is convincing proof that Herndon's is really a sentence of death. You can get a bad case of the jitters with a glance.

### Sympathy Not Enough

It is hardly necessary to argue the merits of the sentence. It's pretty well understood that Herndon's "crime" lay in organizing white and Negro unemployed to demand a boost in relief rations. At a time when every Negro in the country is authority for the statement that we must organize or perish it is essential that we protect those who do try to organize their fellows.

Nor will this protection be achieved if those who seek the truck content themselves with sighs of sympathy and go home to their bridge games and crossword puzzles. Coupled with the tour is a plan to get two million name on petitions urging Herndon's freedom and the abolition of the old slave laws on which he was railroaded to jail.

### A Big Job

The easy way out will be to sign one of the petitions and call it a day. More needs to be done. A lot of us ought to pitch in and constitute ourselves agents for securing names. There's really nothing hard about it.

For example those who go around "just making pop calls" could carry petitions with them. The business of expaining the case would be no more difficult than an evening devoted to panning the next door neighbors.

Seriously, it is very important that everybody understand the case. The more you study it and talk about it the more you will come to understand that this attempt to curb Herndon is but a prelude to a wider attack on civil rights and freedom of speech.

With the country going from bad to worse it is self evident that a lot more will have to be said in the next few years by way of stiffening up the fight against encroachment on our very ailing standard of living.

To speak out now for Herndon is to put in a word for your own bread and butter.

At the risk of doing violence to my reputation as a gentleman I find it necessary to question the popular belief that Mrs. Roosevelt is a tried and true friend of the Negro people. The task is not one to be undertaken lightly. So widespread is the theory that the motives of a lady are not to be looked into—that look he's bragging again—it is a job reserved for the brave.

Mrs. Roosevelt's reputation has been gained chiefly because of her willingness to speak her piece at various gatherings. Contrary to the old maxim, the First Lady's words are so well chosen that they serve to obscure her actions.

### WHAT A PAL!

Those who remember the first dazzling days of the New Deal will recall the fanfare of trumpets that heralded the establishment of a "model" rehabilitation town at Malden, West Virginia. Nor did the press agents forget to add that Mrs. Roosevelt was behind the project despite opposition of the landlords who live on high rents and bad accommodations.

What they did forget to add was that the project was a lily white affair from its sacred environs. I cannot venture to speak for the Negro people but I refuse to award palms to this kind of friendship. Rather it

seems to me a bolstering up of plain old fashioned segregation and certainly it will add nothing to the current struggle to break down racial lines.

### NEW TECHNIQUE?

There is a possibility that the lily white character of the project escaped attention but the newspapers took great pains to see that word of Mrs. Roosevelt's speech to a recent Washington N. A. A. C. P. pow-wow was spread far and wide. The president's wife painted herself as quite a friend of the Negro people on that occasion and also announced that she had worked out a technique for minority group action.

The import of her words was that her experience in working with women had taught her that minority groups must work harder for less and give just a little more if they are to establish themselves in the world. Follow that advice, she intimated, and all will be well.

### OLD STUFF

The words may have the sound of wisdom but translate them into action and they simply mean that Negroes should accept differential wage scales at longer hours. And the plan isn't new. It has been in vogue for these many years. Its practical workings may be seen in the disproportionate number of Negroes on relief and the general economic ill-being that is our lot everywhere. I can't believe that those who advise this course of action are friendly even if they do smile sweetly while giving it out.

## Resolutions Adopted at Annual Conference N. A. A. C. P.

"As the economic crisis deepens the plight of 12 million American Negroes worsens. Discrimination in employment in works and other relief, and in other ways, continue, particularly in those sections of the country where eight million, or two-thirds, of the Negro population of the United States live. Notable in such discrimination is the edict from Washington establishing monthly wages of \$19 and \$21 respectively in regions 3 and 4 under the Works Relief Act; it is no accident that in the expenditure of the four billion, eight hundred and eighty million dollars appropriated by the Congress, the taxes for the raising of which are extracted by the federal government from the pockets of black men at the same rate as white, wages far below the level of decent subsistence should be established for those states in which the bulk of the Negro population of America resides.

"Collapse of the cotton market and of the antiquated credit system of the south, the unmitigated terrorism used to perpetuate economic, political and social enslavement of Negroes in the south, combined with indifference, vacillation and weakness at Washington are creating even more insufferable conditions not only for Negroes in the south and elsewhere but are working irreparable harm upon white Americans as well.

"We, therefore, in the name of 12 million American Negroes and of many white Americans who are superior to race prejudice, do pledge ourselves to renewed and increased struggle against these conditions. We do this in no spirit of racial selfishness. We conceive our struggle to be for better conditions for all Americans in that it is a self-evident truth that there can be no lasting peace or justice for any race as long as one race can be exploited because of racial, religious or other prejudice.

"If the American Negro is to sustain himself in an effective existence in this country, and some day be lifted from the threat of pauperism, there must be developed everywhere, not only interracial contacts in the field of labor, but also in the business world.

"We urge, therefore, that everywhere in America more attention be given by Negroes to independent and interracial ventures in the business world.

**BUSINESS EDUCATION**  
 "We urge the colleges devoted to the education of Negro youth to introduce and develop adequate courses in business in order to help make our race more self supporting;

**LYNCHING**  
 "We vigorously and unequivocally condemn the impudent and disgraceful filibuster led by a small reactionary block in the United States Senate against the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill. The temporary success in preventing orderly debate and vote by the Congress is a surrender by the federal government to the lowest element in our national life. To surrender was a confession of the importance of the federal government to protect its own citizens. Lynching, as the most dramatic form of racial bigotry, is a test of the sincerity and integrity of the Congress and of the nation. We do not accept any excuses of alleged unconstitutionality for failure of each individual member of the Congress vigorously to fight for the passage of this bill. The Judiciary Committee of the Senate and other distinguished jurists with social vision declared the Costigan-Wagner bill to be constitutional. We urge all those who are opposed to lynching, both Negro and white, to qualify without fail, for voting, especially in the pivotal states, and to register with their ballots, in primaries and general elections, their unequivocal disapproval

of all those who posed or were indifferent to the Costigan-Wagner bill, and to give their support to those courageous members of both houses of Congress, regardless of party affiliation, who did their duty. We must let enemies of the bill know that we will accept no excuse.

"We express our deep appreciation to those organizations with a total membership of more than 50 million Americans who have endorsed the bill. Especially do we appreciate the efforts of those who have worked hard and faithfully for passage. We urge more effective work in the next stages of the struggle by those who have thus far limited their endorsement to moral support.

**AGRICULTURE**  
 "We vigorously condemn the widespread discrimination against sharecroppers and agricultural workers generally, both Negro and white, under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration; the shameless and rebuked stealing of government cheques made out to sharecroppers and tenant farmers; the economy of scarcity through the destruction of crops and other abuses which have flourished. We condemn the suppression of reports of conditions affecting sharecroppers, such as the Myers report, and the ignoring of complaints against maladministration, fraud and dishonesty.

"We are unalterably opposed to the present form of the Bankhead farm tenant corporation bill.

"We vigorously condemn the flagrant violation of the rights of sharecroppers and agricultural workers generally by planters, their retainers and officers of the law to organize themselves into unions for their own protection. We further condemn the terrorism and violence waged against these workers by planters, their representatives and officers of the law. We call upon all Americans to protest these fascist practices, and to forward the struggles of disinherited and enslaved farm workers in all possible ways.

**WORK RELIEF ACT**  
 "We vigorously condemn the setting of monthly wages in regions 3 and 4, embracing the states of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, respectively, at the subnormal figures of \$19 and \$21. In the setting up of machinery for administration of the Works Relief Act we urge the appointment of qualified Negroes, as Deputy Administrators in each state where Negroes constitute any appreciable portion of the population. We urge that Negroes be integrated into all Work Relief projects on the basis of actual need and proportionate population and that the utmost vigilance be exercised by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration to prevent discrimination.

**WHITE PRIMARY**  
 "We urge upon the Congress the passage immediately of adequate laws against barring of qualified Negro voters from the so-called white primary of certain southern states.

"While we do not believe political action to be a panacea, we realize fully that the ballot is a potent weapon. We, therefore, urge upon Negro voters throughout the United States to qualify, and vigorously and unselfishly utilize their ballots without regard to political party or creed in their own and the public's best interests.

**EDUCATION**  
 "We hail the victory won in the trial court in Maryland for educational equality in the granting of a writ of mandamus for the admission of a qualified Negro student to the School of Law of the tax-supported University of Maryland. This is the opening step in the persistent campaign we must and will wage against every form of discrimination and segregation in all branches of education.

**LEGAL DEFENSE**  
 "The rights of Negroes in courts of law are today gravely endangered. We pledge our support to the defense of Jess Hollins in Oklahoma, Brown, Ellington and Shields in Mississippi; Angelo Herndon in Georgia; the Scottsboro boys in Alabama and other Negro victims of injustice in whose cases fundamental rights are involved.

**THE SOUTH**  
 "We hail the growth of courageous opinion in the south, especially as seen among younger, more intelligent southerners, both white and colored, and in the press. We pledge ourselves to do all we can in the development of enlightened self-interest among the increasing number of white southerners who see they can never progress as long as the Negro is oppressed.

**LABOR**  
 We welcome the growth of labor consciousness but we again warn the leadership of organized white labor, especially American Federation of Labor and railroad brotherhoods, they can never attain freedom for their groups by climbing on the backs of black labor. We urge all workers, white and black, to speed industrial as against craft unionism. We hail the recent victory of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

**LEGAL DEFENSE**  
 "We urge the responsible officers in all states and in the federal judiciary system to give full recognition to the right of Negro citizens to jury service the same as other citizens, without evasion, subterfuge, or procrastination. We further urge

all Negroes who are brought before juries to insist that there be no discrimination on account of race or color in the selection of their juries not only as a means of securing for themselves the equal protection of the law but also of insisting on the participation of Negro citizens in the administration of justice in all states and the federal courts.

**ITALY AND ETHIOPIA**  
 "We unequivocally condemn Italian aggression in Ethiopia and the imperialist selfishness of all nations in their shameful aggression upon the sovereignty of other nations, and we vigorously urge the President and department of State, to voice publicly their disapproval of the Italian government's action in Ethiopia. We urge the United States government to put itself squarely on record against encroachment.

**HAITI**  
 "We regret and condemn the suppression of free speech by the Vincent administration in the Republic of Haiti, and the imprisonment of critics of the Vincent government, among them such distinguished Haitians as Jacques Roumain, poet and patriot.

**GAG LAWS**  
 "We condemn the forces which are press for passage by the Congress and by the several state legislatures of laws against the rights of free speech, free assemblage and a free press. Whenever there is any encroachment upon these fundamental constitutional principles minority groups, like the Negro, are the first to suffer. Fascism with all of its evils can be postponed or prevented only by maintenance of traditional American adherence to the principles of free speech.

**NEW PROGRAM FOR THE N. A. A. C. P.**  
 "We approve and pledge our financial, moral and active support to the broadened program of the N. A. A. C. P. We shall intensify our efforts to make our organization an even more effective machine for justice to all men men regardless of race or color.

**APPRECIATION**  
 "The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in its 26th Annual Conference expresses thanks and deep appreciation to the St. Louis Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. and to the citizens and city of St. Louis for the hospitality extended the delegation and visitors."

**Mothers—Let your boys be Guide newboys. Send them to the Omaha Guide Office, 2418-20 Grant Street.**

## Protests Segregation of Negro Diners

New York, July 17.—Following admission by Mr. L. Smith, West Indies Passenger Agent for the Furness Lines that colored passengers aboard its Caribbean boats are segregated in the dining room, Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today charged the lines with "catering to the prejudices of bigoted whites."

"I do not question your statement that you have been complimented by some 'members of the colored race' upon this method adopted by you," Mr. White wrote, "I wish to state very positively, however, that these members of the colored race who may have made such statements to you are in no way representatives of the attitude of intelligent colored people. This is indicated by the fact that among those who have complained to this office against such discrimination is a highly intelligent colored woman, a librarian in the city of New York, who is holding up her plans to visit the West Indies aboard a Furness Line boat because of this situation."

The N. A. A. C. P. secretary expressed the hope that "the Furness Lines will abandon its policy of segregation and will permit passengers, regardless of race, to be accommodated precisely as all other passengers are taken care of. I trust we may receive from you prompt assurance to that effect."

The Association is suggesting that all prospective passengers on the Furness Lines boats protest against this segregation of Negroes in the hip dining rooms.

## Special Week-end Beauty Kit

**Given Free—Write For It**  
 In order to quickly acquaint readers with their new Week-End Kit, the Dr. Fred Palmer Laboratories of Atlanta, Georgia, through special arrangement, will send anyone who writes for it and who sends 3c to pay postage charges, this valuable and useful gift without charge.

The Week-End Kit contains miniature sizes of Dr. Fred Palmer's Skin Whitener Ointment, Dr. Fred Palmer's Skin Whitener Soap and Dr. Fred Palmer's Skin Whitener Face Powder, 2 shades. To get it free, just send your name, address and 3c for postage to the Dr. Fred Palmer Laboratories, Dept. 891, Atlanta, Georgia.

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