

# 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, AUGUST 10, 1935

### WILLED AND UNWILLED FACTORS IN THE RACE PROGRAM

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July 17, 1935

Special to The Omaha Guide by Kelly Miller

In my last release I spoke of the solution of the race problem by silence as contrasted to the solution by conscientious effort and agitation. Since reconstruction times both of these types of effort have been in operation. Negro leaders through individual effort and organized endeavor have sought to direct the life of the race, but in spite of it all the present trend is retrograde and no satisfactory outcome is in sight. This is the conclusion arrived at by Dr. DuBois, who for forty years has been the foremost exponent for the doctrine of rectification of racial affairs by protest and agitation. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for the last quarter of a century has typified the spirit of agitation and protest and has directed the organized effort of the race in this behalf. This militant organization has undoubtedly accomplished sundry incidental results of considerable racial value and advantage; but comprehensively it has not been able to remove a single obstacle against which it directed its energies or yet to point out a plain path of procedure for the future. Its energies have been directed against jim crow cars, disfranchisement, separate schools, segregation, lynching, and various forms of industrial and economic discrimination. And yet not a single jim crow car has been taken from the tracks, disfranchisement, to all intent and purpose, is as rampant as ever, segregation is all but complete, lynching proceeds according to its own savage will, separate schools are extending Northward and Westward, legal and civil discrimination have become the established vogue of Federal and state government, organizations and individuals. In other words, the race problem in all its essential features remains unbudged. I do not mean to say that conditions might not have been worse had not the NAACP and like organized and industrial effort exerted themselves during the past fifty years. They have at least kept alive the spirit of protest.

In the mean time the racial life has been impelled, in the main, by unwilling forces. The influx of Negro population into the North was unwilling and unperposed by any individual or organization, it was the inevitable result of uncontrolled conditions. The shifting of political power from South to North came as the incidental result of the shift of population. A million Negroes were thrust into Northern industry as an incidental outcome of the World War, and they were thrust out again as soon as the war was over. The development of machinery has produced an impasse in the industrial world. As a result millions of workmen are thrown out of employment, incidentally the negro becomes the chief victim of this displacement. The Negro's place in the life of the nation is conditioned upon the relative scarcity of unskilled labor. Where this type of labor is abundant, the Negro is cheap, where it is scarce he is dear. The Negro is cheap today in both the North and the South because there is no scarcity of the type of labor which he is qualified to perform. The invention of the cotton gin made the Negro indispensable in the cotton growing industry of the South, but the loom excluded him from the textile industry. The invention of a successful cotton picker would exclude him from the cotton growing industry and make him as industrially unnecessary in the South as he is in the North. All of this is the result of unwilling factors over which the Negro has no control.

Race prejudice is the outstanding factor in the race problem in America, and indeed, in the world. We have not yet found any agency that can effectively grapple with this evil passion or seriously modify its malignant manifestations, try ever so hard. Thus the Negro stands in the face of destiny like an infant crying in the night, and cry he must.

The theologians used to discuss the relative part played by predestination and free will in human destiny. Although we have changed the terminology we are still confronted by these two factors of which social evolution is the joint outcome. We hear much in this day and time about social planning which must depend upon social foreknowledge and the power to control foreseen factors.

No one is able to foresee or foretell the destiny of the Negro in the Western world, and therefore all racial planning must be haphazard and uncertain. But if we cannot see the distant scene, we can at least guide and guard the immediate step. After all, human concern is with duty, not with destiny. Each individual should perform the duty which is vouchsafed to him without reference to its affect upon ultimate destiny. The prophet sits on the wall and sees the dust of danger on the far distant horizon and

warns the multitude of the coming danger, but alas, the race has been woefully lacking in prophets. The individuals have had to feel after the right way, if haply they may find it. There is a certain school of philosophy which preaches that if the individual looks after himself, the race will look after itself. This is but a half-truth, but an important one.

When Denmark Veasey and Nat Turner stirred up slave insurrections, Frederick Douglas fulminated against the iniquity of slavery, Booker T. Washington launched his industrial propaganda, W. E. B. D. Bois wrote "The Souls of Black Folk" Kelly Miller, called the Negro Sanhedrian, Marcus Garvey promoted his African empire—Those all by conscientious effort, were essaying a solution of the race problem. But when Phillis Wheatley and Paul Lawrence Dubar courted the Muse, Benjamin Bannoker and Ferdinand Wood invented mechanical contrivances, Henry Tanner painted pictures, Ira Aldridge Gilpin and Paul Robeson displayed histrionic talent, Roland Hays and Ethel Waters excelled in song, Jesse Owens outruns the world, Joe Louis heads for kingship of the prize ring—those were but performing the immediate tasks which lay before them without conscious purpose of settling the race problem. These two types of effort indicate the relative effectiveness of willed and unwilling effort. The reformer and the performer must both play their part. Both are efficient, neither is sufficient.

Kelly Miller

### A CENTURY OF FACT FINDING

For more than a hundred years, an insurance executive recently pointed out, the institution of life insurance has been collecting facts about the affairs of men—their needs, hopes, dreams and ambitions, and the responsibilities they have to cope with.

The result of that century of effort is that life insurance is better able to deal with man's financial problem than any other agency ever devised. It is the only agency that creates wealth for the individual, then undertakes its distribution and, finally, guarantees, the income derived.

A life insurance company, in brief, when it accepts a premium, accepts the entire responsibility for the investment and care of the "wealth" deposited with it. The owner of the money is automatically relieved of the worries attendant upon investments by an individual—worries that are especially great when the amount of money involved is relatively small, and the investor is without the special knowledge and dispassionate, realistic advice that make for investment safety. The life insurance company puts that money to work, so that it may produce a return—and, instead of putting it all in one place, it distributes it widely, in government bonds, industrial securities, farm and urban mortgages and so on. And, lastly, it maintains a vast cash reserve to insure that it will be able to meet obligations promptly and in full.

It is only in recent years that the average person has had an insight into the investment phase of life insurance. That phase is as important as the protection phase.

### VITAL SERVICES TO THE FARMER

An example of the vital services that good cooperative institutions provide for their members—services that are not obtainable elsewhere—was provided during the recent eleventh annual session of the American Institute of Cooperation.

Executives of cooperative dairy associations, coupled with research experts, made the most searching probe in 10 years concerning the national and international outlook for marketing America's dairy products.

The probe and the ensuing appraisal included factors of production; the trend of consumption; the effect of imports on both dairy products and competitive oils and fats; the extent to which two years of operation under federal and state control has changed market conditions; the possible influence of reciprocal trade agreements upon dairy products, and similar questions which effect the future welfare of the dairy farmer.

It is impossible to exaggerate the worth of such a probe. Leaders of dairy cooperatives throughout the country will be much better prepared to cope with the marketing and price problems they face, and to inform their members as to the best course of future action. They will be able to scientifically develop plans, and to proceed with greater confidence and certainty.

### FIVE REQUISITES OF COOPERATION

According to Earl W. Benjamin, General Manager of the Pacific Egg Producers, there are five requisites to success in forming and conducting an agricultural cooperative:

First, qualified executives must be employed to handle the cooperative's affairs.

Second, the co-op must be soundly and adequately financed.

Third, it should stand on its own legs, meet competition through advancing the efficiency of operation, and should so far as it is possible avoid depending on governmental subsidies.

Fourth, it should limit its activities strictly to the business purposes of the cooperative.

Fifth, it should keep all members thoroughly informed as to what is going on.

As Mr. Benjamin says, cooperatives lacking any of these requisites are doomed to trouble sooner or later.

## ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual. National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare.**

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The march of New Deal legislation through the courts continues. Within the past three weeks, three major Administration measures have been subjected to judicial scrutiny—and two of the three have been found wanting. Last words, of course, will be said by the Supreme Court, when it meets for its next term, but present decisions provide a lead on what the highest court of all is likely to decide.

First case concerned the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. This bureau pays farmers for restricting their crops, raises the money through processing and floor taxes. Plaintiff in the case was a milling company, which had refused to pay \$82,000 demanded by the collector of internal revenue. In the district court, the government was upheld, and the company was ordered to come through with the \$82,000. It appealed to the district court in Boston, which reversed the lower court, by a 2-to-1 decision, and held that Congress did not possess the power to delegate taxing authority to the Secretary of Agriculture. If this decision is given validity by the Supreme Court, the Government may have to refund processing taxes already collected, and pay future benefits out of regular funds.

Second case concerned the policy of the Public Works Administration in condemning land to use for low-cost federal housing projects. This is very close to the heart of Secretary Cokes, who has planned a \$250,000,000 slum clearance and low-cost housing program. Suit was brought by a property owner who did not wish to sell at the Government's price, wished to bargain for greater compensation. The Cincinnati circuit court upheld for the plaintiff, said that the Government has not the power to condemn land for this purpose.

Third case involved, one of the most debated of Administration activities—the Tennessee Valley Authority. A few months ago a suit was brought to restrain the Authority from selling electric power in competition with private producers and to invalidate contracts made between the Authority and various towns in the Tennessee area. Federal District Judge Grubb held for the plaintiff, decided the contracts were illegal. The Government appealed to the Appellate court in New Orleans, and the judges overruled Judge Grubb, decided that the Government can sell power in competition with private parties.

Thus the New Deal came to the bar three times—won once, and lost twice. This is similar to past experience, and illustrates a fact recognized by Administration friends and opponents alike—that much of the legislation proposed and pushed by the President cannot be held valid without Constitutional change. And that promises to be the prime plank in next year's general election.

Every business publication and commentator seems agreed on this: The business outlook continues to improve, with advances especially noteworthy in the durable goods industries. These heavy industries are in a better position now than in any time since depression set in. In the words of one magazine, "It's a durable goods summer."

Here is some specific information: COPPER—Recent demand exceptionally heavy. Tonnage sold in first half of July was equal to the quota for two months under the NRA code. Price advances forecast by some.

MACHINE TOOL—Tremendous gain registered in dollar volume. Index recently touched 91 per cent of the 1926 average—best level since 1929.

MOTORS—Reports continue to be good. Passenger car sales for the first half of the year ran about 45 per cent ahead of the same period in 1934. In June, Ford sold most cars for that month since 1930, Chevrolet surpassed all June records since 1929.

ELECTRIC POWER—Recent month showed highest consumption since the latter part of 1931.

STEEL—At 40 per cent of capacity, a substantial advance over a few months ago.

RETAIL TRADE—Held steady into the summer, avoiding the usual seasonal drop.

These serve to illustrate the trend. Question now is, can advance be continued?

European observers who can spare time from the Italian-Ethiopian trouble, are casting cynical glances on Germany these days.

Another Hitler "purge" is underway—bloodless as yet, though many fear blood-letting will soon start.

Objects of persecution are, of course, the Jews. And along with them are the Catholics, clergymen of all denominations, and members of the Stahlheim—the German equivalent

of the American Legion. Reason for the attack on the veterans is that they contain "reactionaries"—in other words, men who are opposed to the Hitler dictatorship.

Stricter censorship prevails in Germany. Individual liberties are further proscribed. Concentration camps are jammed. Hitler's sword again hangs above those Germans who think him less than divine.

## Elks of The World In The 'Convention of The Century'

Washington—CNS—The "Convention of the Century" is the way in which the coming Thirty-six annual grand lodge conventions of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the World, here in the Capital of the Nation, August 25-31, is heralded throughout the country.

A delegation of "high Elks" headed by Grand Exalted Ruler, J. Finley Wilson called at the White House, Wednesday, July 31, to invite President Roosevelt to review the grand parade August 27 and attend the oratorical contest. The Chief Executive of the Nation informed the committee that if possible he would accept the invitation. He expressed interest in the health, educational and civil liberties programs of the order and gave the delegation one of the heartiest greetings ever extended to any group in a visit to the White House.

Mr. Wilson handed the President an engraved invitation to review the parade; and Mr. Roosevelt responded pleasantly and grasped the hand of "the Grand" with a hearty hand shake, as the cameras of the photographers registered the eventful meeting.

All the principal national news picture bureaus had representatives present taking pictures and the next morning the metropolitan dailies throughout the country carried pictures taken during the visit of the delegates.

The President "was shot" in a dozen or more different poses with members of the committee group. The delegation in addition to J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler, and Dr. Charles B. Fischer, general chairman of the convention, were Attorney Roy S. Bond, grand royal knight; William C. Hueston, commissioner of education; John H. Rhines, commissioner of athletics; Dr. William J. Thompkins, commissioner of health; Captain Arthur Newman, grand marshal of the parade; and Robert H. Ogle, grand secretary of the convention committee.

The convention proper will be held August 25-31; and by act of Congress a sufficient sum of money has been appropriated for street decorations, maintenance of public order and the protection of life and property during the convention. Congress also authorized the use of public parks, reservations in the District of Columbia, and the use of the necessary tents, cots, hospital appliances, etc., to provide for the comfort and convenience of all who visit Washington during this period.

Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson has just issued his annual proclamation to the officers and members of the grand and subordinate lodges and the grand and subordinate temples of the order, in which he set forth that:

"When, with prophetic vision, our beloved Order dug into its treasury to aid general welfare, there were narrow-minded critics who complained, but we have lived to see the Nation dig into its treasury to the tune of billions to avert distress and bring recovery. Elksdom is proud of its foresight and its program, aided by your loyal support through the last decade.

"We shall consider the economic welfare of our group. We shall formulate plans looking toward the manufacture of our uniforms and regalia amounting to a million dollars a year. Your proposed Fidelity Fund to secure the trustworthy performance of all obligations by those who handle funds of the Order is to be moved forward to function. The best brains and loftiest aims growing out of the principles of the Order of Improved Benevolent Protective Elks of the World will be

commanded to move ever forward.

## The Education and Economic Congress

From August 22 to 24, an education Economic Congress, under the auspices of the Elk's Department of Education will assemble in Washington, for the purpose of devising ways and means to secure the equitable administration of the laws governing public education in the States of the Union; as well as to attempt to work out a formula by the use of which to break down the wall which excludes Negroes from the credit world.

Delegates to this Congress are being named by Governors and Mayors throughout the country. The membership of the Congress is not confined to the membership of the Elk's fraternity. All who are interested may select delegates; and certify their names to the Director of the Congress, W. C. Hueston, 1915 Fourteenth St., northwest, Washington, D. C.

## Health Awakening

Health Director William J. Thompkins, Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia, the Capital City has a new, progressive Health Officer, and improved health conditions are now outlined. Throughout the nation, health has taken on a new meaning in conformity with the movement started by this order ten years ago.

## Junior Elks to be Prominent

General W. T. Meade Grant, grand director of the junior herd, has completed arrangements for our boys and girls to enjoy the experience of their lives. A full day will be given to their section of the program. As the Boy Scouts of America are to be in Washington at the same time, the opportunity for making manhood will be supreme. Future members of Congress may be created by this visit of the Junior Elks to the Capital City.

## Athletics

Director John T. Rhines is putting the Athletic Department on the map. He will put on a program during the Convention which will cause his most sanguine admirers to sit up and take notice when the heroes of the cindepath and bathing beauties take charge on August 27. All athletes should communicate with Director John T. Rhines, 301 Eye Street, S. W., Washington, D. C. for information and assignments. Jesse Owen, holder of three world records, and recently appointed State Director of Athletics for Elks in Ohio, will positively appear.

## Convention Program

"The National Oratorical Contest will be held at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church; the sessions of the Convention of the Grand Lodge will occupy the New Masonic Temple; the meeting of the Alumni of the Elk's Educational Section will be held at the Metropolitan Baptist Church. Dr. Chas. E. Wesley will preach the Baccalaureate Sermon at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church and Grand Chaplain W. G. Avant will preside. The pilgrimage to the shrine of the late Grand Legal Adviser, Col. Henry Lincoln Johnson, will move Sunday, August 25, with a sermon by the Grand Chaplain at night.

"The address of welcome will be delivered by the Honorable Melvin C. Hazen, President of the Board of Commissioners; Tuesday afternoon, 1 o'clock p. m.; the Grand Parade will move down historic Constitution Avenue, headed by the machine gun battalion of the Old Tenth Cavalry, which will hail from Arizona, August 27.

"The championship baseball game and the band contest will be held at the Griffith Stadium following the parade, cash prizes will be awarded the first and second bands for the best music and the longest distance traveled. Prizes will also be awarded the Marching Clubs with the largest enrollment and traveling the longest distance.

"All units preparing to participate in the Grand Parade should communicate at once, with the Commander-in-Chief, the Grand Exalted Ruler. To postpone this action until the places

are assigned in the parade may cause embarrassment, and to wait until the arrival in Washington will be too late.

"Wednesday will see the Grand Lodge in session, with the Grand Promenade at night at the Masonic Temple.

## You Must Not Miss This Convention

"Every American citizen should visit and see the city of the whole people. It will thrill you with pride and stir you to new enthusiasm for American ideals. Our racial history is written largely here, from the Statute of Freedom which tops the Capitol's dome, set in place by Negro workmen to Howard University with its new million-dollar building, the "Capstone of Negro Education". You may stand where Lincoln stood at Fort Stevens with a Negro woman praying by his side for God's protection from the bullets flying around him during the Civil War; you may ride down the wide avenues surveyed by Benjamin Banneker, working under L'Enfant; you may gaze upon the bronze replicas of those Civil War heroes—Grant, Sherman, Logan, Sheridan, Garfield, Scott and Thomas—never to be forgotten; you may visit the plants of the greatest business in the world, the departments of the United States Government and its gigantic extensions under the growth of the Nation. These and a hundred other experiences await you at the "CONVENTION OF THE CENTURY", to be held here for the first time in 25 years."

## Court Rules on Howard University Status

Washington—CNS—For the first time in the history of Howard University, the Court of Appeals today established the status of that institution as a private enterprise rather than a public undertaking within the meaning of the Heald Act.

A group of sub-contractors had instituted proceedings to recover under a bond which the general contractor on a construction project at the university had purchased.

Attorney George P. Lemm opposed the payment under the bond, claiming that although the contract had been signed by the Department of Interior and the bond was required under the contract, the university was operated under a private charter and is not "public buildings or public works", within the meaning of the Heald Act.

Under the ruling of the Appellate Court sub-contractors with unpaid claims must file liens just as would be required in the case of private corporations.

## Hero's Widow Plans To Conserve Fund Raised For Family

Washington, Aug.—ANP—Mrs. Sterling Calhoun, whose husband drowned in the Anacostia river, near here on July 12, in the effort to save two white children from drowning, will spend the thousand or more dollars raised for her and her family as sparingly as possible, according to a statement made by her this week, when she was handed \$215 raised by Joe Turner, local fight promoter.

Citizens of both races have rallied to the cause of raising funds to aid the family of the man who lived a pauper for the last three years but who died a hero. Benefits have been staged by theaters, fight promoters, churches and civic organizations and at each the public turned out in large numbers, boosting the fund to a little more than \$1,000.

When interviewed in her humble but spotless and neatly kept little home at 117 L street, southwest, Mrs. Calhoun, with her two little children present, said: "When Sterling went to his death, it seemed that life was not worth living any more, but the way people have come to our rescue, has given me new courage and I am going to spend this money just as slow as I can, paying my rent, buying the necessary clothing for my children and myself and of course for food."