

WORLD IN REVIEW

(By Frank Marshall Davis)

Two Leaders To Jail

Prison doors yawned for two Negroes, both leaders, both associated with the gambling racket. From San Antonio went 66-year-old Charles Bellinger, black mayor of the Texas city, to Leavenworth to serve 18 months for bilking the federal government on his income derived from policy. In New York 58-year-old Casper Holstein, philanthropist and big Elk, now said to be broke, drew a three year sentence for his affiliation with the numbers game.

Certain professional holy people may look down upon Bellinger and Holstein and consider both men as sores upon society. The truth is that these twain have been of far more material benefit to their race by their philanthropies and the Texan's political power in his home city, than several boatloads of contemporary saints who daily battle gambling and contribute nothing except their names to the census taker every ten years.

This country might as well accept gambling as a normal human pastime. It came with evolution from the lower animals. As long as society makes possession of money a virtue, people will want much for little and will seek it, whether legal gambling on the stock market and at horse races or illegal gambling at policy stations. Recognition by our own government of this trait, as it is done abroad where state lotteries are held, would do much toward ending the racketeer. As is, few people profit except white gangsters who have practically taken policy away from the Negroes and those Dusky Americans who make a living as writers.

But a nation which attempted prohibition cannot be expected to act with sufficient intelligence to legalize gambling for the average man.

Logician Mussolini

Benito Mussolini says he want Ethiopia because Italy is overpopulated and the African empire can take care of his surplus citizens. You may remember that Il Duce has a heavy tax on bachelors and orders husband and wives to reproduce early and often. A queer bit of reasoning, this.

Equally queer is Italy's official statement that 884 fascists and 775 native black soldiers are her sole casualties since war started, contrasted with her newspaper blasts against Great Britain last week for "selling the Ethiopians guns and ammunition with which to snuff out in wholesale numbers the lives of Italian troops." If only 1,619 black and white Italians have been killed, it would indicate England is Il Duce's best ally by furnishing foully weapons that won't shoot where they are pointed when in the hands of Ethiopians, perhaps the world's best marksmen.

Somebody in Rome needs to learn first-grade logic.

State's Rights

According to the American Association of Social Workers, change from direct relief to WPA jobs by the U. S. has caused "shocking suffering." This organization insinuates that the federal government is to blame for hardships because many states and towns have not raised money to provide direct relief to unemployables or new applicants for the dole.

The situation is obviously of tremendous importance to Negroes who have been the worst victims of hard times. But it comes back to the Supreme

YWC A Supports Scottsboro Defense

New York, Feb. 26, (ANP) Support of the Scottsboro Defense Committee and its work has been pledged by the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association. A letter received from Mrs. Frederic M. Paist, president of the Y.W.C.A., has informed the committee that the attention of all local Y. W. C. A. organizations will be called to the case and their support urged. The letter, addressed to Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, chairman of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, states in part: "The National Board at its meeting on Feb. 5th, 1936, voted to call to the attention of all local associations the significance of the Scottsboro case in relation to its national convention action to support the efforts to assure to Negroes protection in the exercise of their basic civil rights."

The Scottsboro Joint Defense is under the active control of the Methodist Federation for Social Service, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the International Labor Defense, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Church League for Industrial Democracy, (Episcopal), and the American Civil Liberties Union. The National Urban League is among the sponsoring organizations.

Court and state's rights. The New Deal's alphabet agencies have received the axe each time one has been brought before the nation's highest tribunal, largely on the ground that state's rights were being violated—thus producing the strange phenomenon of a part being declared more important than the whole.

Very well, we have state's rights. We have them so strong that many of Roosevelt's plans—some good, some bad—for bringing back prosperity have been knocked in the head and killed. Let the states relinquish these all-important rights and Washington can have a free hand to battle unemployment and poverty. The supreme court because it champions state's rights, would probably call the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill unconstitutional as well as any other national measure aimed to benefit the Negro. The supreme court, you remember, made its infamous Dred Scott decision to preserve the sovereignty of individual commonwealths.

Dixie Up North

Census figures just released in Washington on the nativity of Negroes in large northern cities provide a surprise. Only a small percentage of Amer-Negroes now resident in either Harlem or Chicago were born in the north, but of course these are not the people one meets. Your acquaintances saw the light of day in Michigan or Ohio or Maine.

From the number of people who tell you they were born in Pennsylvania or Massachusetts, either could pass for the 49th state. Your urban dweller who has been north long enough to change his ways may know some people from Mississippi or Alabama but he has met them only since they left Dixie.

No doubt these statistics will go a long way toward clearing up what becomes of the Georgian or Tennessean who leaves his home state. Although the people you Philadelphians know have never been south, still you can rest assured that migrating Negroes have not disappeared like the Lost Tribes of Israel and many of them are hiding somewhere in your city.

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KELLY MILLER SAYS

THE ALL-NEGRO CONFERENCE

On Feb. 11th 1924, I called the Conference, to meet in Chicago. I here reprint extracts from this call.

Object of the Conference "There are already innumerable organizations in the racial field operating separately and severally. Each is efficient in its sphere, but no one of them, nor yet all of them combined, can claim to be sufficient as concerns the general welfare of the race. They are all aiming at the same objective, without correlation, unity of plan or harmony of procedure. Nor does any existing organization deal with the whole problem of racial life and relationship. Each is concerned with some special feature rather than with the problem as a whole. The religious, political, educational, industrial, economic and social features are but emanations and specific emergences from a common racial background. The Negro Sanhedrin hopes to reduce all of these social fractions to a common denominator. The whole is greater than any of its parts, and equal to the sum of all its parts. The Negro Sanhedrin does not propose to interfere with any existing organization or to usurp its functions. In a nutshell, its object is to make for understanding and unity. It hopes to reach an understanding of the problems as a whole and to promote harmonization of effort of existing agencies to secure the desired end. The All-Race Conference must consider the state of the race, I am almost persuaded to say, the united state of the race."

The Nature of the Problem "The Negro question is a problem of psychology. The white race in America has a certain more or less fixed and definite attitude concerning the place and sphere of the Negro in the general scheme. A race consciousness will necessarily arise under compulsion of external circumstances. Purposive intelligence must be brought to bear to give it orderliness and direction. To inquire into the origin of race prejudice or to seek the limit within which it is modifiable, would indeed furnish a theme of interesting and curious speculation. But we do know that it is a pressing, present, persistent fact which conditions the entire scheme of the Negro's life and relationship. Race statesmanship requires that we study to understand the operation of this controlling influence, to withstand as far as we may its hurtful effect, and to stand the residue that may not be withstood. It cannot be conceded for a moment that the race hasn't sufficient wisdom to formulate its own philosophy and to state its own case. This must be done in terms that are so comprehensive, so clear and precise that the race will be compelled to accept and the world to take notice. So far, the Negro has not undertaken, in any serious way, to formulate a declaration of principles for his own guidance. The white man has spoken for him and told him what he thinks he ought to do. We have followed the leading strings of material charity and intellectual philanthropy. But the time has now come when the Negro must think and speak for himself in terms of his own understanding of his own conditions. If he is not now prepared to use his own brains and his own tongue to think out and express the policy for his own intimate guidance, his helplessness is indeed pitiable. The white man at his best has been generous and kind. He has spoken for us when our tongues were tied but now our tongues have been loosed and our intellectual energies released. The white man at

his best can no longer speak for us within the circumscribed area to which his prejudice confines us. Any group that is devoid of enlightened self-expression is doomed."

A Working Motto "Our situation demands a just balance between courage and caution, ambition and restraint, resourcefulness and good sense. There are many temperaments and dispositions. Some are timid, some are temerarious; some are radical, some restrained, some hasty, some hesitant. Many men of many minds must be adjusted to a common point of view. Guizot, in his history of Civilization, has admirably expressed the situation thus: "We continually oscillate between an inclination to complain without sufficient cause and to be too easily satisfied. We have an extreme susceptibility of mind, and in the movements of our imagination; yet when we come to practical life, when struggle, when sacrifice, when efforts, are required for the attainment of our object we sink into lassitude and inactivity. Let us not be invaded by either of these vices. Let us estimate fairly what our ability, our knowledge, our power enable us to do; and let us attempt nothing that we cannot lawfully, justly and prudently—with proper respect for the principles upon which our social system, our civilization is based, attain."

Guizot has uttered the appropriate word, which applies with peculiar pertinence to our racial situation. The universal formula fits the requirements of our special case. If we build upon such a foundation we shall rear a structure that cannot be shaken down."

The Necessity for the Sanhedrin "The time is out of joint. Racial portents are ominous. The rising tide of color threatens to engulf the world. The World War has left the world upset. The wavering balance of human relationships has been shaken out of its normal equilibrium. The agencies upon which we are accustomed to rely are functioning but feebly towards racial adjustment. The religious, political, economic and educational machinery as at present operative, does not seem to effect a satisfactory adjustment of the various races and nations of mankind. Within the next half generation there will be a tremendous change in the scheme of race adjustment in the United States. The quickened conscience of the nation will not consent to go on living forever on the basis of a lie. The relation of the Negro will become more firmly established on a basis of equality, or will settle into a status of frankly declared inferiority. Which it shall be, will depend upon the Negro himself. The time is ripe for treatment. Instant action is demanded, hesitancy is dangerous. Delay may prove fatal. As I look back upon this prospectus, I am well pleased with the basis of race statesmanship therein laid down. There was all but a universal response to the call. There were, of course, a few self-opinionated scoffers who derided the idea of the Sanhedrin for the same reason Gen. Grant used to allege for Charles Sumner's disbelief in the Bible—he did not write it."

Kelly Miller

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PROBATE NOTICE Atty. Ray L. Williams, Room 200, Tuclman Bldg., 24th St. at Lake In the Matter of the Estate of George W. Gill, Deceased. Notice is hereby given: That the creditors of said deceased will meet the executrix of said estate, before me, County Judge of Douglas County, Nebraska, at the County Court Room, in said County, on the 13th day of April, 1936, and on the 13th day of June, 1936, at 9 o'clock A. M., each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Three months are allowed for the creditors to present their claims, from the 13th day of March, 1936. BRYCE CRAWFORD, County Judge 2-22-3t

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