

KELLY MILLER SAYS

THE OBLIQUE EFFECT OF SEGREGATION

When segregation, in the form of residential segregation of the races, first manifested its purpose the Negro feared that it would have the effect of setting him into the ghetto and confining him to the back streets and alleys and shade-places, and of excluding him from the more desirable residential areas. It might be said in passing, that the Negro always has been essentially segregated by his poverty. His financial ability, as a rule, shuts him out of the more costly and expensive reservations and subdivisions. The purpose of segregation is to keep the two races residentially apart by air-tight provisions, however financially able the exceptional individual may be.

About two decades ago there was a widespread attempt to accomplish segregation by law. This attempt was frustrated, though not effectively defeated, by a decision of the supreme court. But as a matter of fact, the process now equally effectively with or without the sanction of law. The process is at present complete and extends across the continent with geographical completion—from north to south, from east to west, and diagonally. No section of the country is free from its operation. Its lines have gone out through all the land—from Boston to Key West, from St. Paul to New Orleans, and from Seattle to St. Augustine. The blight covers the whole nation like a blanket covers a bed.

The first effect of segregation upon the white race reminds one of the lines of Goldsmith:

"This dog and man at first
were friends
But when a pique began
The dog to gain some private
ends,
Went mad and bit the man.
The wound it was both sore
and sad
To every Christian eye,
And while they swore the dog
was mad.
They swore the man would
die.
But soon a wonder came to
light
That showed the rogues they
lied.
The man recovered from the
bite;
The dog it was that died.

The first reaction of segregation has been adverse to its white sponsors. It has forced them to abandon expensive properties at an enormous sacrifice. The residences built a decade or so ago for men of fortune and income, have been turned over to a race wholly unable to purchase and maintain them. As a rule the whites have exiled themselves from the more commodious and convenient sections of the great cities and have taken flight to the suburbs and outlying districts. This leaves the Negro in possession of magnificent homes which he occupies but cannot command. Many a fairly well-to-do white family, afflicted with racial fright, has joined the higras and abandoned their homes involving life-time accounts.

The effect of segregation in the city of Washington is typical and illustrative of what is taking place in most of our large cities. The Negroes have come into possession of fully a square mile of the fairest portion of the very heart of the capital. The Negro reservation lies just north of the government buildings and business section and is traversed by the widest and best paved streets and avenues, lined with the choicest shade trees and interspread with beautiful paths, circles, and parks. The white residents who have moved northward must needs traversed the Negro area to reach the great stores and shops, as well as the White House, the Treasury, the Capital and other government buildings.

So great is the cost of race prejudice, and so dearly does the white race pay for it.

Kelly Miller

GUARDS KILL TWO CONVICTS

Tallahassee, Fla., Jan. 9 (ANP)—M. L. Perry and John Wright were killed and 10 other convicts wounded when prisoners at a Negro convicts camp staged a rebellion Wednesday. The prisoner complained of cruel treatment at the Lake City camp but their complaints were ignored. The wounded convicts were returned to work after treatment by the camp physician.

EDITORIALS..

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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.

All News Copy of Churches and all Organizations must be in our office not later than 5:00 p. m. Monday for current issue. All Advertising Copy or Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.

MORE DOERS, LESS TALKERS

Business men and women are needed. A crying demand for men of ability and training in business exists; men who are willing to sacrifice to build businesses.

Colored America is cursed with too many experts who can tell other people what to do while they sit behind desks of subsidized institutions. If some of these men of training and ability could be forced out of their security into small struggling colored business institutions, a new day would come for colored business.

We have too many people who know what to do and too few who can do anything except work for someone else. They lack the courage to start something for themselves. It requires more courage to attempt to build a business than it does to draw regular pay as a helper.

It would be well for all of us, on the threshold of the new year, to look abroad at dictator-ridden Europe. In many great countries the free press has been shut down.

Free speech has become a crime. All criticism of those in power has been silenced with imprisonment and death. In some countries the right to worship has been abrogated by law, the state has been made Divine, the dictator in power must be regarded as a god and the individual has been reduced to an actual state of slavery.

While we pity the citizens of those nations, and wonder at the fact that such things could come to pass in this century, we can learn a valuable lesson from their plight. We still live under a Constitution that guarantees us freedom of religion, of speech and of the press. Upon the preservation of that Constitution depends the future of the United States and of the American people. In the pursuit of an economic millennium we must not sacrifice national ideals and principles that are the very lifeblood of democracy.

National Ideals Preserve Democracy

The nation has come to the end of an eventful year. For the first time since the worst days of the depression, industry has felt the stimuli of better times, of broadening markets, of increased earnings. Prospects for the future are immeasurably brightened.

Yet we must not be blind to the vital problems that all of us as individuals and as members of the economic and social order, still face.

The problem of unemployment looms almost as large today as it did at the abysmal low point. Industry has pledged itself to do all within its power to curb this intolerable condition, and in doing that it must have the help of government, to the extent that no legislation be passed which will frighten and discourage the investor—the source of all productive employment.

THE CATHOLIC'S NEGRO DRIVE

The recent letter of Pope Pius praising the work of Catholics among colored people in the United States during the past few years serves to call attention to the gradual change that seems to have come over the Mother Church in the past decade. The Catholic newspapers and magazines have been outspoken in their advocacy of a square deal and equal rights for colored citizens. Many of the highest Catholic officials have not minced words in supporting civil rights for Negroes. Catholics have been in the forefront of the fight against lynching and mob violence.

The Pope urges greater missionary work among colored Americans, advises the establishment of more churches even in the rural South, and of parochial schools and more college activity. This is commendable and reveals a determination not to permit the Roman church to continue being outdistanced by the Protestant churches.

Catholic officials should not interpret the Holy Father's letter as an invitation to extend segregation by setting up jim crow schools, churches and colleges. Such institutions belie the word Catholic, are contrary to every Christian principle, and in most parts of the country there is not even the excuse of legal requirement. There is no law which requires that the two so-called races be jim crows in private institutions.

The Catholic Church in the United States will be carrying out the spirit of the Pope's letter and of Christ's teachings if it will begin by opening all its churches and educational institutions to Negroes immediately on terms of absolute equality and not establish institutions "for Negroes."

Some of these clerical institutions have either barred or discouraged Negro attendance, and there is no Christian excuse for it. Progress has been made of late years in the appointment of Negroes to the priesthood, but a dozen colored priests out of a quarter million colored communicants is certainly nowhere near a fair distribution.

The American Negro will rally to whatever ally attacks his problems in a fair and forthright manner. He looks askance at any effort that tends to sharpen and further emphasize racial difference.

Protest for Insult Brings Apology from Broadcasting Station

Boston, Jan. 9 (ANP)—While listening to a recent radio program being broadcast over station WEEI T. E. Richardson, a plumber of this city, heard the announcer use the expression, "There may be a nigger in the wood pile....." He immediately sent a letter of protest to the company officials and Thursday received his reply from H. E. Fellows, general manager of station WEEI:

"You may be sure that the phrase crept into the advertising without any thought of malice or intent of disparagement. Our advertising client, the Glendale Coal Co. joins with us in extending to you personally and to your race our apologies and our assurance that you have served us both well in calling the matter to our attention."

WPA Program in La. Pleases Hopkins

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9 (ANP)—Visiting New Orleans recently, Harry L. Hopkins, WPA administrator was particularly impressed by the unique work being done by a group of Negro writers at Dillard university, who are compiling a "History of the Negro in Louisiana" as part of the program of the Federal Writers project.

The history, which already has required several months of intensive research, will tell the story of Negro in Louisiana from the landing of the first slave ship up to the present day. Its production is being supervised by Lyle Saxon state director of the Federal Writers project, with Horace Mann Bond, Dean of Men at the university, directly in charge of the research work. Preliminary plans for publication already have been made and it is expected that the history will form a valuable record of an important phase of southern history.

Other Negro writers employed on the project in Louisiana have been engaged in collecting folklore for the American Guide, the project's forthcoming national publication. Much valuable material has been collected relating to the folklore, folk medicine and folk customs of Louisiana Negroes of the past and of today.

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