

# ..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.

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.

### SUPREME COURT PROTECTS MINORITY

Proposals to limit or abrogate the powers of review of the Supreme Court of the United States have been made often in late years—and, for the most part, have come from representatives of radical organizations.

This is an ironical situation when the Supreme Court is the foremost protector of the rights and liberties of radicals of conservatives, as well as all others. Case after case could be cited in support of this.

A recent action is in point. A Portland, Oregon, Communist, Dirk DeJonge, was arrested at a Communist-sponsored meeting, convicted and sentenced to a long prison term and a heavy fine under Oregon's war-born criminal syndicalism law. The case was appealed through the state courts, which held the law Constitutional.

Then an appeal was taken to the United States Supreme Court. And on January 4th in a unanimous decision read by Chief Justice Hughes, the Court set aside the sentence and held that the Oregon law, as applied in this case, was repugnant to the process clause of the Constitution—the clause which protects the rights of free speech and assemblage. It is now believed that this decision will strongly and favorably affect the cases of other radicals convicted under the Oregon act.

The Supreme Court has always been a fearless defender of civil rights—freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly—and especially the rights of the minorities. Being immune to politics and to pressure of any kind, it can and does resist the hysteria of the moment so that the Constitution, in spirit as well as word, may be preserved, and America may remain a free nation.

### 3 STATES MAP BUSINESS PROMOTION PLAN

NEW YORK—(Calvin Service)—Promotion plans for Negro business are being mapped for the new year in three states, according to reports from officials of business organizations which have been received by Calvin's Newspaper Service in response to a query in business progress in local communities. Philadelphia, Atlantic City, and New York have been heard from.

#### New York Situation

RALPH O. GOTHARD of New York, former executive secretary of the Harlem Business Men's Club, says:

"When we started the club in 1931, dedicating it to bigger and better local business, and advising Harlemites not to buy where they couldn't work, some of us were regarded as fanatics. Now there are very few stores in the community that do not employ one or more Harlemites and several hundred found employment on 125th Street during the Christmas holidays. Negro-owned business enterprises are no longer hidden away in basements on the side streets; you can find them everywhere, clean, progressive and as prosperous as the times will permit.

"It can positively be said that Harlem is no longer a sleeping giant. Credit should be given to many organizations, some now extinct. The UNIA, headed by Marcus Garvey was one of the greatest contributing factors. The Harlem Housewives League, the OMAA, the African Patriotic League, the Citizens League for Fair Play, all of them reaching more or less different groups. Street speakers, led by Arthur Reid, Ira Kemp of the Harlem Labor Union, have worked indefatigably to bring about a new consciousness on the part of the buying public.

"The greatest single factor has been the depression, which threw thousands out of work, and forced them to think. Many of these displaced workers have become converts to co-operation, only because they were made to realize that unless they were willing to help do something about it, they would always be wards of the government, which is another way of saying recipients of Home Relief.

#### New Era Here

"Nineteen hundred thirty-seven ushers in a new era, in my opinion, and the time is ripe for the next radical step, one that would have been utterly futile to have discussed ten years ago, because the time was not ripe. Our intelligentsia will perhaps be more inclined to listen to reason now, and they can, if they will, set the pace for others to follow.

"We are now ready to attempt what we feel is an entirely new approach to our problem, predicated upon the fact that we are all Consumers first, and business men or professionals after. To this end (I mean a few of us who have devoted several years of intensive study to the problem) have applied

for and received a Charter from the State of New York for a non-profit, cooperative, membership corporation, to be known as the Consumers and Craftsmen's Guild, of Harlem, Inc.

"The members of this Guild, which is to be a fraternity of consumers and craftsmen, will enter into a solemn agreement to wear, purchase, use and sell, anything produced by any other member, providing such merchandise is as good, or better, than similar articles now on the market. By this means we hope to popularize the use of Harlem-made merchandise to such an extent that many new local industries will be created to satisfy the demand."

#### Atlantic City Plans

L. D. WRIGHT, secretary of The Atlantic City Board of Trade, says:

"Atlantic City is a resort and its livelihood depends upon the pleasure seeking out-of-town visitors. If they continue prosperous as is indicated by press dispatches, and the opinions of men whom I, and others, have personally contacted during recent weeks, Atlantic City is in for the largest and most prosperous year we have had since 1929.

"Please be assured, however, that Negroes will get their share of the spoils and that those of us who are in business will prosper also. Preparations for the great Easter, Summer and Fall seasons are now in full swing. The Night Clubs, Hotels, Restaurants, Stores, Beauty Shops, Beauty Schools and numerous other businesses modernizing their places.

"Miss Grace Morgan has recently opened a large Modern School of Beauty Culture and Mrs. Annie Malone, of Poro fame, has also opened a new school. New stores are opening every day, also new restaurants.

"The new Slum Clearance Project will begin to take in tenants about February 1, 1937. In fact, the whole town is awake and is preparing to go places.

"Again, let it be said that this little burg has always done well anyhow. There are between twelve and fifteen thousand Negroes here and they have numerous business enterprises, some of which have been mentioned above and many are employed by the City and National Government, as letter carriers, clerks, police officers, firemen, teachers, and so on. In all, there are about five hundred of such employees here. At the present time, many of our people are employed in the beachfront hotels; some with Negro owned enterprises, some with WPA, and the rest as domestics, and, of course, some are yet unemployed, especially at this time of the year.

"The Atlantic City Board of Trade, of which I am secretary, is a wide-awake body, with over one hundred members. They are continually whooping it up, boosting business and the town in wholesome fashion."

#### Philadelphia Outlook

SAM H. READING, regional director of the National Negro Business League, and executive secretary of the Progressive Business Association of Philadelphia, says:

"We're on our way into another year, full speed ahead. Looking backward, there has been little to distinguish any of the past five years from another with the exception of the upturn in late 1936.

"But of one thing I feel sure—any colored man or woman in legitimate business who has weathered the storm of the past five years or more will have no one to blame but himself if he doesn't make real progress during this year.

"No one will be foolish enough to expect any such torrid prosperity as laid the base for the depression. But one does not have to be a Roger Babson or Albert Einstein to figure out that things are better than they have been for some years past.

"One infallible sign is housing. In most metropolitan centers there are comparatively few habitable houses available for tenancy by colored people. There is even some noticeable movement in realty sales. And people don't start buying houses when things are bad or worse.

"Whether or not this upturn is artificial or not, reliable figures show that holiday business exceeded any since 1929.

"So we start another year with better than even chances for business life."

### ABYSSINIA'S WAR AND AFTER

By Marcus Garvey, London, Eng.

The American Negro is the most loyal, self-conscious and expressive member of the racial group. He is never wanting in his response to racial appeals that stir him to the possibility of real service, religiously, politically and otherwise. He has never failed those who appeal to him. Most of the time, however, he allows his enthusiasm for racial causes to get the better of his judgment, and then, when the truth is brought home to him, he becomes disappointed and disgusted. Efforts should be made not to spoil his good disposition and character in this respect, for he it is who is leading the world of other Negroes in their true responsibility to the race in the hope of solving a problem that calls for the most serious application.

The Italo-Abyssinian War had an immediate appeal to the American Negro, like Negroes in all other parts of the world, and his response was immediate and most enthusiastic. Unfortunately when Ethiopia entered upon the war and before there was no organized intelligence about its true position among Negroes anywhere. It was difficult therefore, for Abyssinians to get the right kind of support that was absolutely necessary at the very start of things.

The lack of information among Negroes of the world, about Abyssinia was due to the fault of the Abyssinian government which up to that time took no diplomatic pains of creating a contact with the Negro peoples of the world and particularly those of America, so as to create among them an interest that was most necessary and vital for a successful resistance of an Italian or European offensive.

From our knowledge and experience, we are able to say the Abyssinian government headed by Haile Selassie felt that its existence was possible without any catering to and contact with Negroes. In fact, they held themselves to be a separate and distinct race from the Negro race, and the entire administrative policy was to treat the blacks as an inferior people in whom they were not politically interested, except for their enslavement and exploitation. The Amharic rulers felt that the yhad descended from a superior race and even in Abyssinia the darker races of the

country were regarded as inferiors only fit to be feudal serfs and in many instances overburdened slaves.

Unfortunately the Emperor's government was not an enlightened one, in the sense that it could not understand an appreciate European diplomacy, and the methods of European statesmen in preserving the political independence of their respective countries and in catering to their respective peoples.

The Abyssinian policy was based on the absolute elevation of the ruling classes and the positive lack of national interest in the native masses. This is contrary to the policy of enlightened and civilized governments where the rulers whether they be kings, emperors, dictators or presidents, hold office only as executive trustees for the people whom they must serve, the wishes of the said people being supreme will and law. With them, the people dictate the policies of government and demand service from government in their interest. With Abyssinia, it was the emperor who dictated the policy of the government and he used the government, people and country for his own divint and personal purposes. Naturally, such a condition in Abyssinia would make it rather difficult for the government to rally the real patriotic support of the people in a crisis such as was brought about by Mussolini.

Mussolini being an astute diplomat and expert statesman, pondered to the weakness of the Abyssinian oppressed and peror failed to feed them, to equip them and to properly neglected masses. While the emperor stepped in after his invasion and supplied their necessary human needs, particularly in feeding and caring for them. The result was a stampede of the Abyssinians from the emperor to the invader. This, more than anything else, assisted Mussolini to conquer the country.

As bad an historian and psychologist as Haile Selassie was, he overlooked the necessary human elements—human aspirations which were common to people of all races. He, instead of providing for the Abyssinian masses as stated, only provided for himself, hence, when the fight reached its crucial point, he had no one to stand along side of him and so he had to flee, leaving the people to the mercy of Mussolini and the Italian hordes.

Much news has been published after Mussolini's conquest of Abyssinia, about the Abyssinians still fighting successfully against the Italians. This must be taken with a grain of salt. There is really no organized opposition to Italy in Abyssinia. The incompetent rulers who opened Abyssinia to invasion are still making the effort to hold on to Abyssinia, hence a lot of misrepresentative statements which seem to be affecting the American public.

Every Negro desires the freedom of Abyssinia, but that freedom is now suspended, in that Italy is fully established in the country. There is no well recognized government in the country among the Abyssinians. A few men who have been holding out, have been doing so on their own account, but not because they have been supported by the exiled emperor or his defunct government. Any appeal therefore, to the American public on behalf of Haile Selassie's government, suggesting that the war is still going on for the re-conquest of the country, should not be accepted as a truth, but should be explained so the American public might



The new year is still young, but already things are happening with rather awe-inspiring swiftness here in the nation's capital.

Insiders see in the emergence of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune as a top flight leader one of the most important developments of the past few months.

A seasoned and perennial campaigner through countless years of money-raising for her school in Florida, Mrs. Bethune has gathered everything and everybody under her very ample wing since her arrival here last June.

Today—with the possible exception of Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell—she occupies undoubtedly the most strategic position in the administration, simply because she has managed to bring together for unified thought and action all the Negroes high in government authority. Only one who has been in Washington for some time can understand what a big order that was.

The Conference on the Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth that Mrs. Bethune sponsored recently marked the first time since the President came into the White House that the Negroes he appointed to big jobs were able to get together and agree on any logical program for his consideration.

Bickering and petty jealousies had split the so-called "Black Cabinet" into many factions. For several years there had been no coordination, and little cooperation, between its members. Each had become more or less content to do his own special job without bothering about "larger things" affecting the race as a whole.

The appointment of Mrs. Bethune as director of the hitherto rather obscure Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration brought few huzzans from the brown brain-trusters. Either they were unaware of her tremendous energy and grasp of things, or they underestimated the potential power of her position. At any rate they were unprepared for the manner in which she took the whole situation under her control.

Through sheer force of personality she drew the whole "Black Cabinet" together, first for a series of meetings, then for the most successful conference of Negroes ever held in the capital. Out of that conference the group emerged with a single, clearly-stated program for the Federal government as it touches upon each phase of Negro life—a program that is simple and yet complete, visionary and yet thoroughly concrete.

To this program the Negroes in high places here are now pledged. The course of each is plotted, and in the measure to which he accomplishes the aims set down for him will be the measure of his usefulness.

On such a basis, at last, the "Black Cabinet" should begin to function as a unit.

With labor unions intensifying their activities in every section of the country, it is only natural that unions should spring up on every side in the government departments.

Strongest among these at present is the American Federation of Government Employees, which admits Negroes without discrimi-

use proper judgment in the matter.

Haile Selassie until his defeat and exile, only considered Negroes as being of no consequence, but his viewpoint must not be considered as the viewpoint of the Abyssinian masses who are as unfortunate as the oppressed Negroes everywhere. The American Negro should, by his own agency, establish contact with the Abyssinian Negroes for better understanding, that they may work with them for the future redemption of the country in common with the redemption of Africa. An independent course should be taken and no one should allow himself to be deceived into believing that much more can be accomplished through Haile Selassie himself.

attention. This group at present is waging a fight against reductions and curtailment in the government service, and has succeeded in winning a number of its fights.

Recently a new group came into being under the guidance of Edgar G. Brown, assistant to the director of Emergency Conservation Work. This organization, comprised for the most part are laborers, messengers and those in the lower brackets of government service, has adopted a program calling for a \$1,500 minimum basic wage for all government employees, with automatic promotions in all agencies; a 5-day, 30-hour week and optional 30-year retirement. It is also demanding that a Board of Civil Service Appeals be created, with at least one colored member, to consider alleged discrimination on the part of government personnel officers.

This program was endorsed, and adopted as a resolution, by members of the Conference on Negro Affairs. It will be among the problems to be placed before the President for his consideration in the near future.

Newest member of the official family circle is attractive Miss Veta V. Lewis, recently appointed to the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor.

Miss Lewis' appointment was made possible through an assignment of Social Security funds, which will make available aid to Negro families never before possible.

Under the maternal and child health provision of the Act, which will be administered by the Children's Bureau, programs of public health nursing service by Negro nurses are being greatly extended, training and supervision midwives are being developed, short post-graduate courses or institutes for Negro physicians and dentists are being started—in many instances under Negro leadership—and demonstrations of maternal and child health work are being set up.

Special attention will be given to the needs of Negro crippled children. In many states hospital and convalescent care facilities will be extended to Negro children for whom they have not been readily available hitherto. Negro social workers, trained in child welfare, are being employed to extend the services for dependent and neglected children, and children in danger of becoming delinquent, in many areas.

No "first family" in many decades has been as liberal in its attitude toward Negroes as have the Roosevelts.

It is no secret that Congressman Mitchell is a frequent White House visitor, and that his advice and counsel is sought on all matters of race policy.

Others whose hats hang frequently in the White cloak rooms are Mrs. Bethune and Walter White. Last week, Mrs. Crystal Byrd Faust of Philadelphia, whom Mrs. Roosevelt described later in her daily column as "an intelligent, level-headed member of the younger group of colored women who are really constantly, constantly working to improve the condition of their people," discussed with the First Lady plans for developing mutual understanding between

(Continued on Page Seven)

His exile from the country will be as permanent as Mussolini decides. The hope of Abyssinia, therefore, rises with other forces than Haile Selassie. Primarily it rests with the loyal Abyssinians who remain in the country and who must work out a diplomatic scheme of surprising the Italians. This may come through civil war, when they are ready or through Italy becoming involved in an European war to render her incapable of protecting her interest in Abyssinia.

To accomplish any good this way, the Abyssinians and their Negro friends must work quietly and diplomatically and not in the way the emperor and his agents have been working by making statements which are

(Continued on Page Seven)