

COMMENTS

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OPINIONS

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.

EDITORIALS

ECHOES OF THE NEWS

By H. J. FORD, Washington, D.C.

SCOTTSBORO COMPROMISE

News comes from Alabama that a plan has been reached to end the six year old Scottsboro cases next fall in a compromise between the defense and prosecution. On the surface it is indeed refreshing news, but when we consider the nature of the compromise we have a much better name for the arrangement. It looks more like a complete surrender of the defense. A report says the judge has said the people "are sick and tired of the affair and don't care what happens so long as it is settled once and for all." We, too, are sick and tired of the affair, the country at large—in fact the whole world—is sick and tired of the affair, but we do care what happens.

According to the terms of the proposed compromise the defendants are to plead guilty to a crime the world believes they did not commit, and the state will sentence them for a period of less than seventy-five years. And they call it a compromise. We fail to see the wisdom of a compromise that takes all and gives nothing. If the boys are guilty they should be punished without prejudice or favor, and if they are innocent they should be liberated without delay. Any arrangement which does not incorporate these conditions cannot be considered a compromise. A fair and impartial trial for these ignorant boys who have suffered a living hell at the hands of the state of Alabama, would be as much of a compromise as we could desire.

POLITICAL PERPLEXITIES

The Supreme Court issue holds the spotlight today in the field of national politics and recent happenings seem more to complicate than clarify the situation. The adverse report of the senate judiciary committee the retirement of Associate Justice Van Devanter, the "whole hog or none attitude of the president, the ill-advised statements of Mr. Farley, and the determination of those opposed to the bill, all tend to belie the much repeated statement that "all is well along the Potomac." Democratic senators opposing the president's plan to add six new members to the court, face opposition of the party leaders in the coming elections, if alleged statements of the chairman of the party national committee are correctly interpreted, and the offer of the Republicans to support at the polls Democrat Senator Clark and others foreshadows a shift in alignment heretofore unknown.

The vacancy created so unexpectedly by the voluntary retirement of Mr. Justice Van Devanter has given the president his first opportunity to make an appointment of a judge where he is so anxious to appoint six, but herein lies another difficulty. Any appointment at this stage of the court fight would cause dissatisfaction in some quarters, and to delay an appointment would place the president another dilemma. Today the unanimous opinion of congress is that Senator Robinson is the logical man for the place, but being the outstanding spokesman of the administration on the floor of the senate and engineer-extraordinary of the president's bills, his services in the fields of the greatest fight in congress for generations could not well be spared. A constitutional question also arises. The constitution forbids the appointment of any member of the House or Senate to any office created during the term served by such member. The retirement of Mr. Van Devanter comes under the Act of March 1, 1937, as stated in his letter to the president, then no member of the present Congress is eligible for the Supreme Court appointment. Again the element of time which the president hopes would help in gaining strength for the bill, has not provided the desired result. Time, however, and a plenty of it will be consumed, from all indications, before this outstanding question will be settled.

WHAT—ANOTHER DEPRESSION?

Senator Millard Tydings of Maryland, speaking in the Senate a few days ago, in opposition to an appropriation for a dam, predicted another depression. He named as authority for his prediction, Marriner Eccles, former Vice-president Dawes, and many eminent economists throughout the country. These men should be in position to read the signs of the times and, our group would do well to take them seriously. While it is true that most of us are still in the depression of 1929, the much publicized prosperity not having reached us, we know that when and if another one comes we again will be the first to be fired and the last to be rehired, and must unravel bales of red tape to secure assistance. Why not lay aside a little each day and otherwise fortify ourselves for any eventuality.

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

The Social Security Board has announced the appointment of a special advisory council to cooperate with the Board in working out possible changes in the old age provisions of the act and other necessary amendments. The advisory council of 24 representing labor, management and the public, is to meet

BRONZE Standouts Eddie ALLEN

Advertisement for Eddie Allen featuring portraits of Rose Dexter, Orlando Roberson, and Fats Waller. Text includes: "ROSE DEXTER KARLEM LASSIE, PLAYED A FEATURED PART IN LEONARD STILLMAN'S 'NEW FACES OF 1936' AT THE VANDERBILT THEATRE IN NEW YORK CITY." "ORLANDO ROBERSON SILVER THROATED TENOR, IS NOW CONDUCTING HIS OWN ORCHESTRA." "FATS WALLER SONGWRITER AND PIANO STYLIST HAS RECORDED SO MANY SONGS THAT THEY MAY BE HEARD WHEREVER ENGLISH IS UNDERSTOOD."

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

By E. Hofer

In the past, labor trouble usually consisted of disagreements between employers and unions. In the future, some of our bitterest labor troubles may be the fruits of a remarkable phenomenon — disagreements between labor unions.

Signs of this have already become apparent in a few strikes; the ship strike in New York, shoe strike in Maine, and the automobile strikes for instance. Principals in the inter-union argument are the Committee on Industrial Organization headed by John L. Lewis, and the old American Federation of Labor, led by Wm. Green.

Seeds of discord between the two groups were sown long ago: the A.F. of L. is the staunch defender of the craft union—a union composed of men doing the same kind of work, though they may be employed in a hundred different industries. C.I.O. dream is the "one big union" for example, all automobile workers would be listed in one union, all the steel workers in another and so on, irrespective of what their jobs were in the industry.

Now every time a labor controversy starts, representatives of the CIO and of the A.F. of L. immediately appear on the scene, attempt to influence the workers to join their organizations. In many instances, CIO and A.F. of L. are farther apart and are more bitterly opposed to each other, than are the strikers and the companies. Matters occasionally reach the comic opera stage—for example, recent cases are on record such as where a CIO picketed a shop as being unfair to organized labor, and was in turn picketed by A. F. of L. men with a banner declaring the same shop to be fair.

So far, the CIO has had the best of the battle. But the A. F. of L. hasn't hoisted the flag of surrender yet. It is far bigger than the CIO, has great prestige. Within it are some of the

richest, best established unions. Big A. F. of L. hopes are pinned on a change in the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) which it hopes Congress will endorse.

As now constituted, this act forces elections among workers when trouble appears in an industry. These elections are secret, are impartially conducted, and workers vote for whatever union they want. Union getting a majority vote is the legal representative of all the workers and other unions are out. A. F. of L. wants an amendment to the Act, which would permit a craft union to represent its members in an industry, irrespective of what union speaks for other workers in the same industry. It may be that such an amendment is necessary to the very life of A. F. of L.—in an industry, craft workers, who are usually highly skilled men, are in the minority and can be easily outvoted.

The company union, Business Week says, is definitely on the wane, may entirely disappear before long. Workers just do not like it. Recent test came in the Packard motor company election, held by the Labor Relations Board, when workers had their choice between a company union and a CIO union. CIO came out on top, by a four to one majority.

So the inter-union warfare will involve only the two major groups—CIO and A. F. of L. Both are grinding for the fray, both realize that they are in for real action. Both have been raising money—nowadays unions are big business and require tremendous war chests. Both are conducting most intensive membership drives in years.

What influence a labor "civil war" will have on labor's demands on management remains to be seen. Under any circumstance, the feeling is growing that legislation imposing responsibilities on unions as well as corporations, must be passed.

Bill Robinson Heads Juneteenth Fete at Dallas, Texas

Dallas, June 6 (ANP)—Two series of programs, one given by the Pan American exposition to lure in Emancipation day crowds and the other by colored citizens who resent the attitude of the exposition's executives, will be held here on June 19th when this section makes its annual "Juneteenth" celebration. The Pan American announces it has contracted for Bill Robinson, the tap dancing king, to appear here both June 19th and 20th. Lucky Millinder's orchestra is being brought for the same period. Exposition officials plan to present them from a stage in the semi-circular entrance way of the marble hall of State and at a street dance in the big Court of Honor. Many thousand Negroes are expected, said Director General Frank L. McNeny.

Colored leaders, however, are asking citizens to remain away from this special attraction and attend a counter-celebration. They declare Pan American officials have refused to allow Negro participation in the fair this year and are interested now only because they plan to grab a large part of the money ordinarily spent in Juneteenth observance.

They plan on staging a mammoth parade with floats and banners, with amusements provided at Griggs, Wahoo Lake and Oak Cliff parks. Emancipation day speeches will be made by Roscoe Dunfee, Oklahoma City editor and R. D. Evans Waco attorney. State branches of the N. A. A. C. P. will also hold their convention at the same time.

An Echo From My Den

By S. E. Gilbert

As I sit here in my den, with pen in hand, meditating as it were, there comes to my mind the fact that the average Negro thinks black and reads white.

As a Negro, it is possible you often think black, but you invariably read white. There is no disputing this, for here in Omaha it is shown in the race's lack of solidarity. Economically the Negro is a slave, not because he does not know that the Negro, as a citizen and as a group, needs to develop business enterprises which are the bulwark of economic freedom and independence, but because he has read white so long that he believes there is no way by which these much needed enterprises may be launched. His thoughts are that in a Negro community a Negro grocery is needed. But, when he reads, he comes to the conclusion "That if it is white, it is right."

Going a bit further by illustration, let us take the Negro consumer, for instance. Ninety per cent of the Negroes in Omaha know that it would be helpful to the group, and especially to the many boys and girls who this week are completing their high school and college careers, should they support the Negro merchants, newspapers, professional men and others who are struggling to build something of which we could all be proud, it is white they think. But when they come to read, they take the position that because it is white, it is right, and hence they throw their support not to the black but to the white.

It is not going to do us any good as a group to bewail our economic plight. It is not enough for us to think "black". We must also read black. That means that we must not only think of what will help us as a group to get out of this economic morass, but we must read it into realization by acting upon the thoughts. For what good will it do, or has it done, that we should pity ourselves in our thoughts, while in our actions we throw our sympathy to the other fellow. Say what you may but that is exactly what is being done in Omaha today. And the pity of it is we seem to be unable to do otherwise.

But the possibilities of our ever becoming economically free depends almost entirely on our ability to coordinate our action with our thoughts. We are classed as black Americans, and as such, we cannot succeed by thinking and reading of ourselves as otherwise. If we expect the respect of all men we must qualify by building our own economic structure, and this can only be done through the coordinating of mind, heart and action.

White Manager Slays Worker in Pay Dispute

Columbus, S. C., June 6 (ANP)—Because he argued with a lumber plant manager over what he believed was a shortage in his pay envelope, Harrison Smith, 40-year-old World War veteran, was shot and killed Saturday night by R. L. Whitson, white. Officers said Smith complained Saturday afternoon about the shortage and that evening went to Whitson's home to talk with him. The white man borrowed a pistol and shot at his employe five times, two bullets taking effect. Smith died instantly. The slayer was placed in the County jail.

