

COMMENTS

EDITORIAL PAGE

OPINIONS

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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Race prejudice must go. The Brotherhood 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.

AT THE CROSSROAD—The future of the Negro worker is at the crossroad, and those who should be most concerned are apparently asleep at the switch. Organized labor has never been any too friendly to this minority group, although very reluctantly accepting a few of them into its folds, here and there. Every possible device, prompted by prejudice and race hatred, has been used to keep them from coming into their own. And this in spite of the loyalty they have shown that has no parallel among other races. Ingratitude, you might say, but wait. To add insult to injury the present Congress has before it for passage a bill to legalize these injustices the race now suffers—the wage differential of the Black-Comey Wage Hour bill.

Negroes have normally been supporters of the Republican party in politics, but in the past two national campaigns have gone in surprisingly large numbers into the fold of the Democrats. Can the Negro depend upon the party of his adoption, now that they control, overwhelmingly, both branches of Congress? Will the interest of the race be cared for, or will the dominant party pass the wage-hour bill in spite of those features objectionable to the Negro? And then—will the Negro still support a party that will insist upon such objectionable legislation in spite of the protest of the Negro? We are truly at the crossroad and much depends upon the course of events during the next few weeks.

CHAMPIONSHIPS—The refreshing news that Spelling Bee championships are falling right and left to young Negro contestants convinces us that the field of championships will soon be overrun with Negroes. And why not? A Black boy must be 100 percent better than all other contestants for a chance to compete, and then must win with all odds against him. So when the news comes that there is a new Black champion we know he is a champion indeed. One columnist has said recently that Negroes have won all the championships except tennis, and then asks in disgust "who wants to be tennis champion." We wish to commend all who have entered the various contests and won championships. We wish also to encourage those who did not win the prize and advise them to not give up until they too are victors.

We recall a city where a few years ago annual field days were held in which members of all races took part. A year came when every event was won by a Negro, and the sponsors found an excuse to discontinue the field days. Lowering the bars of race prejudice and showing a little more sportsmanship in all lines of sport, including the big base ball league may add a few surprises to the list of champions.

Borah—What Does He Stand For?

By Louis L. Redding—Reprint from The Crisis, March 1936

It would seem from this analysis of the senator from Idaho, that Negro citizens can place little dependence in him as a statesman and none at all in him as a man having any conception of the hopes, ambitions and rights of Negro Americans

Sometime before the Idaho legislature catapulted him into the United States Senate in 1907, at the age of 42, William Edgar Borah must have adopted as his personal credo a perversion of Emerson's epigram, "A foolish consistency is the hob of little minds." This is not to say that Senator Borah has been cognizant that the record he has been building up for himself is one in which inconsistency is the only constant trait. It may be that he lacks a clear-cut fundamental political philosophy. There are observers who ascribe the Senator's characteristic teetering between opposite poles of a question to ignorance, which might arise from just such a lack. They think Mr. Borah is as baffling a puzzle to himself as to others—that he as little knows what he wants to do as others know. In her "Revelations of a Woman Lobbyist" Maude Young has this to say of Senator Borah: "You talk with him, and think he is with you through and through. But you never quite know. Sometimes you wonder if he knows." To the superficial observer Borah doubtless appears to be a consistent admirer of the Federal Constitution. Throughout his utterances, on the floor of the Senate and elsewhere, recur protestations of reverence for the subervience to the Constitution as framed by the Founding Fathers in the Convention of 1787. He professes to believe "Our fathers understood the science of government as no other single group of men has ever understood it" and the Constitution they built "the greatest instrument of government ever devised by the wit of man." Of the fathers, it is Hamilton who most snares his admiration, and Borah has termed him "In many respects the greatest constructive genius who ever dealt

BRONZE Standouts

DON REDMAN
 MAY BE SEEN RIDING HORSEBACK ANY MORNING IN CENTRAL PARK WHEN HE IS IN NEW YORK.

BOB HAYES
 NEWS COMMENTATOR AND SHOW CRITIC, HAS BEEN WRITING FOR NEWSPAPERS FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS. HIS READERS CALL HIM 'UNCLE BOB'.

DeLloyd McLAY
 INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN PIANIST, HAS HER HANDS INSURED FOR \$50,000. (AND NO CENTS)

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 mind that age old subject of "Inferiority Complex."

If you conduct yourself properly why the inferiority complex? Just because your parents are not college bred, are not wealthy and do not hold a high place in society is not a good and sufficient reason why you should feel inferior to those who possess such advantages.

If you and your family are honest and respectable, clean in mind and thought, and you take care of what you have, you need not fear the other man.

It is a false idea that one human being is on a higher plane than the rest of humanity, because he or she has more in material things. Those who would have you think them superior are not, really. Especially if by manner or word, they show arrogance or snobbishness then you know their veneer is only skin deep.

So why be afraid of veneer put on to cover up real inferiority? An inferiority complex is something that grows rapidly. It unfits the one who has it for carrying on as he otherwise should. A feeling of mediocrity is a great stumbling block to progress. Don't admit, even to yourself, that you are not on the same plane with those who try to impress you with their importance. But instead, say to yourself that if one individual can accomplish a certain feat in life, so can I.

with the science of government."

Yet to that concept in the constitutional framework so highly valued by Hamilton and his associates in the Constitutional Convention Senator Borah was a greater instrument of violence than any other individual. He was chagrined because in 1903, the first time he was a candidate for the United States Senate, a bloc in the Idaho legislature defeated him by four votes. When he did reach the Senate, he steered through it the Seventeenth Amendment, transferring the election of Senators from the state legislatures to the whole electorate. No change wrought in the Constitution has had a more devastating effect on the original plan than this Amendment. The framers believed that the success of the bicameral legislative system depended upon each chamber's owing its election to a different electorate. Moreover, they thought a highly limited electorate for the upper chamber would send that body a superior rank of statesmen. Borah's chief hero, Hamilton, set forth in the "Federalist," the idea of the framers:

Through the medium of the State legislatures—which are select bodies of men, and who are to appoint the members of the National Senate—there is reason to expect that this branch will generally be composed with peculiar care and judgment.

Whether Mr. Borah reached the conclusion that he and other individuals selected by state legislatures for the Senate fell short of the high expectations of the founders is not known. It more nearly appears that to avenge a personal grievance he let himself contribute mightily to the demolition of a cherished concept of the framers whose wisdom and genius he professed to revere.

(Continued Next Week)

KELLY MILLER SAYS

WHO IS A NEGRO

The decision of the Supreme Court of New York, upholding the covenant forbidding Negroes from owning, renting or occupying property brings to a focus an issue which is bound to figure in local state and national litigation.

The defendants in this case base their contention squarely on the ground that they were not Negroes according to any established scientific or legal definition.

The Court, side-stepping the frontal issue, accepted the working definition in general practice and denied that the case in litigation violated any provision of the Constitution of the United States according to a decision of the Supreme Court in a case of this specific character.

Arthur Garfield Hays, the well known militant attorney of radical causes, declared his intention in advance of appealing the case to the Supreme Court of the United States and force from that final tribunal a legal definition of the term "Negro."

The fact that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Civil Liberties joined in the suit indicates clearly that this issue will be forced to final judicial determination.

When Mr. Hays announced his intention of appealing the case to the United States Supreme Court, I was in the midst of preparing an article for the May issue of Opportunity on a suitable racial designation for the so-called "Negro" or "Colored" group of the United States.

I then predicted the outcome of the pending suit and prophesied that both the local and Supreme Court would side-step a judicial

definition. Whatever I said there was so pertinent to the issue involved that I cannot do better than repeat it here.

"Prior to 1890 the Census Office sought to subdivide the Negro group into, blacks, mulattoes, quadroons and octoroons. Subsequent to that date it found it impossible to make such sharp discriminations, since these divisions ran imperceptibly one into the other, and also since there was no definite discriminant or criterion by which the one could be separated from the other.

"There are 29 states in which legal distinction exists on account of race, such as separate cars, separate schools, and bans on interracial marriage. It would be seen, therefore, how important it is that here should be a federal definition of "race" if laws are to be based on such distinctions. Hitler will soon be confronted with the necessity of a legal definition of Aryan and the Jew, since he has placed the latter under political and civil disabilities.

"The Southern states have adopted a workable definition of a "Negro" or "colored person," which roughly answers all of their practical purposes. The usual definition of a "Negro" or a "colored person" is based upon the proportion of Negro and white blood, but since no scientific blood test has been discovered, these states have had to fall back upon observation and common judgment.

"Of the 29 states which have enacted laws based on race distinction, no one of them has an ultimate or adequate definition of "race." Individuals of the two races are forbidden to intermarry upon superficial evidence, satisfactory to the clerk of the court. Children are assigned to white or colored schools wholly on superficial appearance. Every train and street car conductor of the south is set up as judge of abstract science of anthropology and ethnology.

"The nearest approach we have to a federal definition of "Negro" or "colored person" was set up by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, where white and colored schools operate under the laws of Congress. The judge decided that a "colored person" is one who, by contact and association abides in the racial status.

"When this question reaches the Supreme Court, if it ever does, it is easy to predict this learned tribunal will side-step a technical and ultimate definition, and will fall back upon the resourcefulness of observation and common sense.

"This august tribunal has passed on laws excluding Japanese, Chinese and Filipinos from becoming citizens by naturalization. In no instance did it set up a definition of what constitutes a Japanese, or a Chinese, or a Filipino, but took the definition for granted.

"Should the Supreme Court undertake a technical definition of "race" it must first define a white man, and the exact point where, on account of inter-mixture of blood, the white man ends and the colored man begins. This would require more wisdom than the "nine wise old men" possess. The Supreme Court will in all likelihood fall back upon the existing definition, based upon heresay and telltale evidence, as long as it is workable."

However the pending case may turn out, it is inevitable that somewhere down the road the Federal judiciary will have to face an ultimate definition.

This nation must either abolish all distinction and discrimination based on blood composition or establish a scientific and legal definition of "race."

MAKES NOTABLE RECORD COLORED RED CROSS

Cincinnati, June 24 (ANP)—The colored advisory board of the Red Cross which had supervision of the disaster awards made to sufferers who sustained losses in the principal colored districts during the recent flood, has completed its work. 6,433 cases were handled and awards in that office amounted to \$74,983.82.

B. W. Overton, secretary of the YMCA was chairman of the committee upon which some of the city's most prominent citizens saw service. The case work was handled by Miss Eileen Yarbrough, supervisor, who had under her supervision 21 case workers and nine stenographic and clerical workers. Miss Yarbrough was enthusiastic in describing the fine working relationship between her office and that of the district Red Cross.

The Works Program National Youth Administration

Washington, D. C.—More than 35,000 colored high school and college students received aid in continuing their studies from the National Youth Administration during the past school year, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the NYA, reports. This figure represents an increase of more than 9,000 over last year's total, and is yet incomplete because of lack of data from states making no racial breakdown in their reports.

Practically every Negro college in the country participated in the program, according to Mrs. Bethune. Parttime jobs were furnished for 6,982 undergraduates and 436 graduate students, many of the latter group benefiting from the special fund set aside for colored students seeking higher degrees who could not be cared for under regular graduate-aid quota. The remaining 28,000 receiving student aid were enrolled in high schools. All were between 16 and 25 years of age.

Not only has the financial assistance given by the NYA made it possible for these young men and women to remain in college, Mrs. Bethune pointed out, but in addition the socially useful work to which these students were assigned contributed definitely to their job-training and guidance.

This work included book-binding, making studies in health and sanitation, tutoring, research assistance in classrooms and laboratories, preparation of bibliographies, and recreational leadership. It is believed that through this program the NYA is serving as a spearhead of attack upon the problems of masses of underprivileged Negro youths in all sections of the country who are economically unable to get training at a time when trained hands and minds are most needed.

With the close of the school year Youth Administration officials the country over are calling upon private industry to open the gates of employment to the young people who are currently being dropped from the NYA payroll, as no provisions are made for continuing Student Aid benefits into summer sessions and budgetary limitations preclude the absorption of any but a negligible few into the NYA assistance came from low-income families, the need for either full or part-time employment for such youth is acute.

"We hope that employers everywhere will scrutinize their personnel needs to the end that as many of these young people as possible will be placed," Aubrey Williams, NYA Executive director, declared. "Their need for employment is demonstrated by the fact that they

MATT HENSON CITED BY MOSCOW PAPERS

Moscow, USSR, June 24 (ANP)—In connection with the brilliant achievement of the Soviet airmen in landing at the North Pole, newspapers here make note of the greetings and praise of Matt Henson, only living person who has been at the North Pole, over the heroic feat. Henson is called an explorer by Moscow newspapers.

"Matt Henson, Negro explorer, who accompanied Robert Peary to the North Pole in 1909, highly praised the Soviet airmen who landed on the North Pole," says one newspaper.

Again one reads: "From scientists, explorers, flyers—from men like Richard Byrd and Larsen, who themselves have flown over the Pole—from Matt Henson, the Negro explorer who stood with Peary when the North Pole was first discovered—all alike are quick to point out the unique character of the Soviet Polar expedition."

have been forced to work part-time during the last nine months in order to attend school or college. If they are cast adrift now without any source of income, many will suffer seriously.

"The National Youth Administration has always recognized that there are certain types of beginners' jobs which rightfully belong to the young, inexperienced worker. Such jobs as these can be filled by youth without seriously affecting the employment of experienced, adult workers with families to support.

"A co-operative and sympathetic attitude on the part of employers, large and small, is needed now in order to uncover as many of these jobs as possible. The sudden dropping of a \$3,000,000 monthly payroll for a particularly needy group of people cannot be effected without serious consequences. The loss can be mitigated only through increased opportunities in private employment."

Young people dropped from the student aid rolls with the cessation of the school term in June will find it difficult to transfer to the Work Projects program in their home communities, Mr. Williams pointed out, as these two phases of the NYA program are set up under separate budgets, one extending over the nine months of the academic year, and the other twelve months. In almost every community quotas for out-of-school youth on the Work Projects Program are already filled, with long waiting lists in reserve. Young people formerly receiving Student Aid who seek certification to the Work Projects Program naturally must take their places at the bottom of the list.

Celebrates Anniversary



MRS. M. E. POTTER

Manager of the Tampa Bulletin in 1914 Orange street, Tampa, Fla., whose paper celebrated its 23rd anniversary last week. The Bulletin produced by colored men and women "from A to Z," was started in 1914 as a "one-man" shop, and is today an "eleven-man" shop. Editor M. D. Potter, Mrs. Potter's proclaims that the paper is the oldest and most widely read newspaper of his group in Florida. The Bulletin is in its own building and has modern equipment. Mrs. Potter is a director of the Tampa Urban League, a member of the Advisory Committee of the colored City Hospital, and recently was elected a trustee of Allen Temple A.M.E. church. She is a graduate of Scotia Seminary, now Barber-Scotia Junior college, Concord, N. C.

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