

COMMENTS

EDITORIAL PAGE

OPINIONS

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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.

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..EDITORIALS..

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.

Hot and Cold on Woman's Vote

Upon no question has Borah given a more convincing display of reaction and a more confounding exhibition of his chameleon-like variability than upon the question of woman suffrage. On February 21, 1910, he introduced in the Senate a resolution proposing that the Constitution be amended to provide that the right of citizens to vote should not be denied or abridged on account of sex. He did not state that his introduction of the resolution was only by request and without prejudice to his personal attitude on the question. He did not explain he was not in favor of such an amendment. The wofen of Idaho, his adopted state, then had suffrage. The natural implication was that he favored the resolution. Later in October, 1913, in a speech at Newark, New Jersey, he declared:

"I do not know of a nobler, more effectual, a more respected and refined power in the whole arena of social forces, and a more womanly woman, than the woman of today who is giving her thought and her purpose, her invincible moral courage, in dealing with the social problems and social reforms with which in the future we must contend more and more. And why withhold from this woman engaged in so noble an enterprise the instrumentality by which she can effectuate what her brain and purpose have planned and outlined?"

Yet in 1914, when the woman suffrage amendment came before the Senate, he opposed it. Later, in 1918, he apparently reversed his position and at an interview with suffragists promised to be bound by the state platform of the Republican Party in Idaho, which had previously endorsed the amendment. At that interview he wrote out a statement, presumably for use by the suffragists, as follows:

We have talked over the Suffrage situation with Senator Borah and our understanding from the interview that he will carry out his platform and vote for the Suffrage Amendment if re-elected.

When the vote on the Amendment was taken in the Senate in 1919, Borah's vote was "Nay." This vote, after his promise, seems a specific bit of mendacity impossible to palliate.

Justification of his blow-hot-blow-cold advocacy of suffrage for women Mr. Borah posited on (1) the doctrine of local self-government and (2) the antagonism of the South to Negro suffrage as exhibited in the south-wide nullification of the 15th Amendment. When the woman suffrage amendment was being debated in the Senate in 1914, he acknowledged his deference to that antagonism in the following words:

The thing which confronts me as a practical proposition in regard to this method is the insurmountable and impassable barrier which stands between the women and suffrage so long as the Negro vote in this country is as it is. There are 16 States in the Union that will never ratify this amendment so long as the Fifteenth Amendment is in the Constitution.

After this prophecy, characteristically bad, he continued: We had just as well be candid and fair about this proposition. Why should the women in this country who want to vote take upon their shoulders the race question in their fight for enfranchisement?

Again when the Amendment was before the Senate in 1919, he cowered low to the South's hostility to Negro suffrage:

Let me ask my friends upon this side of the Chamber, when guaranty is written into the Constitution, which gives to from two and one-half to three million Negro women the right to vote in the South and gives you the power to see that the provision is carried out, do the men on this side of the Chamber (the Republicans—TED.) propose to see that this is done? Do you propose to put the South under Federal control as to elections? If you do, you will have a great task, which you seem lightly to contemplate.

The South has her heavy burden to carry. I do not propose to add unnecessarily to the weight of that burden.

To impose upon the Southern States a rule for local affairs for which they are not prepared and which they do not want, simply because we have the voting power to do so is Prussianism.

(Continued Next Week)

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The Management



Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, contingent which traveled all the way to Washington to take part in the Boy Scout Jamboree in which 26,000 scouts took part. These 18 ranking scouts had at their head C. W. Phillips, Jr., highest scout in East Texas and second scout president of Bishop. John H. Hopkins, white, of Longview, Texas, is field executive of East Texas and accompanied the troupe as did J. V. Anderson, business manager of Bishop college was scoutmaster for the Jamboree trip.

President Joseph J. Rhoads tendered the group a farewell luncheon.

Clarinda, Ia.
News

Miss Louise Nash, Reporter.

Regular services were held at the Second Baptist church Sunday. Both services were well attended.

Mr. E. Montgomery and family spent the Fourth with their mother Mrs. Cora Montgomery.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Morton and Mrs. Ella Cochran of Omaha have moved to Clarinda.

Miss Darlean Baker and Miss Frances Brown left Saturday for Lawrence, Kas., where they will visit their brothers in the CCC camp.

Mrs. Maxine Griggs is greatly improved from her illness.

Mr. Harvey McNeal and Mr. Seth Anderson of Omaha were Sunday visitors in Clarinda.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen spent Tuesday visiting friends in Omaha.

Mr. and Mrs. Burke Cochran were week-end guests in the Oldham home.

Mrs. Georgia Walker is again

able to take up her church duties.

The Cudahy Rex beat the Clarinda All Stars July 5th. There were many Omahans present.

Mrs. Lou Nash is recovering from a burn on the arm.

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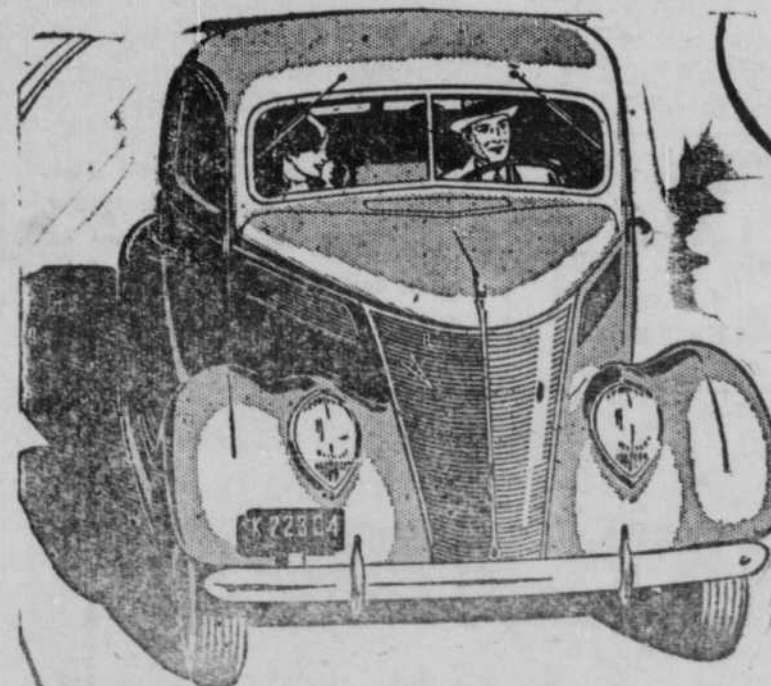
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