

COMMENTS

EDITORIAL PAGE

OPINIONS

THE OMAHA GUIDE

Published Every Saturday at 2418-20 Grant Street, Omaha, Nebraska

Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927, at the Postoffice at Omaha, Neb., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 PER YEAR

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

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

That his State's Rights attitude on the woman suffrage was a purely artificial device to cloak his personal prejudices can be inferred from his willingness to vote for what he called a "white amendment" to the federal woman suffrage amendment. He proclaimed, "When this white amendment was presented, I voted to make it (the woman suffrage amendment) a white amendment." Curiously enough, the record does not support his statement. The record shows that on March 19, 1914, he voted against two such amendments, each presented by the Mississippi senators, Vardaman and Williams. The Williams amendment provided: "The right of white (italics supplied) citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex." The Vardaman proposal, while not expressly eviolating the woman vote, was even more vicious, for it provided "in all other respects (that is in all respects other than sex) the right of citizens to vote shall be controlled by the State wherein they reside." Under this proposal, constitutional impediments to the abrogation of all Negro suffrage, male as well as female, would have been dissolved and the State left free to negate the Fifteenth Amendment. It was one or both of these proposals that Borah mistakenly declared he had voted for.

Mistake to Give Negroes Vote

A Conclusion as to Borah's willingness to wipe out the Fifteenth Amendment rests upon something more explicit than inferences from his statement as to the "white amendment."

I will say very frankly (Borah announced during the 1914 debate on woman suffrage) I am one of those who believe that it was a mistake to bestow upon the colored people at that particular time the right to vote.

That his view was not unanimously shared by the reply Senator McCumber made:

Had it not been granted then it would not have been granted, and we would have had in this day a large population that were not citizens of the country. If it had not been granted at that time it never would have been granted afterwards.

Two weeks later Borah went further:

Mr. President, I say very frankly that if woman suffrage in this country depended upon the repeal of the Fifteenth Amendment, if there were no way to get woman suffrage except to get by an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and I believe that in order to get it the Fifteenth Amendment would have to be repealed, I would vote to repeal the Fifteenth Amendment.

Asked by Senator Thomas of Colorado whether, "for the purpose of restoring prior conditions," he would vote to repeal the Fifteenth Amendment, Borah replied:

I want to say to the Senator that if there is to be found no way in which to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment, I would unhesitatingly vote to repeal it. It is a certainty now that it is a delusion and a snare.

(The full deadliness of such repeal to the Negro citizens Borah himself recently indicated. On January 28, 1936, on the hustings in Brooklyn, N. Y. to advance his political aspirations replying to the badgering of Negroes in his audience, he said: If there is anybody in the United States who ought to be interested in maintaining the integrity of the Constitution—it is the colored man, because it is his charter of living. (italics supplied).

The spectacle of Borah simultaneously professing a sincere belief in the betterment of the government by the inclusion of women in the electorate and thwarting such a social advance by dragging in the Negro question is typical of his self-contradiction. Such conduct, if Borah should not insist upon being judged by a higher-than-average standard, might be regarded as the sheerest hypocrisy. It might also be regarded as indicating an obsession with the race problem. He has said:

I regard the race question as the Nemesis of American life. I sympathize deeply with the people upon whom falls most heavily the burden of solving it. Sphinx-like, inscrutable, an intractable it intrudes itself at every national life, no outlook but is colored by the sinister shadow of this problem. We of the North can afford to take counsel upon this matter. We can afford to listen to the requests of our Southern friends.

(Continued Next Week)

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BRONZE Standouts Eddie ALLEN

MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE WILLIAMS FAMOUS RADIO ARTISTS, MR. S. WILLIAMS, KNOWN ON THE AIR AS EVA TAYLOR, HAS DONE MUCH TO POPULARIZE MANY OF HER HUSBAND'S SONGS. "WISH I COULD SHIMMY LIKE MY SISTER, KATE" WAS HIS FIRST HIT. JUANO HERNANDEZ A VETERAN OF STAGE, A MUSICIAN, SINGER AND DANCER; IS MOST POPULAR AS RADIO'S "JOHN HENRY," MYTHICAL BLACK RIVER GIANT, AND IS AT PRESENT N.B.C.'S M.C. ON THE "GOOD TIME SOCIETY" PROGRAM.

Echo of the News

By H. J. Ford, Wahsington,

HEAVEN ON EARTH

While we, a lifelong Baptist, cannot agree with Father Divine in his claim that he is God, the diminutive pretender should be given some credit for the leadership he has established which far outshines any other in spite of his messianic claims. Those most disturbed by his activities spare no pains in telling the world the humorous side of his cult's behavior, but none have thrown any light on that phase of his work, which if adopted generally would make this world a better place in which to live, truly creating a heaven on earth.

There is no color line in Father Divine's heaven, which is strictly in keeping with spiritual pronouncement. Divine also teaches his followers to be thrifty, pay their debts, and learn self-government. They are admonished to form good habits, to be honest, industrious, and peaceful, and with such objectives he finds a fertile field, not only among the leader-hungry Harlemites, but in other far remote places. Critics, while quick to persecute this self appointed god, fail absolutely to offer something better, or even "just as good" and are adding to his popularity by giving his "angels" opportunity to compare his sufferings with the sufferings of the "Man of Sorrow." We agree that "peace is wonderful," and a few more heavens on earth would do this old world no harm.

Cong. Arthur W. Mitchell Files Suit

It was recently announced that on May 10th Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell filed suit against the Illinois Central, the Rock Island and the Pullman Railroad companies for forcing him to ride in a jim crow car in Arkansas while on his way to Hot Springs.

Atty. Richard E. Westbrook is asking for \$50,000 for the Congressman.

Everybody's Going!

WHERE? To the big Carnival Dance featuring Anna Mae Winburn and her Swing Band on Mon., July 26, at the beautiful Dreamland hall. The Bacchanite Boys will be on hand to see that everybody has fun.

C. I. O. SPEAKS

(Continued from Page 1)

working conditions. That the general labor movement in America cannot ignore the great body of Negro labor.

Now for some of the bunk: The speaker spent most of his time trying to show that Christianity and the Labor Movement are just alike. Of course, the Christian church is one of the worst jim-crowing institutions in modern civilization—but he perhaps was not referring to any likeness in that particular.

"In no single case has a Negro been discriminated by the C. I. O.," said the speaker. We had no facts to disprove it, but some how we know that such a sweeping statement is always untrue in America. Of course the C. I. O. is young, but no institution dominated by American whites can claim such racial-unconsciousness. Besides, had already heard an unimpeachable colored man say that in Cleveland, O., they had tried to get the C. I. O. leaders to use their influence to get Negro workers on a job dominated by a C. I. O. union, and tried in vain. That is at least negative (but very effective) discrimination against "the colored brother."

"No discrimination whatsoever!" exclaimed the speaker. We've heard that before,—from the American Federation of Labor. Nice resolution,—audable aim,—but not yet a fact in the A. F. of L.—We have also heard that same exclamation from American Communists, Socialists, Democrats, Republicans, and even from the employing situation actually is.

Colored and white workers class, and muchly from the New Deal. But we know what the sit-sit together, work on committees together," but that's no achievement of the C. I. O. They were doing that in Alabama coal and iron fields 35 years ago.

The Negro must not be swept off his feet: the poor black devil is in such a "fix" in America that he grabs at any new thing as salvation. If the C. I. O. will use dynamite on whites when they want to bully them, they'll use something worse (maybe TNT) on Negroes, when they get to the place where they want to bully Negroes.

There is no hope in the brutality of one section of Labor against another. Cruelty, violence, lawbreaking are dangerous from any quarter they proceed. Even Roosevelt will find that out before it is all over.

NAACP. Open Letter

(Continued from Page 1) tie." The Supreme Court of the United States has repeatedly held that a "State" can only act through its officers or agents and the denial of equal protection or due process by an officer of the state is "state action" within the meaning of the Fourteenth amendment.

A check of the records of senators who raised this point will show that they constantly vote for the granting of federal monies to the state for direct relief, etc., and then attempt to raise the question of states' rights against all forward legislation.

Objection Raised: The bill is a force bill, aimed at the South: Answer:

Lynching is a national evil, although the majority of the lynchings occur in the South. The Fourteenth amendment applies to all states alike.

An increasing majority of southerners desire an effective anti-lynching bill a poll taken by the American Institute of Public Opinion in January, 1937 reveal the following answer to the question "Should Congress Enact a law which would Make Lynching A Federal Crime,"

Table with 3 columns: Region, Yes, No. Nation: 70 p.c. 30 p.c. SOUTH: 65 35 New England: 75 25 Mid. Atlantic: 72 28 West Central: 70 30 Mountain: 65 35

Leading southern newspapers endorse the principle of a Federal anti-lynching bill.

Objection Raised: The bill does not reach all forms of illegal killings: Answer:

The bill is aimed only at these killings in which the state government is a silent participant or by withholding its protection from the victim. Ordinary killings, gang killings and killings and violence incident to labor disputes are omitted because in these types of killings there is usually no breakdown in state law before the killing and subsequent to the killing the police, prosecutor and court actually function.

Objection Raised: The bill by placing a penalty on the peace officer will discourage a conscientious officer from taking a person into custody where he is charged with a crime which has inflamed public sentiment. Answer:

The amended bill demands that peace officers fulfill the duties of their office and take active steps to protect a person suspected of or charged with a crime even though the person has not been taken into custody. A peace officer could not escape his responsibility by refusing to arrest a person and allowing him to be lynched by a mob.

Objection Raised: The bill is a political gesture: Answer:

More than 100 cooperating and sponsoring organizations with a total membership of more than fifty million people from all sections of the country have endorsed the principle of Federal anti-lynching legislation. The vote on the Gavagan bill, April 15, 1937, showed 194 Democrats and 72 Republicans for the lynching bill; and 116 Democrats and 3 Republicans against. In 1922 a Republican House of Representatives passed the Dyer anti-lynching bill. Objection Raised: The lynching problem is the problem

of rape, protection of home and fireside, womanhood, etc. Answer:

Less than one-sixth of the victims of lynchings have been accused by the lynchers themselves of any sort of sex crime (Chadborn's Lynching and the Law University of North Carolina Press, 1933). Southern white women themselves want a Federal anti-lynching bill. They have repudiated the theory that lynching is necessary for the purpose of protecting womanhood. The most powerful denunciation comes annually from the Ass'n. of Southern White Women for Prevention of Lynching whose director is Mrs. Jessie Daniel Amos Standard Building, Atlanta, Ga.

Objection Raised: The states themselves are capable of handling the lynching evil. Answer:

Five thousand one hundred and eight persons, men and women, white and black, have been lynched in America since 1882. No punishment whatever has been inflicted upon the lynchers in 99.2 per cent of the lynchings. In eighth-teths of one per cent of the lynchings punishment was very slight. This is the record of the manner in which states have handled the lynching problem.

Objection Raised: Lynchings are no worse than "gangster killings" of the North and, therefore, Congress should not enact an anti-lynching bill unless it includes these "gangster killing." Answer:

Lynchings are more than murders. They embody the complete breakdown of the law enforcement machinery of the law enforcement of the state. The peace officers do not attempt to do anything about lynchings—peace officers investigate gang killings, make arrests and prosecute.

Gang killing are furtive and secret—lynchings are frequently perpetrated in public after wide publicity. The local community sanctions lynching and protects the members of the mob—local communities condemn gang killings and insist on the arrest and conviction of the gangsters.

It is your duty, black Americans, to put forth a concerted effort to have them change their selfish views and give our qualified boys and girls who are struggling to get an education, a chance. You doing unto you as they would have you do, in dollars and cents.

I propose a campaign in Omaha which will ultimately result in the placing of at least one clerk in every store in that section of the city with a large Negro patronage.

The race should get back in the form of wages some of the hundreds of thousands of dollars it spends annually with these merchants.

THE LOW DOWN from HICKORY GROVE



JO SERRA

Up to now I been lettin' some one else but me, worry about these taxes and deficits, and such truck. Never seemed very much of my business, if any, but I guess I been asleep at the switch, as you might say.

But I'm sure gettin' woke up with a bang, here lately. Mrs. Jo, she came back from the grocery store the other day and she says, look here Josephus, you will have to pony up some more change, if the Sunday dinner is to be much more than shadow. And say, did that bring me outta my coma.

Somebody has been foolin' me about who pays the taxes and expenses of all these things we been told was gonna make everything tip-top for everybody.

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 an article that appeared on the front page of the Omaha Guide a short time ago with the caption of "Buy Nebraska Made Goods Says Storz." Re stating this caption with different words I write "Spend Your Money with Merchants and Firms Who Show Willingness, Not by Words but by Action to Give Us Employment."

Throughout the country civic and race minded Negroes are launching campaigns to cause merchant and firms who enjoy a large race patronage to employ members of the race in their businesses.

Dear readers perhaps you are not aware of the fact that in Omaha 16,000 Negroes spend an average of \$1.24 per person daily, making a total expenditure per day of \$22,867.00, an annual expenditure of \$10,000,000.

Ask yourself the question what would the unfair merchant and firms do if you would direct your buying power along the channel in which may be found Negroes employed, instead of the channel where none are found

On 24th street, there are stores enjoying a lucrative patronage from Negroes, which include drug stores, grocery stores, dry good stores, ice cream stands etc., who do not share any of the profit received with those who give it.

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Nebr. Quota 475

President Roosevelt affixed his signature immediately to the new CCC Legislation the other day. With this final executive action, the former Emergency Consolation Work Organization became officially the CCC.

The 30,000 colored juniors and war veterans enrolled in the CCC will continue. The camp steward, three cooks and leader in each camp will be exempted from an age limit of other junior enrollments. 457 Negro youth of Nebraska are eligible to make application in the new set-up which is in process for opening headquarters for that purpose. Watch the papers for further information.

I can see now that it has been listen' to. When they commence to fumble around in the pockets of my old jeans, I commence to savvy.

Maybe if I get woke up enough, I'll do something about it, except just squawk. I guess I'll write em' a postcard down there in Washington, and I'll drop 'em a hint that I'm gettin' registered for the next election. Yours, with the low-down