

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..

Once A Ku Klux—Always A Kluxer

By William Pickens for A. N. P.

Colored Americans do lots of wishful thinking. They find themselves in hot water and so often on the horns of dilemma, that they like to imagine things are going to be O. K.—in spite of all natural laws. Some are pretending to hope that Hugo Black is going to change his fundamental character after nearly half a century: that is they expect Judge Black to do something no other man has ever done. Hugo Black joined the Ku Klux Klan when he was a matinee man, 36 years old, 16 years out of college, and often he had held various public offices, that is, he knew what it was all about and joined knowingly and deliberately. It was his character. He may alter his tactics on occasion, but he cannot change his character now, even if he should vote to give the Scottsboro boys a break, when their case comes before the Supreme Court, it will be only a tactical gesture, to justify the greater devilry of voting later against Negro suffrage and equal citizenship rights and of keeping him chained by inferior education and segregation.

But why take my word for it? Why not take Black's own words? Here's what Black himself said on Feb. 19, 1930, when he was arguing in the Senate against the possibility that some other man could change his character.

"I do not mean that, as an invariable rule, a man is so bent or has such a trend that he cannot alter his method of thought, but I do mean to say that as a general rule a man follows in the future the course he has followed in the past. Show me the kind of steps a man made in the sand five years ago, and I will show you the kind of steps he is likely to make in the same sand five years hence. Show me the course he is pursuing then, and, unless there has been a cataclysm, that has absolutely changed his character, I will show you a course he is going to follow in the future. It is merely according to the law of nature. It is written on the human heart. It is inscribed on the tablets of the external government—the government of nature."

So Senator Black agreed with us in 1930 that a man will not change fundamentally. Senator Black of 1930 and Judge Black of 1937 are the same person.

MEDDLERS

(By William Henry Huff for A. N. P.)

They planted weeds among the flowers, Those crude and ugly weeds; They poured their venom out in showers, And reveled in their deeds. They tried to turn sweet love to hate: Why would they do such thing? But Providence will compensate, Swift vengeance will it bring.

They took the truth and twisted it, If twist it will or bend; They tried so hard to make it fit Their base and evil end. They sprinkled tares among the grain, Its progress to impede, But, after all, what will they gain, If all these things succeed.

EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

MOBS AND MEN from the New York World Telegram

Recently near Fort Walton, Fla., a group of armed and hooded men stopped a sheriff, seized his 30 year old Negro prisoner on the eve of his trial and riddled him with buck shot. It was Florida's 3rd, and the South's 8th lynching this year. From Villa Rica, Ga., comes another kind of story. Three men—one white and two black—were in a railroad tank thirty feet deep, painting the walls with tar. Suddenly there was a crackle of flame which spread rapidly. A narrow one man ladder led to the top of the tank and safety. F. L. Hill, white foreman for the Southern railroad, stood back and ordered his Negro assistants up the ladder. They got out without injury. Foreman Hill was overcome by fumes and burned to death.

There is a vast difference between men in mobs and as individuals. As mobs they are emotional, brutal, cowardly; as individuals they act like F. L. Hill, hero.

That is why our country must have anti lynching and other laws to punish mob anarchy. If ever this democracy is destroyed it will be by mobs.

Economic Review

President Roosevelt's speech on world affairs, in which he castigated dictatorships and proposed a virtual quarantine of bellicose powers, is perhaps the most important international event of many months. It was greeted with almost unanimous praise in this country, by papers of all political affiliations. It charted a definite course which this government is apparently prepared to follow. It was direct, aggressive and, for the head of the government, extremely daring. In the view of the experts, it is believed certain that the British and possibly the French foreign offices were consulted before the speech was made, and that the plan of action laid down by the President is approved by the three great democracies of the world.

Mr. Roosevelt's suggestion is as simple as it is revolutionary. In effect, he said that it might be necessary to place a towering commercial wall around the nations which are responsible for today's war scares and war prospects. Peaceful nations would refuse to export to these countries, and they would not import from them. Little by little, as supplies on hand dwindled, the belligerent powers would find themselves lacking in the raw and finished materials which are essential to life both in peace and in war. Thus, faced with want and privation, they would find it impossible to pursue their dreams of conquest.

The president did not mention any country by name. But it was obvious that he was referring to three powers: Japan, Italy, Germany. Italy has taken over Abyssinia, in disregard of all treaties, by armed force. Japan is attempting to achieve a similar victory in rich North China. And Germany with Hitler as its spokesman makes no secret of the fact that it regards colonial expansion as essential.

The world effect of such a declaration of potential policy would have been nowhere near as great had it come from the head of any other country. We are remote from all other major powers. We are peacefully inclined. We are one of the two nations which are economically self contained—that is, which possess within their territorial borders the resources needed to provide every necessity and most of the luxuries of modern life. And, for the past few years, we have been the great question mark in international affairs—we have moved slowly, said little and have kept aloof from participation in world events.

The President's attitude, roughly described, is that we could not escape being involved in a major war, that we must therefore cooperate to prevent war. He gave approval to American cooperation with the League of Nations—which, significantly, is shunned by Germany, Italy and Japan. Out of this has come the belief that in the immediate future the world will be divided into two camps—the democracies and the dictatorships. On the side of the democracies there will also be the only dictatorship

Calvin's Digest

By Floyd J. Calvin

Klansman Back It is no longer Mr. Justice Black it is Klansman Black! "Justice" Black and "Klansman" Black are not harmonious terms. And since Mr. Black himself asserted over the radio, "I joined the Klan," there is no doubt about who he is.

Klansman Black has been loaded down with a Catholic secretary, a Jewish law clerk, and a colored messenger. No matter. All waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific can not wash away his oath to Ku Klux terrorism, taken after he reached his majority. Had Mr. Black been charged with something for which he was not responsible, there might be some room for a charitable attitude toward him, but such is not the case.

Of course Mr. Black now says he is not in sympathy with the Klan. A great many people would drop the Ku Klux Klan, and many other ties and affiliations, if by so doing they might win greater approval from their fellows, not to mention important salary increases.

It is now eight Supreme Court Justices, and one Klansman. We're sorry.

U. G. E. Anniversary The first anniversary of the United Government Employees is soon to be appropriately celebrated, and on the record, there is something to celebrate for. This organization has accomplished the remarkable feat of getting "more than \$200,000 in pay increases for low paid government employees" of the Capitol, War and Interior departments. Also, "in New York, Chicago and Baltimore the UGE gained permanent Civil Service appointments for 70 colored clerks with the Social

which is economically self sufficient—Russia.

The strength of an alliance between the democracies of U. S. S. R. is impossible to exaggerate. From either economic or military standpoint, they are immensely superior to the dictatorships. Japan Italy and Germany must import tremendous quantities of the basic commodities in order to exist. They must export their own specialties, such as silk and olive oil and wine, in order to obtain foreign credits. Close the world's markets to them, and at the same time forbid them to buy in democracies, and they would be ruined. And, should they elect to fight, every recognized military expert is certain that they would be doomed to quick and crushing defeat. The U. S. and England have the greatest navies afloat. Russia the largest and best equipped standing army in the world. The dictatorships have nothing to match these instruments of force.

Summing up, a union of the democracies is designed to achieve two ends. One, to maintain peace. Second, if that fails, to make sure that the ensuing war will be swift and ruinous to the dictatorships.

Security Board." In the investigations which preceded the actual granting of pay increases to the lowest paid group of government workers, it was discovered that some had served the government for 34 years without an increase. Other classes of workers, which are better organized, have secured increase after increase. But not so the class which needed it most.

The UGE, Edgar G. Brown, president, stands for a \$1,500 minimum wage for all government employees in the Federal and District of Columbia service; equal pay for the same work regardless of race, creed or color; and appointment of a Negro to an administrative post in the U. S. Civil Service Commission.

The UGE is doing a fine job of education among a class of our people who need it badly. They hold regular meetings every Friday night and every third Sunday afternoon, where labor questions and issues are discussed, and the workers are kept informed on their condition, and their relation to other workers in the changing labor situation.

Quite properly, the UGE quotes Congressman Glenn Griswold of Indiana, in its campaign for an enlarged membership, as follows: "Whatever class you are in, get into an organization and stay there. Unless you do, you are not carrying your share of the responsibility. These organizations cost money to maintain and operate. The cost is negligible in comparison to the benefits derived by the workers. You want to carry your own responsibility and bear your own burden of expense. If you are not a member of some organization you are living off the charity of those who do belong and bear the costs. You are an object of charity. You are accepting benefits you did not pay for. You and your family are spending money that was produced for you by other persons' money and effort. That is why I say I am a bit ashamed to think that some do not belong. I am sure that you never gave it serious thought. You never realized what your organization means to you."

Durham Bank Recently we had occasion to talk with Mr. R. L. McDougald, vice president and cashier of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank of Durham, N. C. As we talked, we could see white men and women in line, marching to the teller's window to make deposits or withdrawals, in the routine of the day. It is Mr. McDougald's belief that a bank run by colored people can just as well do business with white people, and maintain the same rules of efficiency, courtesy and safety for all. At first this idea was somewhat novel for the South, but the Durham bank has quietly gone ahead, and now its policy is being more widely accepted and approved by both races. The white banks accept the bank run by colored people as another financial institution of the city, which means the Mechanics Bank is given a good rating along with all other banks of the city.

Backing up this new spirit is the coming in of accounts from public service corporations, and municipal county and state governments.

As a further indication of what successful bank management can bring to the group, this year the Durham colored bank executives were invited to attend the bankers institute at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. If the Mechanics Bank is to be accepted as a part of the financial community, then it follows that the executives of the bank should have an opportunity to get the latest and best information on policies and practices in bank management. Hence the invitation. The Mechanics executives, of course, readily accepted the invitation, attended all sessions of the institute for a week, and were greatly benefited.

The Durham bank, however, is not by any means getting away from its own group. Since the depression, emphasis has been placed on character rather than collateral and much good in the community has been done by adopting this policy. Also, opportunity is sought to foster worthwhile enterprises and responsible individuals, in rendering economic and social service to the community.

Is The Danger Of War Real?

By DAYTON E. HECKMAN, Assistant Professor in Government, University of Omaha

Do you believe that there is any immediate danger of war?

Concern about this increasingly frequent question is natural. We Americans hope for peace, but we regard war as inevitable.



Dayton E. Heckman

The ease with which a campaign of devil-making can be conducted in the contemporary world makes it dangerous to be dogmatic about the possibilities of war. Aware of the power of the manipulators of public opinion and their persuasiveness, it still seems unlikely that we American people face the likelihood of immediate, formal war. The fact that we discuss the possibility of war in such dispassionate tones is prima facie evidence of the absence of any war hysteria.

But there is even greater reason to hope for peace. Popular support of any major war is essential. Such support can be secured only when the public is persuaded that its material well-being is about to be destroyed, its strategic interests threatened, or its sentimental values annihilated.

All Usually Needed Any one of these may create popular hostility. Usually all three have been required to provoke the contagion which leads to war.

The Spanish situation in the American mind is little more than negligible in comparison to the characteristic quarrelsomeness of European states.

The Sino-Japanese controversy is more significant. Will it nurture a new crop of war hysteria?

We have shown an amazing lack of concern about the refusal of the government to protect American property rights in China. Millions of American dollars are invested there. But while these investments may be lost, they do not threaten the material well-being of the general public.

Limit to Propaganda Neither is it likely that even the most adept propagandist could persuade us that this is true. After all, there are limits to the efficacy of propaganda.

Even more difficult is it to envisage the conviction that any outcome of the Chinese difficulty will rebound to the detriment of our strategic interests in the Pacific.

Are our sentimental loyalties threatened?

Japanese bombings of civilians have upset us—but there is some uncertainty whether the killing of non-combatants is fundamentally worse than the killing of anyone else. True, Japan has violated its treaty obligations; but the conviction that treaties are not "mere scraps of paper" has not been dissipated by recent world history.

Attachments Not Strong We have no specific sentimental attachment to China; we find it difficult to see her nominal republic as an exemplar of democracy fighting autocracy.

At most, we sympathize with China because of our disposition to favor the underdog. But, whatever uncertainty our conscience may cause us, we defend our lethargy by persuading ourselves that while China may be defeated she will not be conquered.

Upon such ground it would be difficult to compose a new song of hate.

Another column of discussion by a member of the University of Omaha faculty will appear in this space next week.

An Echo From My Den

By S. E. Gilbert

As I sit here in my den, with pen in hand meditating as it were; I turn my mind to one very important national bill, referred to as the Wage and Hour Bill. Why the fight?

President Roosevelt recently announced his intention to call an extra session of Congress at which time this all important bill will be listed among the must bills.

Negroes throughout the country should be 100 per cent behind the passage of this bill for the enactment of this bill means that millions of Negroes in the South who are now working from sunup to sundown for \$5 and \$6 a week would be receiving a minimum of \$16.00 for a 40 hour week. Little enough to be sure, but far better than they are now getting.

Behind the opposition to the wages and hour bill stands the shadow of exploited southern Negro labor.

The backbone of the opposition is the South. The fight, whatever its outcome is in essence a new struggle between the North and the South, and as on a previous occasion known to every school the Negro is the Casus Bellum.

The South is becoming rapidly industrialized as factory after factory moves from northern localities to the South.

The reason for this shift is not due to the markets afforded by the land of Dixie, but because that section is a hot bed for starvation wages, political terrorism, abrogation of basic civil rights, void of all facilities that make for advanced civilization in every other part of this country.

These backward conditions in the South are directable to the long historic policy of Negro suppression

and ruthless exploitation.

It is axiomatic that wages paid the lowest paid workers, determine the standard for the rest of the workers. When black American workers are paid scarcely enough to keep body and soul together, it stands to reason that white labor cannot expect to get more.

With such a true axiom penetrating the horizon, something must be done, and thus comes the Wages and Hour Bill, which would set a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour, and limit the work day to reasonable and humane limits. This means that southern wages would for the first time in history approximate wages in the more civilized North.

This means that the South would no longer be preserved for industrial exploiters, which means that given an even wage scale North and South, it would be impossible to endure factory and mill owners to move out of the North, and the South's drive for industrialization would come up against a blank wall. Thus, is the why of the rave on the part of southern statesmen against the Wages and Hour Bill.

The only sound solution is the organization everywhere of white and black labor. There is increasing evidence that white labor is beginning to understand this truth and beginning to put it into practice. Striking confirmation of this belief is found in the rapid growth of mixed unions and the changed attitude of organized labor toward black Americans and unskilled workers. Therein lies the greatest hope for a higher standard of living for all Americans. Black and white bond together and fight for the passage of the Wages and Hour Bill.

NOTE:—Each week your correspondent takes his pen in hand and writes on local issues as he sees it. Written comments on these Echoes will be welcomed. Just address your letters to "An Echo From My Den" Omaha Guide, 2418 Grant Street, Omaha, Nebr.

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