

# 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.

## EDITORIALS

### SIGNIFICANCE IN THE — POLITICAL LIFE OF THE — NEGRO

By Rayford W. Logan

The recent death of Justice Cardozo of the United States Supreme Court may have a significance in the political life of the Negro that has generally escaped notice, according to a report from the office of Dr. Rayford W. Logan, director of education of the Alpha Phi Fraternity. "Great Liberal as the late Justice was", Professor Logan pointed out, "he agreed with the other members of the United States Supreme Court that the Democratic party has the right to exclude Negroes from its primaries. Three of those nine members have left the court since that decision was rendered. As soon as two other changes have been made Negroes should prepare a new case and endeavor to have that decision reversed. The United States Supreme court has reversed itself before. Abraham Lincoln's criticism of the Dred Scott decision helped to make him president. Negroes should not cease similarly to denounce the decision in the Grovey vs. Townsend case which has made the south as Fascist as Italy or Germany" the report continued.

Dr. Logan first made the suggestion of preparing a new case as a part of the Alpha Phi Alpha campaign of education for citizenship. The idea is now being studied by some of the most distinguished lawyers in the country. "The Negro is more effectively disfranchised in the South than at any time since 1867. For this reason the political views of future appointees to the United States Supreme Court should be carefully scrutinized," the report concluded.

### THE STORY OF "C. A."

By Homer L. Kyle Secretary, Sorenson for Chief Justice Committee  
Lincoln

No office in that State of Nebraska is of greater importance than that of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The voters therefore ought to know the history and qualifications of the candidates. I undertake the pleasant task of telling briefly the story of one of them. I am qualified for that task. For I knew him well as a fellow student in the University of Nebraska and for ten of the twenty-two years he has practiced law I have been his associate.

### FEARLESS AND PARTIAL

The work had to be well done. The iron clad instructions were to treat all fairly but with absolute impartiality. To have mentioned politics in connection with a lawsuit would have meant instant dismissal. He was immune to "influence". As the representative of the State insisted that every citizen be treated on an equal basis without regard to his politics, religion color or social standing. And as the people of the state know, he carried through this program with vigor and courage.

Under his direction fifteen gankers, who could not leave other people's

money alone, were prosecuted.

### WHAT LAW SHOULD BE

"Law should be the best lessons learned from the experience of the ages. It should be a force to blister fraud expose hypocrisy, rout corruption, and dethrone tyranny."

### QUALIFICATIONS OF A JUDGE:

"Entrusted as he is with the protection of the property, liberty and life of the people the qualifications of a judge should be: extensive legal experience, knowledge of the law, industry, impartiality fearlessness and character and integrity. The arbitrary judge who will not listen and the judge who counts heads before deciding are equally obnoxious. The effective administration of justice requires judges with the ability and temperament to thoughtfully examine and weight all the evidence and then the will and the courage to render a decision which squares with the facts and the law without regard to where the chips may fall."

### C. A. SORENSEN SAYS:

#### Criticism of Courts: —

Some of the criticism of the courts is obviously without justification inspired in part by men whose pet oxen have been gored. But judges and lawyers need to take a heart what Chief Justice Hughes of the Supreme Court of the United States said recently in an address to the American Law institute:

"The law has lacked clarity, has maintained an unnecessarily complex procedure and has permitted obstacles to be interposed to the prompt disposition of controversies."

#### NO FAVORITISM:

"Nebraskans above everything else want justice without favoritism. They want such confidence in lawyers and judges that can go into court with the calm belief that cause will receive able, fearless humane, and utterly impartial consideration."

#### COURTS ARE SACRED PLACES:

"To the people the courts are sacred places, the last place of refuge when their rights are threatened. They look to the courts to protect them from the sharp practices of the cunning and the fraud of the greedy. To the courts they run for protection from tyranny and abuse of power."

#### A GOOD JUDGE

"A good judge mixes with each cupful of technical law a tablespoonful of human understanding and sympathy. He recognizes that equality before the law demands that the poor when in court shall not be a disadvantage merely because they are poor."

#### FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION:

"The right of free speech, the right to worship God without governmental interference, and the right to freely print the news and comment hereon have flickered out in many parts of the world. It has happened in part at various times in the United States. For these rights are not prizes that can be won once."

#### FIRST A FEW OF THE MANY REASON

Boasting the lowest manufactured gas rate in America, the Metropolitan Utilities District is considered by municipal authorities as the country's most efficient publicly owned utility.

A bi-partizan board composed of three democrats and three republicans has been responsible for the fine non-political record of Omaha's gas and water departments.

Omaha's leading business and professional men have long been proud to be entrusted with the successful direction of this great \$22,000,000 public utility.

In a survey made recently by a nationally known firm of efficiency engineers the Utilities District board of directors were praised for the freedom from political influence and the efficiency of management that has made possible an increase of \$9,000,000 in net value of the district, and a decrease of \$5,000,000 in the District's debt" during the 12 years ending in 1936.

The present board is representative of the traditional high quality and public spirit which has always governed the selection of board members.

W. B. Millard, republican and Francis P. Matthews, democrat, are seeking reelection to the board of directors in the primary Tuesday, Aug. 9. All voters will be given the small, special utilities ballot.

Mr. Matthews, prominent Omaha attorney has served as chairman of the Metropolitan Utilities board's judiciary committee. His experience as an attorney, as legal counsel for the RFC chairman of the Douglas county democratic, and his active leadership in civic affairs have qualified him for effective work in the administration of the affairs of the district. He has been diligent in pursuit of the district's program to retire its final outstanding bonded debt in 1941 when these bonds, totalling \$3,500,000 mature. He also has constantly guarded the best interests of the public in all matters pertaining to service rates.

Although he has had shorter experience than Mr. Matthews as a member of the Utilities board, W. B. Millard, republican candidate for reelection to the board can point to a record of efficient public service during the past year. He was appointed to the board by unanimous vote of its members in July 1937 following the resignation of Mr. C. M. Wilhelm.

For the past year, Mr. Millard has given able and conscientious service as chairman of the board's finance committee. His financial training and position as vice president of the Omaha National bank, and his active leadership in many civic projects qualify him for effective participation in the management of Omaha's public utilities.

### SOUTHERN FEUPAL SURVIVALS The Nation's No. 1 Economic Problem

—By William L. Patterson—

Twenty-five Southern leaders met under the auspices of the National Emergency Council to discuss the urgent need of the rehabilitation of the Southern states. The Council is one of the instruments fashioned by the Roosevelt administration to draft plans for the economic restoration of the South. This is a task of gigantic proportions.

In his message to the Council the President put the question more sharply than he has yet placed any other question concerning our economic and political life.

"It is my conviction," said he, "that the South presents now the nation's No. 1. economic problem, not merely the South's. For we have an economic unbalance in the nation as a whole, due to this very condition of the South."

The South is "now the nation's No. 1 economic problem." It is not difficult to agree with this conclusion when we are clear as to the angle from which the President approaches the question: The South with tremendous economic potentialities and vast natural resources does no contribute its share to the material well-being of the country as a whole. Its vast natural resources are neglected or wasted. It is a drag upon natural development.

But the most important capital of

the South is its human resources. The millions on the land, in the factories and mills, among its proportionately over-large number of unemployed; constitute the basic wealth of the South. The poverty of these masses of beggars description. White and black alike are at the foot of the social ladder. How can they contribute to the nation's well being?

Approximately one-third of the population of the South is Negro. These people are in many respects still slaves. The remnants of slavery are to be found in the social antagonisms which are artificially and arbitrarily created and fostered and continually sharpened. They are sustained through sharecropping, peonage, debt, slavery forced labor on the roads through vagrancy laws and corrupt court procedure and lynch law "justice"

Here is the kernel of the economic problem of the South: the economic, political and social position of the Southern Negro. It is a held-over from chattel slavery. It is the albatross around the neck of the "poor white" of the South. This one of the major problems before the Council: The position of the black South.

Yet there was not a Negro among those 25 men who were called to the National Emergency Council. The presence of one or more would have added greatly to the morale of the Negro people who will be one of the chief sources with which the reformation of the South is carried out.

The calling of the Council was a tremendous forward step. I could not see it otherwise. A real program for the rehabilitation of the South would mean that President had carried the fight into the heart of the enemies' camp.

It is no accident that the press had played down this phase of the New Deal program. It is a blow aimed at the life line of economic royalism. The South is a source of its greatest strength—it is easy its weakest link. A program worth its weight in the paper upon which it is written must be a program that reveals the common interests of the Negro people and the masses of whites in the South. It must be a struggle against absentee landlordship and industrial ownership.

It is when such a program as this is formulated and steps are taken to carry it out that the Roosevelt Administration will virtually take on the proportions of war.

The remnants of slavery yet remaining in the South which are akin to fascism are a draw-back to recovery on a nation wide scale. The North cannot free itself from the clutches of Wall Street without freeing the South. The South cannot be freed without freeing the Negro. In one respect, 1938 returns to 1861. Labor in the white skin cannot be emancipated while labor in the black skin is enslaved.

The settings up of the Southern Council is in preparation for a major assault upon the heights occupied by the "Rulers of America." It is to be deeply regretted that no Negro was placed on the Council. But the Council will find a stimulus in its search for a solution in the struggles that are developing for Negro Rights.

We must go forward at an increasing tempo to make the significance of the Anti-Lynching Bill clear to the entire country. This is the main before the Negroes and their friends nationally. And on a local scale a stubborn struggle to defeat segregation, to secure relief, to obtain adequate housing, to beat back police terror and to realize that full and complete equality must be carried out. The President has given the impetus to the struggle.