

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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ensure publication.

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.

EDITORIALS

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

National and International Problems Inseparable From Local Welfare

"Prepare to the limit for war—and at the same time take every possible legislative precaution against becoming involved in potential wars that are not directly our own concern." That in a sentence, seems to be the attitude of Congress today.

The details of the Administration's long discussed armament program have at last come to light. The President has urged that with "as great speed as possible," a special appropriation of \$552,000,000 be authorized and spent for the tools of war. Three hundred millions of this, according to plan, is to go for army airplanes; \$110,000,000 is to go for anti-air craft guns, automatic rifles, field pieces, etc.; \$8,000,000 for strengthening our seacoast defenses; \$27,000,000 to increase the normal garrison in the Canal Zone; \$44,000,000 for naval bases; \$21,000,000 for navy airplanes, and \$10,000,000 for training civilian air pilots, to build up a reserve of expert combat fliers in case of necessity.

During the 1940 fiscal year about a billion more will be spent for military expansion and maintenance, in addition to this "emergency" half-billion, making a total of about a billion and a half. That comes to a little more than \$10 for every man, woman and child in America—a sum not so large as exaggerated early estimates indicated, but still the largest in our peace time history.

The American people haven't had a chance to vote "aye" or "naye" on this program officially. But, unofficially, they have made their voices heard and the chorus of approval has apparently drowned out the minority of dissenters. A late Institute of Public Opinion poll, for example, shows that the public is overwhelmingly back of the armament program; that the bulk of our citizens feel that Germany is democracy's worst enemy, and favor a boycott of all German goods, and that 46 per cent of those queried believe we will have to fight Germany again in their lifetimes.

In Congress, sentiment in favor of big-scale armament is similarly great. But there is also the feeling that any major arms race breeds great dangers which must be carefully guarded against. Almost all the countries, when they go into expanding their military establishments, do it on the grounds of "national defense." And then, very often, their peoples find themselves involved in wars of offense. A number of influential senators, fearing that our hatred of dictators may reach the hysterical stage, are planning legislation to prevent the imposition of sanctions against any country which does not directly menace us—and to strengthen, not weaken, the terms of the Neutrality Act.

At the same time, sentiment in Congress in favor of rigorous isolation even from our World War allies, seems to be on the increase. France's con-

tinuous series of governmental crises has weakened faith in her ability to hold her place as a dominant European power. And the feeling seems to be growing that the Chamberlain government is adopting certain fascist tactics—such as control of press and radio, and the suppression of anti-governmental expressions—which are not in accord with domestic principals.

Biggest debate over details of the armament program is liable to come in considering the proposal that Guam be made a first-class naval base. Some experts think this would be suicidal—Guam is an easy prey for Japan, and if we attempted to defend, they think, defeat would be inevitable. These experts feel we can defend our mainland and the Hawaiian Islands—but that is as far as we can go.

There has been little change of importance in the business situation. Activity has continued at fairly high levels, and the seasonal decline has so far been moderate.

A long term development of immense potential importance is the increasing interest certain industries are showing in the guaranteed annual income system for compensating their workers. In the past, this has been restricted to a very few concerns, most of them comparatively small in size. Now more and larger concerns are either toying with the idea, or making definite plans for adopting it. Among the latter is Armstrong Cork, which will experiment with it this year.

Guaranteed wage plans are all the same in principle, though they vary somewhat in detail. Some of them guarantee that the worker will be given so much work during the year and be paid so much for it, irrespective of the time it takes him. Others guarantee so many hours employment during the year, at so much an hour. All of them, of course, attempt to mitigate the seasonal factor in employment.

It is an obvious fact that a high hourly or daily wage rate is of small benefit to the worker if he is out of a job for six months of the year. A lesser wage rate which he is certain to receive for 50 weeks out of each 52 is far more satisfactory to all concerned. The guaranteed annual wage has not made great progress yet in American industry, but it promises to be one of the major developments of the future.

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CALVIN'S DIGEST

by Floyd J. Calvin

Listed by Editor and Publisher

Southern Policy

An interesting discussion of "Southern Policy" on the anti-marriage laws between the races has appeared in the Christian Advocate, a white periodical, by Rolfe Lanier Hunt, of Louise, Miss., according to a reprint in the National Baptist Voice.

The substance of the discussion is that while laws forbid marriage between the races in the South, race mixing has gone forward in that section at a greater pace than in states which sanction intermarriage. So the writer concludes that since the principle of racial integrity is what the South seeks to protect, protection of that principle would be more certain, according to actual statistics, if marriage between white and colored were permitted by law.

Says Mr. Hunt: "To permit a man to father a child without responsibility for his act of procreation makes for promiscuity and for miscegenation. To require the father to assist in support of his child and his mother makes for racial integrity. The marriage code of the Southern states, should, therefore, be revised to impose such responsibility. The granting of licenses for

marriage between the races might result in some marriages between the races, but the amount of mixing of bloods would be vastly decreased."

At least an approach is suggested for justice between the races where rank prejudice has long ruled supreme.

Press Support

Dr. W. M. Drake, president of the Houston Negro Chamber of Commerce Houston, Tex., in an official statement to the Negro citizens of his city recently said:

"I have just fully realized my duty to our local newspapers. I somewhat thought that the papers were satisfied to have their papers bought on the streets by their friends and the people but that was an error on my part. The managers and editors do not consider you much of a friend or race man unless your name is on the weekly mailing list. We depend on our weekly newspapers to get our business and news over to the public.

Economic Rating

The recent study of magazine audiences made by Life is interesting because of the classification given to Negroes. On page 22 of the study appears "Definitions of Economic Levels." Five groups are mentioned—A, B, C, D, and E, and the Negro is mentioned only in the D and E groups. "The 'D' group is the great mass of working people," says the study. "Manual laborers and farmers account for nearly 70 per cent with a scattering of other occupations. About one out of ten has no occupation at present, and about one out of thirteen is a Negro. None of the 'D' group pays more than \$60 a month for rent, less than one per cent pay more than \$45, most of them paying less than \$30 a month.

"The 'E' group is definitely poor and low class, making a bare living, lacking many of the necessities of life. About two-thirds of all the Negroes are in this group.

Negro readers should bear in mind that these figures are compiled expressly to prove to big business that practically all advertising expenditures should go to certain white publications and they prove negatively that no money should be spent to get Negro patronage. Yet there is now a popular impression that Life magazine is friendly to Negroes development. These very figures which Life has published of our social in economics practically deny the existence of the very people represented in the pictures it has published.

It is in the field of economics that the Negro is being strangled, and all too frequently it is our friends who are tightening the cords around our throats. How can a Negro publishing enterprise be expected to get advertising when Life broadcasts to the world that the Negro is too poor to consider. Yet Life turns right around and prints pictures of Negroes well situated economically, to swell its circulation, so it can get all the advertising revenue.

Negroes expect competition in business, even from whites, but they want that is fair. Many Negroes living in Northern cities will be shocked to hear that their top rating by Life is in a group where "most of them pay less than \$30 a month" for rent.

Less than a year ago the New York Times made a food survey of Manhattan for national advertisers, but when they go to Harlem, the point of the dollar brand of liquor sold was given the given the most stress. Yet Harlem is noted in the food industry for buying large volumes of certain brand breads and other groceries. Truly, we must watch our "friends."

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One hitch hiker to the other: "That's just right, just sit there and let me work my finger to the bone."

BUILDING THE BRIDGE TO HEALTH

President Roosevelt spoke with real eloquence when he declared in his message to Congress on a National Health Program:

"The average level of health or the average cost of sickness has little meaning for those who now must meet personal catastrophes. To know that a stream is four feet deep on the average is of little help to those who drown in the places where it is ten feet deep. The recommendations of the committee offer a program to bridge that stream by reducing the risks of needless suffering and death, and of cost and dependency, that now overwhelm millions of individual families and sap the resources of the nation."

The proposals drawn up by the President's Interdepartmental Committee and submitted by Mr. Roosevelt to Congress, have already received the general endorsement of wide sections of the labor and progressive movement. At the same time, this move to raise the health of the nation and bring medical care to those who need it most but can afford it least, has struck a warm chord in the hearts of the rank and file of the medical profession.

National Health Program is dependent upon state as well as federal action as the cost is to be shared. That means that not only Congress, but also state legislatures and governors should be called upon at once to approve the plan put this milestone program into life.

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BUYER'S GUIDE

by Clarence H. Peacock

While total employment has varied with conditions throughout the country, total government employment has risen steadily since 1929. In June '33, approximately one person in every 16 was regularly employed by the federal government, or by state or local governments.

Total employment in the United States reached its peak in 1929 when government employment accounted for 2,070,000 persons. In June, 1938 when total employment figures showed 4,930,000 fewer workers than in 1929, government employment showed opposite tendency, rising to a new high of 2,590,000 employees, an increase of 25.1 per cent over 1929.

The employment of state and local government workers has more closely paralleled trends of general employment, reports the National Industrial Conference Board, even though state and local governments increased their pay rolls in recent months in contrast to the decline in total employment in the same period.

Regular federal employees, excluding emergency workers of the WPA and CCC which are not included in the totals, have been more numerous every year since 1929. The most rapid rise in regular federal employment figures has occurred since 1934. Total of regular federal employees, 1,194,000 in June, 1938 is 43.3 per cent over federal employment in 1929.

The rapid extension of federal authority in agriculture, manufacturing and all other fields of industry is reflected in the sharp rise in regular federal employment since 1933.

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Medicine Man: And folks, remember that I've got something that changes the color of a person's hair over night.

Man in Crowd: Yes, I've got a son in college too.

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A man pinned underneath his car after an auto accident was being questioned by a policeman.

Policeman: Are you married?
Man: No, this is the worst trouble I was ever in.