

## EDITORIALS

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 time.

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### YOU CAN END THIS SORROW

To lose their children at birth, or before, or to bring them into the world diseased and possibly blinded, is the tragic prospect of hundreds of thousands of American women. Over a million women of child-bearing age have contracted syphilis, many of them innocently. Five times out of six, mothers with untreated syphilis bear dead or diseased babies.

Nine out of ten of them—deaths, abortions, stillbirths, and congenital syphilitics need not have happened. Modern medical treatment given—not to the infant—but to the mother during pregnancy will insure the birth of a healthy, living baby in practically every instance.

Prenatal syphilis can be stopped. Why then, you ask, has this yearly toll of dead or syphilitic babies been allowed to continue? And the answer is, that mothers do not know they are infected with syphilis.

Syphilis infects more men and women than any other serious disease. Half the infections are acquired innocently; many are accidental. Syphilis is a sneaking disease; often there are no visible signs at all. Especially is this true of women. It is not enough to treat only those pregnant mothers with visible signs of syphilis

#### The blood test

Fortunately, we have a test for syphilis—the blood test. Unfortunately, it is not always used. Many expectant mothers in poor families or in farm areas have no medical or prenatal care—blood tests for syphilis are not given to them. Even when mothers can well afford testing and treatment, doctors and clinics do not always understand how important a blood test is for every mother for every pregnancy.

No mother objects to a drop of silver nitrate in the eyes of her baby, which has wiped out infant gonorrheal blindness. In fact, she would complain if the doctor forgot the drop. Prenatal syphilis may be wiped out in the same way, if routine blood tests and medical treatment are given. Every expectant mother must insist upon the blood test early in every pregnancy, as soon as she suspects she is pregnant.

Just as the law requires the drop of silver nitrate in the eyes at birth, so several States now require a blood test on every pregnant woman.

#### Begin treatment early

Having a baby is a big job. It is easier for you if you have the advice of a doctor from the very first day you suspect you are pregnant. Your own health and the health of your baby depend very largely on the kind of care you give yourself during the 9 months of pregnancy. Do not wait 6 or 8 months before going to your doctor. No matter how hard he tries, or how skilled he may be, he cannot undo the harm that months of neglect have brought about. Give him and your unborn baby a fair chance.

If you should happen to be infected

with syphilis, waiting may be fatal. Time is the most important element in treating pregnant mothers for syphilis. Every treatment that can be given before the baby is born is an additional safeguard against disaster. Hence, it is necessary to discover the infection in the mother as early as possible. When the infection is discovered before the fifth month of pregnancy, and treatment is given continuously until birth, in nearly every case the baby will be born healthy, untouched by syphilis.

#### Pregnancy is good for treatment

It is curious fact, but pregnant women respond to the drugs used in treating syphilis far better than non-pregnant women. Not only does treatment protect the baby from being infected with syphilis, but it aids the mother at the same time.

Many people believe that pregnancy cures syphilis. Have enough pregnancies, they say, and your syphilis will be cured. That is incorrect. The only sure cure for syphilis is adequate medical treatment.

#### Consult a good physician or clinic

Syphilis can be cured and prenatal syphilis can be prevented by modern treatment. However, only a good physician or clinic is able to give the proper treatment. Self treatment, drug store medicines, and quack doctors are worse than useless. They cannot cure the disease, and valuable time is lost during which competent treatment could have been given.

#### Facts for every woman

1. Insist upon a complete physical examination before marriage for both the husband wife, including a blood test for syphilis. Syphilis wrecks marriage.

2. Go to the doctor at the first sign of pregnancy. It does no harm to see a doctor after you have missed a period even though you should no be pregnant. The sooner you are in the doctor's care, the more he can help you.

3. During each pregnancy insist upon a blood test for syphilis as early in pregnancy as possible. The test should be repeated at the seventh month.

4. Start treatment immediately upon detection of a syphilitic infection. Treatment must be continued without interruption until the birth of the child.

5. Careful periodic examinations and supervision of the infant after birth are necessary to guard against possible late symptoms of congenital syphilis.

6. Treatment for the mother must continue after the pregnancy period to sure permanent care.

7. Syphilis can be cured only by competent treatment. Consult a good physician. Avoid self treatment and the quack doctor.

#### BILBO'S IMPUDENCE

by William L. Patterson (CNA)

"I AM a friend of the Negro" Senator Bilbo of Miss. made this announcement, as he prepared the latest evidence of that friendship—"Back to Africa" bill.

Bilbo is excessively modest. Well might he have added, as further proof of his friendship: "I am indeed a friend of the Negro. Do I not owe my very presence in the Senate Chamber to the fact that I have vilified and spat upon the Negro people? Have I not bidden the glorious traditions of struggle that black Americans have created, and have I not proclaimed them docile slaves and cowards?"

"Have I not advocated a generous use of the 'rope and faggot' in order to terrorize black folk so that they might be more easily robbed of the fruits of the labor?"

"I have condoned the ravishment of Negro women. The South is filled with mulattos as a result. Yet have I not kept this from the world at large by declaring all black men to be rapist and all black women to be immoral? I have supported the chain gang religiously. I have appeal to the courts for legal lynchings when the voice of an outraged nation condemned the open lynching too loudly.

"Look at me. I stand upon my record, without honor and without shame. Am I indeed not a friend of the Negro?"

NOR IS Senator Bilbo less a friend of white America. Only 18 per cent of those of voting age exercised the right of franchise in the last election in Miss. Bilbo voted. But the majority of whites were unable to pay the poll tax, one dollar a year, and were franchised. That is 18 per cent who voted, and who year after year have held power in their hands, are the landlords and industrialists.

Did I hear some one say dictatorship? Perhaps, and yet Mississippi is also still a democracy. But its people have been robbed of their heritage.

But I must come back to the bill. Bilbo's latest expression of friendship provides "free and voluntary resettlement of all persons of the United States of African descent in their African fatherland."

Bilbo, my "friend," the United States is no less the fatherland of those persons of African descent than it is of those, let us say, of Irish, German, English, French or any other descent.

The forefathers of black America first arrived in 1619. When did yours arrive, Bilbo?

It is the fusion of bloods that has made these United States the great democracy it is. It is the inestimable contributions of the many racial stocks that as made of OUR United States a mighty power. We who are disfranchised, white and black alike, we who are ill-fed, ill clothed and ill housed, we the people, love our country.

WE VIEW your bill in the light of fascism's murderous uprooting of the Jewish people of Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. The bill fits into the fascist pattern.

We view your bill in the light of the program for the unity of the black and white South, put forward by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. It—your bill—stands in all its un-American, undemocratic nakedness as we make that comparison.

We know you do not speak for yourself alone, Bilbo. Is this the answer of those who have brought the South to the brink of ruin, to the call of the New Deal to rebuild the South? Black hands will help rebuild our country. They made cotton king, they paved with blood the streets of Mississippi. They will have a word to say about the New America.

We remember that recent President Roosevelt called upon the Negro boys and girls of Tuskegee, to "cooperate." The President told them to cooperate with those of the white South who had been robbed of their birthright to reclaim their own.

Are you seeking to divert attention from that democratic New Deal appeal? Speak out, Bilbo, you are talking, you know to "your friends."

Senator Bilbo, we know you. In your shadow lurks the great bankers and industrialists who have denied to black America, and hardly less to white America, the right to an American life. You have prostituted the Constitution to your own mean and covetous ends. The unity of a white and Negro South will bring your career to a timely end.

Bilbo, we heard your vile defamation of black America in the fight to pass an anti-lynching bill.

Bilbo, in smashing this new bill, white and black America but paves the way for the "World of Tomorrow."

#### DO WE WANT DEMOCRACY?

"If we want democracy we cannot dispose of our responsibilities by marching to the polls once in a while and giving lip service to the Bill of Rights," writes Carl Dreher in Harper's. If we want democracy we have to work at it. We have to accept the idea of politics as every citizen's primary and unremitting concern, as our business in a very concrete and personal sense."

We have left politics to the politicians—and what mess has resulted! We have regarded government as something in which we do not have no direct interest, and the consequence has been a steady extension of bureaucratic power at the expense of us all. We've worked on the principle of "Let George do it"—and George has done us in, good and plenty.

No until we all realize that government is our business, will we have the fair, efficient and economical government that is essential to democracy.

#### THE MAP-MAKERS

Map makers are your genuine upholders of things as they are. In a world of rapidly changing boundaries who wants to invest in a map? And when even make them, when they may have to be altered by the middle of next week?

For this reason, if for no others, the cartographers do not like Hitler. They do not like Mussolini, or the Japanese or, for the matter of that, the Russians. Boundary commissions, crawling dispiritedly through the years are one of their pet hates.

And they do not cede territory half as blithely as a government might. Some have given Hitler the Sudetenland, but there are many holdouts. They have been willing to accept the merging of Ethiopia with Eritrea and Italian Somaliland, but are still withholding Albania from Italy. According to the map-makers, the fate of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia is not yet decided.

Propagandists are less reluctant to accept change. They have made maps showing almost the entire rim of the Mediterranean as Italian. They have extended the borders of Germany down to Rumania, or even to the Persian Gulf. They have shown Japan in possession of China, most of the rich islands of the South Seas.

The map-maker who prefer to stick approximately to the facts refuse to compete with these gentlemen.

#### PROBLEM—

The human body is a marvelous machine. The home economics department of an eastern university recently calculated that a 150 pound person who walks at the rate 2.6 miles an hour would have to walk four miles to use the energy from a five cent chocolate bar; five to seven miles to use that from an ice cream sundae and six and one half miles if stoked with a piece pie.

Problem: What becomes of the surplus of energy when a 150 pound citizen finishes off a turkey dinner with a portion of pie a la mode, climbs into his car and rides to the movie and munches chocolate bars during the show?

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