

EDITORIALS

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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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The Age of Statistics

When the late Dr. Booker T. Washington was at the height of his power, he discovered that there was no reliable organization from which records and statistics on the Negro could be obtained, and so he set up at Tuskegee Institute a Department of Records and Research, under the able leadership of Monroe N. Work. This organization did some fine pioneer work in publishing through the Negro Year Book and the press statistics of every sort on the Negro.

Since Dr. Washington's death the statistician has come into his own. There are a number of institutions, such as the Gallup Foundation which can, for a fee, supply statistics on almost any conceivable subject. And research work is part of almost every college and university. But in the case of the Negro, this work has been allowed to lag and is now largely confined to statistics on lynching and census figures.

The Negro press, we believe, is badly in need of an independent organization to make a study of its gains and losses in advertising and circulation to gather figures on the purchasing power of the Negro in various localities, unemployment and the need for Negro workers in industrial center. There are any number of such organizations which supply such information to the daily press—the Audit Bureau of Circulation, Standard Rate and Data Service, schools of journalism, etc. but the Negro field in this respect has been neglected.

We can think of several Negroes eminently equipped for this work, such as Prof. Davis of Tuskegee, assistant to Dr. Work, and Charles E. Hall of years in the Census Department, but Washington, D. C., who was for many for some reason they have not considered the Negro press a profitable field for their talents. A study of the Negro press as a whole, with emphasis on the territory they cover and the number of people they serve would be great value to advertising agencies and national advertisers and could be sold to many newspapers who are trying to sell the idea of advertising to the people.

And speaking of schools of journalism, we have often wondered why such institutions as Howard and Fisk do not have courses in journalism. Besides work on the Negro newspapers, there are a number of civil service jobs available for trained newspaper workers in city and state departments, which have to deal with the public. Schools of Journalism in the Negro colleges could do much of the research work so badly needed by the Negro press at this time.

"LAND OF THE NOBLE FREE"

By LAYLE LANE

The spectacle of all Europe tensely awaiting the moves of one man—a

mediocre intellect who through bombastic oratory and unparalleled brutality has been able to control the entire German people—leaves one pretty depressed. To think that one individual has within his power the issue of war or peace makes one believe we are centuries behind even the Roman era.

In trying to determine what can be done to check Hitler, one is very apt to seize on the futile expedient of war, forgetting for the moment that the last war made a Hitler possible. The next war, if civilization survives it at all, is more likely to create more Hitlers than it will ever destroy. The dress rehearsal of 60,000 school children of London, practicing how to put on gas masks and to escape bombings, ought to make even the most hardened pause to ask whether "Stop the Dictators—Quarantine the Aggressors" is worth the life of even one of these little ones.

What is most needed now is a fundamental examination of the causes of tension in Europe and what specific steps can be taken to relieve that tension. No better way of getting the people to understand the issues of war and peace is presented at the moment than consideration of the Ludlow amendment.

In 1938 Louis Ludlow, a member of Congress from Indiana, introduced the following amendment in the House of Representatives—

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each house concurring therein) that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states:

"Except in the event of an invasion of the United States, or its territorial possessions, and attack upon the citizens residing therein, the authority of Congress to declare war shall not become effective until confirmed by a majority of all votes cast thereon in a nationwide crisis, may by concurrent resolution, refer the question of war or peace to the citizens of the states, the question to be voted being—"Shall the United States declare war on—?" Congress may otherwise by law provide for the enforcement of this section."

One hundred and eighty-eight representatives openly declared themselves in favor of the amendment. So fearful was the President that the people might approve such a measure that he used every bit of pressure he could to prevent even a discussion of the amendment on the floor. In 1939, even the Ludlow Referendum was changed to include a second exception—namely, attack of any non-American nation against any country in the western hemisphere," the administration continued its opposition. Despite Mr. Roosevelt's fine pronouncements defending the democratic way, his opposition to the use of the democratic method on the question of war make one suspicious of his foreign policy. He is well aware that the American people vote "no" should any referendum be presented in the near future. This would not at all suit Mr. Roosevelt who wants a free hand to throw the resources of the United States into any conflict on the side of England and France.

Three times the Gallup poll has indicated the American people feel that it's their "inalienable right" to say whether this nation should go to war. The argument that such a referendum would tie the hands of the President and Secretary of State is to admit that these two already have too much power

er over our foreign policy. As the Keep America out of War Committee states, "It's hypocrisy to talk about the superiority of democracy to dictatorship and then put the power in the hands of one man to put this nation of 130,000,000 into war. Today the President—any president—has the power. He makes certain claims while war is going on. He demands for Americans the right to trade as they please. He exacts for American citizens in war zones a degree of safety which the federal government does not guarantee them in dozens of gangster-ridden centers in the United States. He tries to play God and dictate terms to desperate nations. His terms may be right or wrong, but war-maddened belligerents must accept them—or else."

A popular referendum on war is no panacea but it is certainly a means whereby people will stop to ask, "Why should American boys be sent overseas to keep Germany from getting Danzig or part of the Polish corridor? A referendum will not only give an opportunity to the war mongers but also to those who understand that we can never get rid of war till we find a way to stop the exploitation of man by man.

It's perhaps too much to expect Thoma J. Watson former president of the International Chamber of Commerce to accept that solution but as reported in the Times of August 29, he realizes (as every liberal and radical) that the causes are economic. Only economic changes then will remove the present tension. According to Mr. Watson:

"The underlying causes of the present difficulties are economic maladjustment. This has been proved by economic research of the International Chamber of Commerce. Let us keep repeating the disastrous effects of the last war: 10,000,000 soldiers and 13,000,000 civilians killed; 2,000,000 soldiers wounded; 10,000,000 people made refugees; 9,000,000 children made orphans and a cost in money of \$338,000,000,000. It must be remembered that economic and social conditions are far worse today than they were before the last war. This should show us that another world war would destroy civilization as we understand it."

It is too bad the convention of the American Federation of Teachers did not realize that through a discussion of war and peace—or approval of the Ludlow Amendment would the American people be able to get at the fundamental economic problems which are now so obscured by troop movement and diplomatic exchange of notes. Too bad, too, that it did not realize that its slogan—education for democracy, democracy to support any measure which gives the people a greater share in deciding important issues. Educators, more than any other group, have an obligation to make their actions consonant with the policies they profess; so the convention vote against the referendum was a repudiation of its own must cherished slogan.

Defense of democracy through economic and social security, not through war is the only sane path for America to take.

"CONTROL" SHOULD BE THE WATCHWORD OF THE NEGRO WORKER

An interesting survey on the part the Negro worker has played in the industrial life of America is contained in a new book, "Black Workers and the New Unions," by Horace R. Cayton and George S. Mitchell and published

by the University of North Carolina Press according to a review from the New York Times. The authors point out that many jobs, such as hotel work, barbering, etc., have been taken over by whites during the depression. On the other hand, they point out large gains made by Negroes in the trade union movement.

But despite these gains there remains far too much discrimination in the trade union movement, such as the recent Tampa Shipyard Case, which William Green, head of the American Federation of Labor, has promised to investigate. We have no kick with those who argue the right of the worker to collective bargaining and we have from time to time pointed out the desirability of Negro workers organizing. What we would like to point out at this time is that mere trade union membership is not in itself a panacea for the ills that affect the Negro worker.

Centuries of racial prejudice cannot be eradicated by edict from the head of any organization. The only way to combat this prejudice is to not only join the unions but also place competent representatives on the governing boards of such organizations, and see to it that they fight racial prejudice wherever found. It's only small comfort to organize Negro motion picture operators, for instance, and then limit them to work only in neighborhoods where there are Negro movie houses. Or the limiting of Negro union musicians to work among their own people. Such forms of discrimination can be broken up only by having an outspoken representative in the governing councils of the union.

Control, should be the watchword in labor, just as it should be in all political consideration of the race.

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WHITE WORKERS ON NEGRO WRITERS PROJECT

We had a visit last week from a member of the Federal Writers Project of the WPA, who was in Harlem investigating charges of fraud in an election 10 years ago. He happened to be a Hebrew and when we expressed surprise that a white man should be assigned to a Negro project, he explained that there were a number of white writers working on such projects. It was explained to us that the project is being cut from a personnel of over 300 to about 118, which will include the clerical staff. He was unable to give any figures on the percentage of Negroes on the project or how many would remain after the drastic reduction.

It seems to us that this is a clear case of discrimination when white writers are assigned to check on stories about Negroes and the Negroes are fired. The project, which has done some valuable research work in publishing the New York Guide Book series, has from the beginning given Negroes assignments only as they affect their own people, and for that reason it seems unfair to give such assignments to whites when there are Negro newspaper men available and willing to accept this work.

An immediate investigation should be made of the proportion of Negroes dropped from the several "white collar" projects of the WPA and if it is found that a larger percentage of Negroes are being fired than other racial groups, protest meetings and pressure should be brought to bear on the government to call a halt to this nefarious practice.

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