

THE OMAHA GUIDE

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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TWO FIREMEN

Attention has been called to the Herman Lewis case in this paper several times. And we have been insisting upon a fair deal for Lewis. We believe he is being persecuted; that other firemen in his company have committed offenses far greater than any Lewis has ever committed. But Lewis has been suspended and charges have been filed against him with the City Council.

Shortly after Lewis was suspended another fireman was suspended for being drunk on duty; but no charges were filed against him, although this is not the first offense. Why? But Lewis had committed no offense against the laws or rules of the Fire Department, but he was brutally beaten by police officers, thrown in jail and fined on two charges by Judge John W. Battin.

We are citizens and taxpayers of Omaha, Herman Lewis is a home-owner and taxpayer. And why stage a raid on his private home and use the result of that raid as an excuse for the charges filed against him. Besides, the convictions? before John Battin have been appealed to the District Court. And before they were heard on appeal, dismissal charges were filed against Lewis, using the convictions? as a basis for such charges. Why the hurry, Commissioner Korisko and Chief Olson?

It all adds up to prejudice and favoritism and injustice toward Lewis. The whole case smells and is offensive to the fairminded people of a free community.

RAILROAD COMPANIES

More has been written about railroads than any other form of transportation. Usually, what has been written was uncomplimentary.

Not very long ago, a survey was made among Colored men now engaged in the practice of law, medicine and dentistry, and it was found that seventy percent of them during their school days had worked for railroad companies in vacation periods.

Heads of the commissary departments of the various railroads often would write to Colored colleges and universities and offer employment. And, often, after graduation, the same roads would employ these men so that they might "earn a stake" on which to begin their professional careers. Some times, too, men have remained with the railroads and made careers in their service.

Older men in the service of the railroads have also done their full part by these young men. They have taught them the work through the years, year after year, all over the country as they have entered the service of the roads. And they, and the officials of the railroad companies, have been made more content with life

through the consciousness that they helped these young colored men to prepare themselves for a larger service to their fellows and their country.

Much remains to be done by the railroads for their colored workers, but much has been done already.

We want the officials of the railroads to know that we have not been unmindful of the helpful things they have done. Enough has been written about their sins.

POOR SIDEWALKS

The sidewalks in the Negro community are in a very bad state of repair. In many places they are below the level required by ordinance and pools of water after rains fill them to a depth of twelve to fourteen inches and render them unusable.

We suggest to Commissioner Harry Trustin that he take time off and drive around a bit and see what is needed and then correct what needs correcting. An inspector might make practical and helpful suggestions to the property owners, without working a hardship on anyone.

NEGRO TEACHERS

Last year when the list of teachers was published as approved by the Board of Education, two Negroes were among them. They were both assigned to the department of physical education, one to Long school and the other to Howard Kennedy. In addition to the two teachers, Mrs. Bobbie Turner Davis was employed by the School Board in the service of Vocational Guidance.

Additional teachers should be added. Applicants include persons who hold advanced degrees as well as arts and science degrees. One applicant holds a Master of Arts degree from Nebraska University and has several credits on his doctor's degree at the University of California at Berkley.

The policy of the board is now settled as to employment of Negro teachers. We would like to see the Board of Education pursue their policy by increasing the number of teachers this year. That action would help all around.

NIGHT LAW SCHOOLS

A controversy is raging in this state about legal standards and Night Law Schools; about rich schools and poor schools; about the right of poor boys to acquire a legal education and afterwards practice law in the courts of this state.

The American Bar Association, composed of and dominated by corporation lawyers for the most part, has set up standards for the admission of attorneys. Our State Supreme Court has adopted the standards fixed by the American Bar Association. The plan provides that before a law school can be accredited so as to admit graduates to take examinations, a certain number of full time professors must be employed; the law library must contain a certain number of volumes and the courses of study must conform to a certain standard. And one other requirement is made; the law school must have assets of \$100,000.00, in facilities, such as buildings, books, class rooms and other equipment.

Under this standard, wealth is predominant. A poor boy is thus shut out from this field and probably, with him, a future Chief Justice of the United States or a President of the United States.

This means, of course, that many men will be deprived of a legal education who otherwise would acquire it.

Let us suppose that only the sons of the wealthy or well to do had become lawyers in the past. In that case many of the ablest lawyers would have been excluded. In that case, Senator James F. Byrnes and Attorney General Robert H. Jackson, who have just been appointed to the United States

Supreme Court, could not have been admitted to practice law in Nebraska; could not even have taken the bar examination.

This is still a people's government. And if our Constitution permits any agency of the people to set up a system based upon wealth, the sooner it is amended the better.

We want Dean Elmer E. Thomas to fight this matter through to ultimate victory. For if Elmer Thomas is for it, it is right and just.

STEADY THERE!

(by Ruth Taylor)

Have you ever been caught in a panic stricken crowd? If you have, you will never forget the experience. I was on an overcrowded, overbalanced boat one time when I was a child and I remember the blind panic of the crowd as the ship listed heavily. They rushed from one side to another—pushing and crowding, hysteria rising rapidly as the panic spread and the vessel listed more heavily with each surge of the mob.

Then, just when it seemed the ship would overturn with the next rush—a man jumped up on the rail and cried out in a calm determined voice, "Steady, there!" The surging crowd stood still for a moment. And in that pause he told them that if they kept their heads, they would be safe. They must stand quietly where they were and then cooperate in order to keep the balance of the boat until the captain could bring it to shore again. The crowd steadied to his calm counsel and the vessel came safely to its dock.

In this hour of international strife and national turmoil, we need men who can cry "Steady, there!", who can recognize the danger, and plan the way to face it. But even more than this we need people everywhere who can stand steady in the face of impending disaster, and avert it because they know the value of cooperation and will not be led into blind panic; who can wait until they know the facts and who then can take their proper places in the fight so as to assist the leaders at the helm to bring the ship of state to shore.

Even though danger threatens, even though the clouds grow darker, and the storm draws closer, it has not broken. There is no need for panic in this country—now—or later.

We must hold steady. Resolution is needed and also work and sacrifice for the all out task of defense. A false sense of security or undue optimism is dangerous—but we must not slip into the corresponding fault of the pessimism that accepts the worst as an established fact—the pessimism that ends in disruptive panic.

We must hold steady against those subversive forces who try to arouse suspicion and fear and whip them into the unthinking, unreasoning terror that sends the crowd into wild rout.

Over three hundred years ago—John Bunyan wrote in his "Holy War" "For here lay the excellent wisdom of him that built Mansoul, that the walls could never be broken down nor hurt by the most mighty adverse potentate unless the townsmen gave consent there to."

Steady there! That is the immediate task for all of us.

PRAYER AND BROTHERHOOD

(by Dr. Charles Stelzle)

The "Lord's Prayer" is familiar to nearly every man, woman and child in this country. It is used on public occasions when a prayer suitable to all classes, and people of all religious beliefs, is desired. But there probably isn't one person in a thousand who realizes what he is asking for when he presents its petitions.

No man can pray this prayer for

himself alone. It is a social prayer. There isn't a single "I" or "my" in it.

Notice the way it begins: Our Father—not my Father.

And here are its principal petitions:

- "Give US this day OUR daily bread"
- "Forgive US OUR trespasses"
- "Lead US not into temptation"
- "Deliver US from evil"

If the spirit of this prayer were accepted we would have the solution of most of our social problems; wars would cease unemployment would be largely taken care of; human hatred would disappear.

Suppose, for example, that the man who prayed for daily bread was deeply concerned about his neighbor also getting his daily bread? Nobody would go hungry.

Suppose that the man who asked for forgiveness was anxious that others should also be forgiven? It would eliminate hatred. As a matter of fact, the only comment Jesus made upon the prayer which He taught His disciples was this: "If we forgive not men their trespasses, how can your Heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses?"

The man who prays for "deliverance from evil", must take care that he does not lead others into temptation.

The next time you offer this prayer to the Almighty, stop and ask yourself—"Am I including my neighbor in this prayer?" If not, you might better quit, because your voice will reach no higher than your own lips.

A CALL FOR ACTION

(Continued from page six)

can count on our support, and we lend them \$50,000,000 to stabilize their currency. But no other help can even approximate the help that an embargo on oil and metals to Japan would give to China.

Why don't we establish an embargo? Because, say the appeasers, Japan would seize the Dutch East Indies if we embargoed oil. (The appeasers had other reasons that satisfied them just as well in the days before Holland was overrun by the Nazis.) And the oil companies would lose a lot of business. And anyhow we are not at war with Japan, and an embargo would be looked upon as an unfriendly act. So the reasons pile up, and Japan is able without our active help, to go on conquering China and preparing to conquer the Dutch Indies and the Philippines and the rest of the Pacific territories, and ultimately to fight us.

We send food to France, and up to the day of Petain's capitulation we continued the pretense that the men of Vichy were the rulers of a nation instead of the agents of a conqueror. We have tried, by a diplomatic concession here and a food ship there, to buy Vichy out of the clutches of the German Armistice Commission and the German army. No wonder even the recipients of our bounty sneer at our "humanitarian" gestures. Those gestures are contemptible because they are neither honest charity nor successful strategy.

We send food to Franco's Spain. An important American diplomat in Central America said solemnly to me a month ago: "Thank heaven our State Department has the sense to discriminate between the Axis dictators and Franco. Spain deserves our sympathy and help, and Franco, after all, is a gentleman." I tried to remind him of the hundreds of thousands of Spanish Republicans tortured, executed, or shut up in jail. I mentioned the presence in Spain of uncounted Nazi agents and soldiers and the German guns at Ceuta and Algeciras. He was unconvinced. Spain was a victim not an accomplice; we could win its goodwill and save it from the clutches of the Axis. And when the Nazis on the

spot and their Spanish supporters usher in the German troops for the occupation of Gibraltar and Spain's bases on the Mediterranean and the Atlantic this American diplomat and his hundred counterparts in the musty offices of the State Department will be shocked as they were shocked the other day by Vichy's capitulation—and when they have recovered, it may be too late to keep the Nazis out of the Azores and the Canary Islands.

It all goes together, because it is a state of mind. You placate Hitler and Mussolini and Franco and the Japanese. You prefer soft words to hard ones, and words to acts. You try to buy what you dare not command. You refuse to recognize facts when they are uncomfortable; and you always prefer diplomatic maneuvers to sturdy resistance.

Now it is over. The gentlemen of Vichy, whose robes of office have won such unctuous admiration, are finally admitted to be stark naked even by the bemused officials in Washington. Nothing is left for us but the necessity to act, and to plan our actions in the light of one cold, shining fact. In Europe we have only Hitler to deal with. There are Frenchmen left, and no doubt 90 percent of them hate Hitler with an intensity we cannot even imagine. But there is no France. There are Spaniards, but no Spain. These and the other lands that have been conquered and occupied are no longer nations; they are raw materials and factories and above all bases; and they belong to Adolph Hitler.

Our job is immeasurably difficult and absolutely inescapable. We can no longer dodge and prepare ourselves to act at some remove in the future. Our job to combine today with Great Britain—and with every existing anti-Nazi element in every country—to defeat Hitler by all the forces at our joint disposal. If this means sending an army to England or Africa we must do it. Certainly it does not mean that now. We have no army ready to send, and if we had, the sending of it would interfere with tasks that need doing immediately and at top speed. But it may mean supplying warships and planes, both to protect the goods we ship to Britain and to prevent the Nazis from seizing new strategic points of attacks. Specifically it may mean collaborating with the British fleet and the forces of General de Gaulle to occupy the Portuguese and French islands and the French African ports before the Germans get there.

It means, too, producing goods for the war faster than we have done or thought we could possibly do. It surely means using American ships to carry those goods to the fighting fronts; and this in turn makes it necessary to wipe out the last legalistic pretense of "neutrality" that stands in the way of our full aid. It means freezing the credits of the Axis powers and ruthlessly preventing goods from reaching them, by whatever round about routes. It means breaking off diplomatic relations, which no longer serve even as a useful source of information, and throwing out the agents of our acknowledged enemies. Perhaps more than all, it means carrying on an imaginative political war, in which we make use of every anti-fascist group and individual still free in any country on earth; giving them encouragement and support—and arms, where possible. It means, in short, an acceptance of the total meaning of total war and this, I am afraid, demands a revolutionary change in Washington. The appeasement state of mind must be blasted out of the places of power or the fascists will win the battles of the future as they have won every major battle in the past.

But this we need not allow. We, the citizens of a free republic, can end the policy of dodging and cringing. We have only to say what we want—out loud and in one voice.