

Poll Tax

Do We Fight for This?

It is not, perhaps, exaggerated to say that the question of whether or not a state may impose a tax as a condition of voting in a Federal election has in it all the elements of the world-wide conflict between democratic and authoritarian ideals of government.

The American dream has been government of the people, by the people, for the people.

It may be justly questioned whether or not any bar to suffrage is not a bar to government of the people by the people.

The whole history of the franchise in these United States has been toward removal of artificial obstacles to suffrage and extension of the right of franchise. The states first abolished property qualifications. They brought about direct election of United States Senators. They adopted the 19th amendment to the constitution to extend the suffrage to women.

There is active discussion everywhere of the propriety of laws which would penalize a failure to vote, remains under penalty. A citizen who performs the duty of voting must pay for it.

There is further defeat of popular government when the Federal Congress fails to exercise its constitutional right to establish qualifications of voters in Federal elections. A legislative proposal clearly favored by a majority of all members of Congress—the anti poll tax bill—cannot be brought to a vote except by the devious methods of discharge petition, because a handful of willful men, entrenched in committees by the poll tax system, will not bring the bill to the floor.

Is this what we're fighting for?

Land of the Noble Free

by Layle Lane for Calvin's News Service

The FEPC.

The Republican Party in its 1944 platform pledged itself to the enactment of a permanent FEPC, but as yet, except in New York State and in the process in Indiana, it has shown little effort in putting through legislation for this purpose. In fact, Senator Taft has jeopardized the chances for S101 by introducing his own bill which is without effective enforcement powers.

On March 22, the March on Washington Movement reminded 29 Senators of the 1944 platform commitment and urged their support of S101. To date only six replies to the telegram have been received.

Senator Hawkes of New Jersey wired: "Studying Taft Bill and S101. Thank for views."

Sen. Langer of North Dakota replies: "As one of the sponsors of the FEPC bill, you can depend upon my doing everything possible."

"I am not for the Taft Bill," writes Senator Capper. "In fact, I do not believe the Taft Bill will have serious consideration. I believe S101 is getting stronger every day."

The views of the Michigan Senators were divergent. Senator Homer Ferguson states: "I believe that discrimination in respect to employment in industry should be abolished, and I am in favor of legislation which will actual abolish it."

Senator Vandenberg, however, writes: "I have not had an opportunity to study S101 in detail. It is still in the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. I do not happen to be a member of the Committee and I have not heard the discussions. I shall be glad to write you more definitely when this specific bill reaches the floor of the Senate and I have had an opportunity to be fully informed respecting it."

"I note your comments concerning the proposed bill by Senator Taft respecting the FEPC. As you know, I completely favor a permanent and progressively stronger status for the FEPC. Frankly, however, I feel we shall make a serious blunder if we try to go 'too far too fast' in this connection. It MUST be a process of evolution. The main thing is to keep our momentum in the right direction."

Senator Ball of Minnesota says: "I feel myself that elimination of discrimination in employment opportunities because of race, creed or color is definitely an obligation of government and one that will be especially urgent in the reconversion period and when veterans return and seek jobs."

"Therefore, I intend to support the FEPC bill, including a strong enforcement provision. It is my own conviction that most of the commission's results will be achieved through education, mediation, and adjustment, but to be effective these methods must be backed up by enforcement when necessary"

"I am on the Education and Labor Committee which will consider the bill, and I do expect to support amendments which will improve the legislation and strengthen support for it, without emasculating it."

The last statement indicates that to get more support for the bill there may be definitely steps taken to weaken it. However, a lesson should be learned from the passage of the bill in New York.

The advocates of the state FEPC assembled in

such numbers and gave such convincing arguments for a strong measure that they were able to overcome the opposition. While the task will be harder on the national scale it is essential to mobilize immediately public pressure on Capitol Hill and to maintain that pressure till S101 is made into law.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Send a contribution to the National Council for a Permanent FEPC, 930 F Street, N. W., Washington, 4, DC.

2. Write Senator Kenneth S. Wherry, and Senator Hugh Butler of Nebraska at the Senate Chambers, Washington, DC., urging them to vigorously support and vote for the bills to make FEPC permanent.

DYNAMITE

by H. George Davenport

IS GIBSON ALONE TO BLAME?

Truman Gibson, Jr., son of Truman Gibson, Sr., President of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co., of Chicago, was allegedly charged by the white press of discrediting Negro soldiers on the Italian front—claiming Negroes were illiterate and charged them with cowardice under fire. Away back in '39 or '40, there was what was termed a Negro exposition in Chicago. It had as its purpose the Exhibition of the progress of the Negro since his emancipation. The idea was the brain child of the late Jas W. Washington, and Gibson, along

with the new dealers, threw him out. Mr. Gibson, appointed to head the Chicago show went to Detroit; came back and said the Detroit show was a joke; that he, as head of the Chicago exhibit, would make the Detroit arrangement look like a grammar school affair. This writer was then writing for the Oklahoma Eagle, and, to his personal knowledge, was the only Negro writer to expose the exposition. Gibson was healded to great heights by Wendell Greene, now pudge, as "a very brilliant young man with a future". Printing was gotten out, printed by white printers—replicas of past milestones were made in WPA. Project Governmental set-ups. We did not know then, but we can see now it was one of those new deal tricks to put dummy leaders like Claude "Giraffe" Barnett, Truman Gibson, Jr., and other lesser lights for the Negro votes that followed. Aside from the progress the Negro has made under the derision government projects, the exposition was a sad affair. Claude "G" Barnett, head of the Associated Negro Press, and who holds jobs for him self and stooges, was in charge of Negro press releases. Because of money paid out, the truth was kept from the public—By keeping the truth from the "sucker public", Gibson was hailed by Wallace as a tin horn Uncle Tom; hence he was made assistant to Hastie, who resigned rather than sell his black brothers down the river. It was Gibson who antagonized Hastie—it was Gibson like a snake in the grass, encouraged Hastie to resign—it was Gibson who carried tales from Hastie to the white folks—it was Gibson who told Hastie, "When you resign I'll go with you"—It was Gibson who double-crossed Hastie and got his job—it was Gibson who would sell his own parents short in order to remain out of the army—But had Claude "G" Barnett and the great Negro Press, with itching palms, done their duty in reporting the news, Gibson would not be in Washington now. George Washington Carver—the greatest scientist in the world—his photo was on the floor of the exposition.

Watch Your Speech



by Ruth Taylor

I was listening to a speech one night—a dull, dry-as-dust speech—and my mind was wandering, when suddenly I heard the speaker say, "For the old adage of 'No taxation without representation' one might as well substitute the new slogan of 'no criticism without study'."

If we could do that we could revolutionize human relations. If we stopped to study a situation, how seldom would we criticize it? Instead we would understand it. Prejudice always menaces the person holding it.

No one of us would willingly steal. But he who condemns another unjustly or who bears false witness against his brother is a thief.

Shakespeare said: "He who steals my purse steals trash; but he that robs me of my good name, robs me of that which notemricheth him, but makes me poor indeed."

How do we do that? By general izing against a

News-letter WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Washington

GI LOANS MAY CREATE YOUR HIGHEST SALES OPPORTUNITIES

GI Bill of Rights will add \$10, \$20 perhaps \$50 billion to national purchasing power in postwar period. Obvious beneficiaries: veterans, bankers, and lending institutions. Less obvious, but equally important: manufacturers and commercial houses, who may more easily sell equipment, obtain dealers, and get new outlets for manufactured goods.

Not many persons yet appreciate that GI loans do not have to be made by banks. Manufacturers may also make them. Disposing of their own products at substantial profits, and sometimes serving other purposes as well—such as securing a new dealer—they can frequently justify greater risks than a bank could afford. Illustrations:

- 1. Henry Smith Co. electrical equipment, seals complete refrigerator plant to a veteran-owned butcher shop. Cost, \$2,000; 50% guaranteed by U. S. government. (Limit of government guarantee—liability, \$2,000, but never to exceed 50%.)
2. Sunshine Gasoline Co. advances \$8,000 to a veteran to equip gasoline station; \$2,000—40%—government guaranteed. Company gains exclusive outlet for its brands of gas and oil. As loan is repaid, government guarantee is reduced pro rata. In this case, if repayment is spread over 50 months at \$100 a month, government guarantee—liability is reduced \$40 each month.
3. National Motor Car Co. sells truck for \$1,500; government guarantee \$300.
4. Raymond, Inc., publishers of law, engineering and medical textbooks, sells GI doctor, dentist, engineer or lawyer complete library valued at \$6,000. \$2,000—33 and one third—guaranteed by government.
5. Harding & Rogers, dental equipment supplies, equips dentist's office for \$3,500. Government guarantee, \$1,750.

Highlights of regulations applying to GI loans: To qualify for federal guaranteed loans for business, home or farm investment, persons must have served minimum of 90 days in the armed forces, received honorable discharge stand credit investigation. WACs & other women in armed services are eligible. Business and farm loans must be used for purchase of real or personal property necessary to gainful occupation; reasonable likelihood of success required. Purchase prices must not exceed

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GUARD YOUR HEALTH—AVOID ACCIDENTS, ILLNESS AND INJURY LARGELY PREVENTABLE—ARE COSTING THE NATION AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL LOSS OF 600 MILLION MAN DAYS OF INDUSTRIAL LABOR ALONE. NEW ITEM REASONABLE NORMAL VALUE AS DETERMINED BY PROPER APPRAISALS. SOME LOANS HAVE BEEN DENIED BECAUSE OF INFLATED PRICES. Reasonable normal value as determined by proper appraisals. Some loans have been denied because of inflated prices. Realty loans can run for 20 years used only to buy fixtures necessary to operate a business; but where going concern is bought, stock of As a rule, guaranteed loans can be (Continued on page 8)

man, by attributing to a group the mistakes of a man, by broad characterizations, by not taking the trouble to learn all the facts.

Go over the people who you think you dislike. Why don't you like them? How many do you dislike. Why don't you like them? How many do you dislike with good cause? How many because you are not considering the mass individuals but are lumping them as a group.

Do you speak carelessly of people? Do you assume more knowledge than you really possess? Plutarch said: "He who reflects on another man's want of breeding, shows he wants it as much himself."

You wouldn't touch one of your neighbor's possessions? But what are you doing to his good name?

A man for whom I have great admiration said one day, in speaking of another man who had done him harm. "If I were small enough to dislike a man for personal reasons—" That is true greatness. He saw things in their proper light. He would not be hurting the man by disliking him, but he would be injuring himself.

If we have nothing good to say about our brother—then in God's name—let us be still!!

PLEASE! GET RID OF THOSE "B" LOCALS (from The Union Reporter, Camden, N. J.)

The American Federation of Labor has been criticized severely by many groups in this country for allowing certain of its locals to continue their policy of creating "second class" or "B" locals for Negro members.

The explanation which President Green has given over and over again is that the AFL itself does not want to dictate policy to its locals, but prefers that they should be completely autonomous, and make their own decisions on such matters.

But in making his statement, Green has always been very sure to state in no uncertain terms that he himself does not favor the giving of "B" charters to locals, and that he hopes they will themselves take the initiative in getting rid of the disgraceful segregation practice.

Recently two newspaper articles have come to our attention which we believe warrant your attention.

One of them says that "Second class or 'auxiliary' locals for Negro members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers, AFL, have been abolished." This Union is one of the largest AFL Unions, with a membership of 336,900. It means that between 35 and 40 auxiliaries will receive new charters, and that all practical obstacles in the way of Negroes becoming officers of the International Union will be removed.

This change of policy still leaves much to be desired. For instance, it is only fair to add that this decision does not mean that Negro members now in "B" locals will be amalgamated into other locals, but, rather, that the auxiliary locals will now be elevated to complete autonomy with the same status as other locals and with direct affiliation with the International.

The second clipping which we would like to call

to your attention has the following headline: "Negro Segregation by Union Condemned."

It goes on to say that the segregation of Negroes in a collective bargaining unit was condemned by a report to the National Labor Relations Board by an examiner who recommended that unless the practice was stopped within 15 days the board should revoke its certification and order a new election. It was further stated that this Union, Local 219 of the AFL Tobacco Workers, bargain only for the white employees in the certified unit, and that the Negro employees in their segregated Local 219-B were without protection of the law.

Stating that such "disparity in treatment" had been condemned by the U. S. Supreme Court in recent cases, he recommended inclusion of all employees in the certified unit and cancellation of the charter of Local 219-B within 15 days or ordering a new election.

The 15 days are not yet up, and we have not been able to find out what has happened in this case, but the principle is obvious. Unless Unions of their own free will "see the light" and open their doors to all workers regardless of race, color or creed, they will be made to do so by the federal government, which has made an effort to adopt a policy of equality of opportunity for minority groups.

Once again the UNION REPORTER repeats the stand of the four locals which contribute news to its pages. There shall be no discrimination by either employer or employees in companies which have collective bargaining agreements with us, on account of race, color, creed, sex or nationality.



Clean surroundings help make clean thoughts. Clean minds are the elevating factor of any society. Do that Spring cleaning Now! . . . . .