

OVERTONES

(BY AL HENINGBURG)

ONE NATION:

Many Americans will have their eyes open to some unpleasant truths as they read Stegner's 'One Nation', just off the press. The book contains a striking collection of scenes of life in every-day America, and most of these scenes reflect bitterness and hate. It is sometimes easy to quickly forget the printed word, but these pictures make a very weep impression. The evidence which they present cannot be denied. This is not opinion on American life; this is the hard, ugly, bitter fact of life itself. If this book gets half the attention it deserves, thinking men and women will begin to question very seriously the system which makes this type of savagery possible in a civilized country.

THE RIGHT TO BARGAIN:

The labor movement is getting a raw deal on the American scene at the present time. The impression is gradually being built up in the public mind that organized labor is out to cripple industry, and to delay the return to wholesome standards of living. But remember that the strike is the only powerful weapon that the worker has. Until collective bargaining was firmly established, every worker was at the mercy of the man who employed him, just as he is now at the employer's mercy if he is a share-cropper or a domestic servant. And in passing judgment on this or that strike, it is worth noting that labor does not CAUSE all the strikes, it strikes in protest against conditions brought about by others. Workers want an increase of thirty per cent in wages because the cost of living has gone up that much, or more. But without the power of collective bargaining, their cause would be hopeless.

COMMUNITY OOUTCASTS:

More than one community is giving serious attention at this time to getting rid of the Negroes who came in during the war to work in war plants. In one Jersey town, a new zoning ordinance will have the effect of forcing all the Negroes out of the community. Other towns will clamp down on war housing, and will not permit those ejected to find other shelter. But with all the kinds of problems faced by Negroes in northern cities, very few seem eager to return to Alabama or Mississippi. They have tasted freedom, and the taste is very good indeed.

THE OLD PATTERN:

Life in America for the Negro veteran and soldier is going back to the old pre-war pattern so fast that it macks you dizzy. North and South, many persons in authority seem to ask this question: "Shall I treat these former prisoners of war with the courtesy and deference in keeping with the nature of their services to America, or shall I treat them as I have always treated Negroes?" While there are some who are not guilty on this score, far too many see a Negro, and not the sacrifice which he made over there. From Hamlet, North Carolina from Fort Benning, Georgia; and from Fox Hill on Staten Island comes evidence of this fact. Steps are taken to make the Negro realize that he is not to expect the consideration shown to other American citizens. In some instances, even the German war prisoners fare better than he does. All of which indicates that we actually fought the war to keep things as they were, rather than to bring freedom to the peoples of the earth.

THE COURAGEOUS PRESIDENT:

The President of the United States is a courageous man, as is shown by his recent denunciation of the DAR because of their refusal to permit Hazel Scott to appear in Constitution Hall. It takes courage to maintain a stand of that kind, especially if you intend to be re-elected in 1948. But gradually America and Europe are coming to realize that Harry S. Truman fights for what he believes to be right, and not for the benefit of any clique or political group. How much of this kind of courage the South can stand comes to be an important question. Perhaps Mr. Truman's attitude will help the entire nation to think and to act with more objectivity, and to use worth rather than color as a basis of acceptance.

THE TROUBLESOME QUOTA:

Jews throughout the country are deeply stirred, and rightly so, over the maintenance of the quota system in many of the best medical schools of this country. While presidents of these institutions evade the issue in one way or another, the simple fact is that a rigid quota system does exist. Perhaps the keen competition offered by Jewish students is a factor in keeping up the quota system.

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Editorial: "Then What Chance Has Democracy?"



Plain Talk...

(BY DAN GARDNER)

Of all the races in the great minority groups that make up these United States, the Negro is the only one that puts American first before his name in a hyphenated relationship to the land of his birth. By that I mean we say American-Negro, but the German says German-American, the Jews say Jewish-American, the Chinese says Chinese-American, the Italian says Italo-American, the Greek says Greco-American, the Spaniard says Spanish-American, and the Pole says Polish-American. In other words, we seem to be the only race in America's vast melting pot with a determined policy of discarding a racial designation in favor of the place where we happen to be or the land of our birth. German-Americans of many generations still regard themselves as German-Americans, although born in the U.S.A. So do the others in this hyphenated series. They think in the terms of the native fatherland and when great national or international crisis arise such as the one engendered by Adolph Hitler, the reason for the emphasis on the fatherland first in the hyphenation of the name here in America is plainly seen.

All these people have native lands or countries. Their loyalties to the land of their forefathers is never allowed to die. In fact, it is kept alive by the mere fact of the hyphenation of the name when they come to America. The American-Negro by persisting in being called that does himself no tangible good in gaining respect from America and the rest of the world. Of all the minorities in the country, the largest, the Negro, gets the least respect as a people. Although he alone insists that he is first of all an American and second a Negro.

On the other hand, the German wants to be German first and then American. The Italian does the same. The Green, the Pole, the Hungarian, the Czech, the Irish and on down the line. They play the game that way and gain status to the point where some of these foreign-born stock become senators, congressmen, ambassadors, heads of great corporations, and so forth. The best the Negro can hope for if he is in the South, is not to be eventually lynched or chased away from his home, and in the North to eat in an exclusive restaurant, sleep in a nationally known hotel, and to send his children to an accredited school of his choice without discrimination.

This situation came to mind following the published story in the Amsterdam News several weeks ago of how the American Negro stands in the eyes of the Indian people. The question was asked by a wealthy Indian "If Ethiopia were a world power, had a powerful army, navy, and air force, and became engaged in a major conflict with the United States, what would the American Negro do?"

The question has but one answer—because the American Negro would find himself in the front lines with rifles and guns and other implements of war

engaged in the business of killing up people of the same racial lineage. It is being done all over the world. The white man uses the black Africans to kill black Africans, brown Filipinos to kill brown Filipinos, Chinese to kill yellow Japs, and Indians to kill Indians, all for his own profit. However, the Indian, the native Liberian, the native Egyptian, Arabian, and Filipino are on a better international footing than the so-called American-Negro because they have (1) a land they can call their own, (2) stature in international politics and affairs. Because of this native land business, the American-Negro who in many places is denied suffrage privileges and even the right to exist in the America he calls his own, comes up a poor last in any assemblage of nationalities on the entire national horizon.

In other words, the Indian would rather do business with the black Liberian than the American-Negro from New York City. The same holds true with a Filipino, the Egyptian, the Arab, and other racial groups. The native Haitian has a better place in international affairs than the American Negro. They all have racial stature due to the fact that they have a fatherland. The article published in the Amsterdam News described how the Indians considered most American-Negroes as coolies, and as you know, a coolie is on the lowest rung of the Indian society. It matters not whether the white man spread that propaganda, the fact is that the Indian regards the Negro as such mainly because he cannot compete with the Liberian who has consulates in many large European countries as well as in America. The American-Negro is not represented at all on the international scene because he is part and parcel of America, which, whether we like it or not, is fundamentally white.

There has been a conflict over the years among the Negro leadership on whether the American-Negro will profit most by accepting some or a lot of segregation in establishing his identity from intense nationalism as advocated by Marcus Garvey and others fighting his battle or to make America the land of his birth, accept him as a free and equal citizen based on his kinship with the land. All around us are examples of whites maintaining their nationalistic connection through the hyphenation of their names. The Negro leadership of today persists in following blindly the pattern that out of the welter of conflicting views and viewpoints having to do with the rights by law theory, eventually the Negro will be accepted.

It would appear that in our present state, where we are outcasts from every organized phase of American society, that we will to accept some amount of self-determination and nationalism to achieve any sort of status that will alleviate our condition. It is disheartening to say the least for the thousands of Negro graduates from universities, colleges, and high schools each year to find out that the things they have been taught in school are false insofar as they, themselves, are concerned. The competent young Negro girl who has a degree in say designing or business administration finds it something of a blow when she is turned down right

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VICTORY FUND AND COMMUNITY CHEST

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I don't know anything about burglary."—Al Jennings, 82, once "terror of the Southwest," now raising chickens in Calif.

"She doesn't mean any more to this court than Joe Zilch."—Detroit judge, threatening contempt proceedings against actress Martha Raye.

"I cannot imagine any more inflationary proposal."—Senator Taft, Ohio, on "full employment" bill.

"Highball before dinner, good night's sleep, fewer letters from voters."—Prescription for tired Congressmen from Capt. Geo. W. Calver, Capital physician.

"We cannot and will not use money saved up for many years for the purpose of modernizing and expanding our plants, and for providing more good jobs, to pay excess wages for work not performed. This money cannot be spent twice."—Pres. C. E. Wilson, General Motors, refusing CIO demand for 30% pay boost.

"Oh, its Northern charm and Southern efficiency!"—Senator Magnuson, Wash. State, on the nation's capital.

for Security



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and left solely because she is colored. She is turned down, please note, not because she is an American, but because she belongs to a minority group in America that has no status beyond that of wards of the government.

In the great national emergencies such as the one this nation has just gone through, some of the restrictions based on color or in employment are lifted and some of our capable and qualified people are allowed to work in the places where they are barred from during peace time. But we are not seeking such temporary advantages. The things we want are permanent. We must think in the light of "what will tomorrow bring?" and in thinking in this way we will find that through being bound closer together through bonds of nationalism and the desire of self-determination within the framework of American democracy we might achieve our goal far more quickly than it appears now.

Most Negroes have been educated to be ashamed of Africa as a homeland. It is common to hear highly educated Negroes declare "I don't know any thing about Africa. I was born in America. This is my home and this is the land that my fathers fought and died for and I intend to get from it what is due me." Others poke fun at African culture, African art, and only give lip service to a racial identification with Africa when national emergencies arise in which British might go on record as barring native Africans from London or flogging native African soldiers or working them to death for aittance a day. All this must be undone. It is a false misconception. While none of us have any intentions of picking up and going back to Africa, because incidentally, there is no place there for us since the white man has taken over all its inhabitable parts, we can think of Africa and keep Africa in mind as a native land. It is, as exemplified in the Jewish philosophy of the national homeland in Palestine. Don't worry the Jewish people have the same fight among themselves over the question of nationalism and internationalism as we do. The same goes for other races, but usually the nationalists in these racial groups win out. Only the American Negro laughed at Africa and proclaimed its kinship with America through the use of the hyphenated word American-Negro.

Sometimes it might be good to wonder and think on this one base of nationalism: do you know that we really would not be able to have any sort of Negro business, insurance companies, newspapers, grocery stores, hotels, or what not if we were accepted and integrated as Americans?" In other words, this very newspaper which you are reading would not exist if we did not have to accept a certain amount of nationalism, which involves also the acceptance of segregation. That was a reason for the resignation of Dr. W. E. B. DuBois from the NAACP several years ago after he found that a complete integration program of the organization he help to found would not apply to the case of a people in need of work, food, and security, first.



DO'S AND DON'TS.
Perhaps you don't do acrobats, but do avoid an urge to be the center of attention.

DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
1864-1945

ONE OF THE GREAT MEN IN WORLD HISTORY

THE SLAVE BOY WHO WAS TRADED FOR A HORSE BUT YET BECAME ONE OF THE GREATEST AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS OF ALL TIME WAS ALSO AN ACCOMPLISHED PIANIST AND ONCE GAVE CONCERTS THRU-OUT THE MIDDLE-WEST.

DR. MARY H. DIGGS
OF WASHINGTON D.C.

PROFESSOR IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF HOWARD U. IS THE FIRST AMERICAN NEGRO WOMAN TO RECEIVE THE PH.D. DEGREE FROM BRYN MAWR COLLEGE AND THE FIRST TO HOLD A PH.D. IN SOCIAL ECONOMY.

DR. DIGGS RECEIVED HER M.A. DEGREE FROM FISK U. AND A.B. FROM U. OF MINN.