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A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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OUR HEROES



by Ruth Taylor

February is the month in which we celebrate the birthdays of two of our national heroes. But this year while we pay honor to them, we also pay honor to many new heroes who on land, sea, and in the air gave their lives for that nation which George Washington helped to found and Abraham Lincoln helped to preserve.

What makes a hero? Not his background. Our heroes come from every rank of life, class and creed. It is not a question of birth—we believe more in nobility of ascent, than in nobility of descent.

There is a common yardstick for heroes, one by which we judge these new heroes, one to which Washington and Lincoln measured up in full. It is the willingness to put others first, to give unstintingly of themselves in the cause of right, and for the protection of the country they loved and of their fellow Americans.

That their memory endured throughout the years is not just because of what they did for the nation but because they clearly foresaw the course of events.

Washington said: "My politics are plain and simple. I think every nation has a Right to establish that form of Government under which it conceives it shall live most happy, provided it infracts no Right or is not dangerous to others."

Lincoln said: "Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prized liberty as the inheritance of all men in all lands."

These are the things for which we fought. Unless we realize the ideals of freedom for all men, unless we see to it that no basic Right is infringed we will have betrayed ALL our heroes. Our honor of them will be a mockery.

The Lakewood Citizen has an excellent line which it runs in the center of a page containing the names of honored dead of that community.

"They ask no more enduring monument than final victory."

Final victory is not merely the victory of war. It is the victory of peace as well. The achievement of that victory is our task. Don't let us fail any of our heroes—they did not fail us!

OVERTONES

—(by Al Heningburg)

BROTHERHOOD WEEK:

The annual celebration of Brotherhood Week helps even the most un-Christian among us realize the great need for friendliness which always comes upon a nation after a war. Men tend to lose moral and spiritual ground as they try to overcome the effects that our boys went out to kill or be killed. While we rejoice that the war would appear to be over, we still remember that at Nagasaki was located the most important Christian center in Japan. Yes, you read correctly, we said WAS located at Nagasaki.

A tireless and effective worker on the American scene is Dr. George E. Haynes, of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. Soft-spoken, patient, and persuasive, formerly of Fisk University and one-time of the National Urban League, Dr. Haynes knows that the churches of this country have not furnished enough greatly needed leadership. But he believes as do most other thinking people that if there is a way out, the Church will come near finding that way than any other single institution.

BEVIN VERSUS VISHINSKY:

Thousands of Americans sitting in comfortable living rooms, reading their evening papers, or listening with half their consciousness to newscasts, have failed to realize how important to THEM are the sharp words which pass between Messrs. Bevin and Vishinsky. Many of the Negroes who did the spade work in World War II, and their older brothers who also did the dirty work in World War I, fail to understand how significant is the power struggle reflected in the discussion between these two men. But historians know that diplomats make wars, while common men like you and me fight them. There is none too good feeling between the Soviet Union and the British Empire. It was neither the elevator operators nor the owners of buildings who suffered during the recent operators strike in New York, it was the foot-weary men and women who work

Editorial: "Saboteurs Of Democracy!"



NEBRASKA SAFETY PATROL SAYS—

With the number of auto gliders or "scooter bikes" on our streets and highways rapidly growing, it is imperative that these riders assume more responsibility for their own safety.

In any competition between auto gliders and automobiles, the auto glider is obviously at a disadvantage. In power, size, weight, and speed, the automobile excels.

The Nebraska Motor Vehicle Laws require that the driver of an auto glider or scooter with less than two horse power, must be 16 yrs. old. If the auto glider or scooter bike is two horse power or over, the driver must be 16 yrs. old and have a Nebraska operator's permit or license.

All auto gliders or scooter bikes regardless of horsepower, must be titled and registered.
C. J. Sanders, Capt.

in those buildings.

THE CASE APPROACH:

Representative Francis Case, of South Dakota, comes from one of the most sparsely settled sections of the United States. He runs a close second to Mr. Bilbo when you consider how few votes are necessary to send either to Congress. He has always voted anti-labor, perhaps because he comes from a neck of the woods where industry is practically non-existent. This man whose home-town number fewer than 2000 persons presents a bill which, if it becomes law, will set the cause of organized labor in this country back twenty years. The House Rules Committee, dominated by die-hard Republicans and southern Democrats, has already given the Case formula its blessing. All of which shows the new low level to which our present Congress has sunk.

MR. TRUMAN NEEDS:

The Honorable Harry S. Truman has discovered that being President of these United States is certainly no bed of roses. The post probably looked attractive from the dignified and isolated office of the Vice President, for with a man like Franklin D. Roosevelt in the White House, a Vice President was about as unnecessary and unheard as anything you can imagine. His recent clashes with Congress have made the President aware that he needs a new alignment, and he is beginning to seek that support among the same men who advised his predecessor. Mr. Truman too, needs to draw about him brilliant men with "a passion for anonymity." Whether he has the personal magnetism to attract such men is another question.

LEARN FROM CIO:

It's no simple matter to go on strike in the dead of winter, and to find yourself in a picket line at five below, with the wind whipping through you and past you all day long. The kids get hungry, and the rent man comes a round just as regularly as if Dad were working every day. When you think of things like this, you realize that UAW-CIO, and United Steelworkers of America, and other strikers are fighting a new kind of war for the rights of ALL working people. One lesson that Negroes everywhere should learn from this, is the fact that CIO leaders have discovered that not enough men were registered voters. Not enough in Cincinnati or in Detroit. Watch PAC go to work, watch registration increase and watch Congressmen begin to take heed.

About the Common Man

(by JUDAH DROB)

(from The Detroit Tribune, Sat., Febr. 2, 1946)

What's your formula for ending race prejudice? Most people who have thought about the problem, who believe that it can be solved, have some notion of what ought to be done to end this special curse of America.

My formula goes by the name of "association." Simply stated, it means that when the average prejudiced white person has had to work alongside a Negro in some enterprise or other, prejudices soon disappear in the startling revelation that all human beings are pretty much the same, after all.

The difficult of this formula, as you can see, is producing the association. For, by and large the results of the association are automatic. But getting the white person to agree to work alongside the Negro, or to live next door to him, or to belong to the same organization, is often next to impossible.

During the war a special factor operated to force the association. This was the necessity of production. The government officials in charge of manpower were often able to force reluctant white persons to accept Negroes as co-workers. In many cases the union involved had an anti-discrimination policy and helped provide the needed push.

In almost every case, where union, War Manpower Commission, or FEPC succeeded in forcing workers of both races together, the automatic cutting down of prejudice began.

From here on out it looks very much as though the government will not be playing a major role in this process for some time. This is written as the Senate filibuster against FEPC gathers steam, and the prospects for passage of S. 101 look dim.

WHO WILL GIVE THE PUSH?

The filibuster comes at a time when the powers of the

wartime FEPC are at their lowest. Add to the starvation diet decreed by Congress the reduction of its authority by the president, and you have an agency with little opportunity to carry out its job.

Does this mean that all hope of further association is ended? I think not. It just means that until we can get a Congress that will adopt a permanent FEPC law we must continue to place our reliance on other agencies.

The chief of these is the union that bans discrimination. For the immediate future that is the best bet for continuing the pressure on reluctant white workers, and for putting them into the situation where they will be able to learn to get along with their Negro associates.

All this came to the front of my mind recently when I met two good friends, one Negro and one white. One, the Negro, is chairman of the shop committee of the UAW-CIO local at the Chrysler Highland Park plant. The other is the president of the local, who was born and brought up in Tennessee.

The history of their local, and its race relations, is the best reason I have for pinning so much faith in the next few years on the prejudice-busting possibilities of some unions.

A CASE HISTORY

When I first met the Negro, L. McPherson, in the early days of the war, he was the leader of the Negro employees in the plant who had gone out on strike to force the company to upgrade qualified Negro workers.

A more forelorn and isolated bunch of strikers you have seldom seen. They were on a wildcat strike, and got no support from the union. They had been isolated in the janitorial work of the plant and had few friends among the white members of their union.

Finally, it was agreed that Negroes would be upgraded in the plant, and the strikers went back to work.

When I next met Mac he had been elected the chairman of the plant shop committee, representing all the workers in the plant, regardless of race, and regardless of skill. This was all the more remarkable because I know one young fellow a red-hot radical, who three years ago had been run out of that plant for arguing that Negroes had a right to work on machines.

The couple of years of association between Negro and white workers, doing the same work, side by side, had completely changed the atmosphere of the plant, and had put Mac in a position that he earned by his ability as a negotiator.

The President of the local, Bill Jenkins, came from Tennessee. He is one of many UAW-CIO leaders who came from the South, and who share with him a complete lack of prejudice, which most of them learned from the union.

You bet I'm for the union as a prejudice-buster!



Released by Calvin's News Service

My survey is far from complete—it's just a sampling—but I'll go out on the limb to say that the striking workers of this nation have the solid support of the Negro press. This support varies in degrees. A few Negro papers are unbearably timid. But most of those I have read evince a warm appreciation of the strikers' point of view and are correspondingly hostile to the workers' plutocratic exploiters.

This attitude contrasts sharply with that of capitalist newspapers generally. Where the metropolitan dailies are not hysterically demanding dascistic laws to outlaw strikes, and arguing the corporations' case while posing as champions of the "public," they are slyly disparaging. A few, a very few, affect mild sympathy for the strikers but water it down with large tears for the "suffering public."

Why this contrast? The Negro press is commercial. It is owned by capitalists and operated for profit. Compared with publishers of the big dailies, its capitalist-owners are to be sure, "small potatoes." But that doesn't explain anything. Some of the most vicious traducers of the strikers are small-town capitalist sheets.

Actually, the pro-striker sympathies of Negro newspapers is a phenomenon which grows out of the larger participation of Negro workers in industry. It reflects a grow

DO'S AND DON'TS:



Did you write that letter in pencil? Do write the next one in ink—it gives the letter a better appearance.

ing consciousness that the struggle against prejudice and discrimination is related intimately with the struggle of workers against wage-slavery exploitation, and it has a significance that goes beyond the present wave of strikes.

This is what I mean: Not only in America, but through out the world, things are shaping themselves for a showdown fight between those who live without working and those who work without living. If you hold your ear to the ground, you can hear the muffled roar of this revolutionary force. It is the demand of the workers that society put an end to the insane paradox of plenty. It is a protest against a system which destroys what it calls "surpluses" while men are ill-clad, ill-fed, and ill-housed. It is a new awareness of the unmitigated evil of a society which allows the socially operated instruments of toil to be owned privately, and which, through private ownership, vests despotic power over the many in the hands of a few.

The minority of Negroes who possess wealth have an interest, a CLASS interest, in preserving the evil-spawning capitalist system. On the other hand, while they possess wealth they are denied many of the privileges which ordinarily accompanies it. For, while the Negro community also is divided along class lines, the white world doesn't recognize the division. "For white only" is an injunction that excludes the Negro who is well-to-do as affectively as the plantation field hand. Money may buy luxuries, afford idleness, pay the wages of servants, but it can't purchase the favor of Jim Crow, and this fact rangles in none so bitterly as those who have the money to offer. For good or ill, their escape from the indignities and humiliations of race and color prejudice hinges on the escape of all who share them.

This brings us back to the movement of working class emancipation to which the struggle against race discrimination and prejudice is inseparably linked. Practically, the few Negroes who may be described as capitalists—businessmen, publishers, bankers, etc.—have ultimately to choose between a society which gives them status within the circumscribed sphere of the Negro community and a social system wherein affluence is general, hence no distinction, but wherein also men of all races and color mingle freely and live in harmony. To choose the latter implies that the Negro capitalist rises above his immediate class interests—as the Negro press man is doing in a sense in supporting the strikers today—and stands with the useful producers, the workers.

In all great social upheavals there are men who rise intellectually and morally above the material interests of their class. Some of the most devoted supporters of the bourgeois revolution were nobles for whom the revolution meant the end of special privileges. And we may expect that in the revolutionary struggle that is shaping, a few enlightened men will detach themselves from the camp of property and join the embattled workers. If the views currently expressed in the Negro press mean what they seem to mean, the enlightened men of wealth who champion the proletarian cause will include many Negroes.

YMCA EMPHASIS ON YOUNG MEN,

AND RETURNING VETERANS

All Sorenson is heading the 1946 YMCA Enrollment Week, according to an announcement by C. W. Mead, President, and Winslow Van Brunt, Chairman of the Membership Committee. Sorenson was the unanimous choice of the "Y" officials.

He has been active on the Youth Program Committee of the "Y" and while Chairman of the Rotary Boys' Committee, he helped extend the YMCA Boys' Community Work through the assistance of the Rotary Club.

Sorenson has picked the following men as his Generals and Aides and met with them Monday to plan the strategy of this campaign. The Generals and Aides are Roy Pratt, Henry Windheim, Harry Trustin, Ed Garvey, Albert Stelling, Cletus Haney, C. W. Minard, Wilson Walters and Jim Ainscow. Advising these leaders will be Bob Hall, Murray Champine, and Kermit Hansen.

"One thing we know for sure," said Sorenson, "our emphasis will be on the young men and returning veterans."

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