

# The Omaha Guide

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## Blame It On the Heat

It is easy to blame unfortunate incidents that in the Mid-City Community, for that matter, on or hide behind.

There are far too many arguments, misgivings on our fellow man's God-given rights, and general disorder conduct that leads to such unfortunate incidents, similar to the shooting of the Griffins. There is too much trying to settle an argument with a gun, knife or bribe by members of the community.

This type of thing hurts the community from whence it occurs and places those good qualities that go to make us a healthful, safe, happy, and peaceful community, where children may go back and forth in freedom to the church, school, and commercial places of business. It tends to bring fear into mothers' and fathers' hearts as to whether to let their children go into certain areas of the community.

We, that are swayed by the heat when we get into a friendly argument, losing control of our temper and doing something that we shall regret the rest of our natural life, must get ahold of ourselves; less we become a menace to our community and to the citizens that reside within that community.

Cutting, shooting, loud talking, and cursing on street corners are discredits to any community and it must come not only to a halt in this community, but in any other community in the city of Omaha. Man must learn today to live in peace and harmony with his next door neighbor.

Mr. Hancock, a feature writer with the Kansas City Call, said in his article dated May 5, "There is still too much indifference as to jobs, lay-offs after pay day, drunk sprees, that lead to gunplay etc., and too much energy going into fighting our brother and not enough energy going with lifting and encouraging our fellowman to contribute to the welfare of mankind everywhere.

He further deplors the following conditions: "Our communities have become like slaughter pens where we viciously stab and kill one another with brutal abandon and he says, "that with 50,000 or more now in college.

Yes, we the citizens in this community as well as similar communities must make ourselves a committee of one and see that these incidents are cut to a minimum, if not entirely eliminated.

Let us resolve today that we are going to make our community for ourselves and our children a more safe, beautiful and pleasing community to live in.

## Stretching the Dollar

The trend in retailing has been toward lower distribution costs and smaller margins of profit. As an example, it was recently reported that overall mark-up in one city for grocery, meat and produce dealers was as low as 10 1/2 per cent, while operating costs averaged 8 per cent.

All kinds of retailers have been studying ways and means of cutting expenses and putting economies into effect. The chains have been leaders in the undertaking, and independents have followed the trend.

This is the tailing way of meeting the tough cost of living problem. It has no control over wholesale prices. What it can and is doing is to reduce the spread between the price paid the manufacturer and the price charged the consumer.

As a result, price increases have been less than would otherwise have been the case. That may not seem much of a service to consumers who have been struggling to make shrinking dollars buy more. But it has undoubtedly resulted in saving a great many billions of dollars for the American people. Retailing alone can't stop inflation but it does help restrain it.

It is any man's guess when and if prices will come down. Recent developments indicate that there is little immediate hope for reversing the wage price spiral. But, regardless of what may happen, retailing will give the consumer the best possible return for his money.

## The Fruits of Statism

One thing distinguishes American economic doctrine from all others. That is freedom of opportunity under the competitive system.

In both Europe and South America competition is rigidly restricted by government, by cartels and by other monopolistic forces. As Russell writes in the New York Times "In contrast to the relative freedom with which an American can find work or start a business move from one place to another or introduce a new line of goods no such opportunities exist abroad. Foreign trade associations of producers wholesalers and retailers guard their vested interests jealously keeping out new members and keeping non-members out of business in order to prevent 'destructive' competition. Trade unions join with trade associations to restrict competition."

This kind of monopoly, whether exerted by government or by private interests, inevitably paves way for socialism. The state regulates more and more. Its fingers reach into every pie. Little by little it begins to expropriate businesses. It becomes the dominant influence in the economic life of the people. It becomes a major employer. The only possible end result is some form of dictatorship.

Furthermore, the American economic system is the only one which has distributed its benefits to the masses of the people. In the sup state whether it be of the Russian, German or Spanish pattern the men at the top possess enormous powers, and profit accordingly.

All the rest of the nation struggles along on a subsistence basis. There is no opportunity to improve, to save to start an enterprise. Punishment for dissenters is swift and brutal.

That is the danger when government goes into business when government tampers with free enterprise and the free market when bureaucracy reaches for more and more power. We have only to look abroad to see the fruits of statism.

## Helping To Police Negro America



## LIBERIAN CENTENNIAL

By BLANCHE ALICE RICH

One of the greatest events in Negro history will be the Centennial Exposition in Liberia, beginning



July 26. Liberia will celebrate its 100th birthday as a free, independent nation.

Liberia is located on the Guinea Coast of Africa, between Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast, and runs 350 miles along the Atlantic Coast. Liberia is about the size of New York State, covering an area of 43,000 square miles, with an estimated 1,500,000 population but no census has ever been taken.

Liberia is the only Negro Republic in Africa and with the exception of Haiti the only one in the world. Both its establishment and its continued existence as an independent nation are owed to the United States.

In 1819, when the American Colonization Society proposed to establish settlements along the coast of Liberia—the home of the free—freed Negro slaves. The congress of the United States passed an act authorizing President Monroe to send armed vessels off the coast of Africa to receive and resettle recaptured Africans. The slaves were taken from America and the British West Indies. They were of mixed blood, and were sent back to Africa in the beginning of the 19th century. None of them knew what part of Africa their forefathers had come nor the language they spoke, neither did any of them remember the ways of Africa, and because of these things, they found themselves in a strange world. For a long time they relied on the hips stores and supplies from aboard, while they were building their homesteads. On the streets of Monrovia, which is the capital, named after President Monroe, they built houses which are still standing today. They are large two and three story red brick buildings with white pillars and high pitched roofs. They laid out plantations of sugar cane, fruits and vegetables.

Upon entering the harbor, an American gets a thrill of surprise from the first glimpse of the flag flying at the stern of the Custom boat, because the flag of Liberia is in red and white stripes with a blue field in the upper corner on which is a single white star, and from a distance it looks very much like an American flag. Darkness comes quickly in Liberia. It is so near the equator, the days vary but little in length throughout the year. On the beaches he surfs pounds high, and all day and all night, comes the roar and heavy boom of the waves. Usually one gets accustomed to it, most people find it restful and refreshing at the end of a hot day to sit and look out over the sea, and enjoy the coolness of the night. The tropics

are always best in the evening or very early in the morning; and if one gets up early enough, the glory of the sunrise will repay one so much for the trouble. The "Pepper" birds gather in the trees very early and chatter and make so much noise no alarm clock is ever needed. They awaken everyone.

The more the history of Liberia is studied the more one is impressed with the fortitude of the Liberian Colonist. He knew nothing of the problem before him and as misguided and misled, but through it all he courageously faced the dangers of fever, sun, wild beasts and war with antagonistic tribesman.

The largest share of credit for what is happening in Liberia today and in the last few years, belongs President W. V. S. Tubman, who is fast becoming one of Africa's outstanding statesmen. He is leading, coaxing and pushing his feudal country along the road of revolution—by reform with astonishing speed. The measures he has already sponsored—such as votes for women and income tax under which the wealthy Liberians will have to help pay for their country's development—are nothing in comparison with his further goal.

In 1944 President Tubman started a term which will run until 1952. He greatly admired the late President Roosevelt and resembles him in many ways. He has a great goal in view. He has spent many months away from his capital, walking, or hiding in hammocks all through the hinterlands with the government officials. He has held council with all his people. He wants to wipe out all class differences, giving all the people equal rights, opportunities and social status. He is trying to get better education, medical help greater economic opportunity and more justice. How far Liberia will travel on the momentum of the past two exciting years is unpredictable. It is certain that Tubman progressive policies have unleashed the powerful forces that cannot be stuffed back into the bottle.

The history of Liberia for the last twenty years has been intimately tied up with Firestone rubber treads, which claims to operate the world's largest rubber plantation. To day Liberia is important to the United States in many ways. Liberia contributed to the war effort by supplying great quantities of rubber and granting of air-bases for the bomber, and ferry plane services. Liberia takes an active part in the United Nations, and maintains a diploma mission in London, Paris and Washington. I wonder how anyone can imagine that European countries, which have failed to control themselves or live in peace to another country. Nobody can give what he does not possess. Europe has no peace. Europe is the scene of greater chaos than is found in all of the other continents. How, then can we entrust millions of people in Africa to the hands of those unable to manage their own affairs. The entire continent is awake. Like over-ripe fruits, the old leaders are falling off the tree of African national life, bewildered. New types of leaders, who understand themselves, such as President Tubman, are rising up. These new leaders are impatient of cowardice, indifferent to fear

and unfriendly deceit. They hate imperialism, dictatorship and inequalities in the social order. They love truth and brotherliness, and they cherish the spirit of independence. There is hope for the future. Africa has a great zest for living. The road may be dreary, but they are marching toward a new.

Present day Liberian life preserves the tradition and custom of open hospitality.

Liberia's future is not that of a nation of dominant and dependent races. It is a future of economic opportunity and justice—a land where a Negro nation shall demonstrate to other nations the capacity for self government, liberty and meritorious action.

President Tubman has invited both prominent white and Negro Americans to attend the ceremonies.

## Bill S. 1041 Favorable For the Virgin Islands

Senator Hugh Butler, (R.-Neb.), announced today that the Senate Finance Committee had reported favorably his bill, S. 1041, to provide for additional revenue for the Government of the Virgin Islands. The bill as reported by the Committee would turn over to the Virgin Islands receipts from Federal excise taxes on rum and other products up to \$500,000 a year, on a basis similar to that enjoyed by Puerto Rico.

Senator Butler pointed out that the Virgin Islands' Government had been receiving financial assistance from the Federal Government for many years, but on a very restricted basis. "Such assistance as the Federal Government has given, has not been sufficient to maintain essential services at even minimum levels. The new bill, if enacted, should permit a great expansion of the health, welfare, and educational programs on the islands," he said.

## The Working of Democracy

By RUTH TAYLOR

Impatient souls are apt to grumble at the slow workings of democracy. They say it cannot function properly and are all for taking it apart and putting it together again according to some plan of their own. They speak of it as though it were but the blue print of some intricate machine which, with clocklike precision, should turn out articles alike to the shading of a hair.

Democracy is not a blueprint or overcome the slavery of want, the a machine—not even a machine in the political sense. Democracy is the way of revolution by evolution. It is the only way to slavery of ignorance, the slavery of discrimination—whether it be of class, creed or color. In it lies the solution to all of our problems for democracy depends upon the will of the people—which is but the will and the courage of many individuals banded together.

Democracy is the way of action. It is not static. Its growth is slow but never ceasing. It is not based upon tradition alone. Democracy is the way to do the things that must be done. It must always move ahead. Democracy is the traffic light of life. It adapts itself to the exigencies of the road. Its green and red lights are spaced on the traffic changes of the time.

Democracy is the way of justice. Racial or religious discrimination class hatreds, group pressure are all breaches of democracy, are flaws in the road that must and will be corrected in the course of time. The way may be long and hard but the democratic way will prevail in the end!

Democracy being a way had not an arbitrary law has flaws—many of them. But those mistakes are man made and can be corrected by the will of the majority. Because the majority wants free speech, they must allow it to the minority. The right of argument and conversion is open to the minority and majority alike.

Democracy like Christianity is a way that must be followed to be proven. Democracy is a way of life which stems from the individual. It is the method by



## The Eighth Person

By GEORGE S. BENSON  
President of Harding College  
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DID YOU know that you're working 10 days out of every month for the government? Well, you are. That is the extent to which we have allowed activities of the government to grow. Perhaps, as a nation, we can see that the bustiness of government has expanded. But when we get to looking at the books, the chances are we find a good deal more mushrooming than we imagined.

Look at this another way. If you may be considered an average person, you pay taxes at the same rate as if your employer paid you no wages ten days out of each month, but instead paid the check over to the government. This comes from the fact that right now federal, state, and local taxes consume about one-third of all the dollars earned in the United States. That's a burden on our necks that merits attention.

You Are NOW, DON'T think Sharing you can get out of this by pleading innocent. You're just a wage earner, you say? Not a high-bracket man who turns over three-fourths of his net income to the government? Sure, you know the take is high, but you say he's the man who does the squawking? Listen. While you may not be paying directly your ten days of wages to the government, you're paying just the same. The bill is made out every fiscal year, and you are helping pay it. You are sharing the burden of the costs of government.

Where does all this money go, you ask? Of course, we have a lot of expenditures in government, besides paying salaries and other kinds of allowances to in-

dividuals. Yet, one out of every eight workers in America in 1939 drew his salary from the government. Leaving the city and state governments out of this picture, it is estimated that one out of every eight persons in the country is on the federal payroll right now in one form or another.

Need A SFAND EIGHT average people together—one of them gets a check regularly from Uncle Sam! Amazing isn't it? And remember, you are footing the bill. This includes civilian employees, those receiving old age assistance, veterans, dependents of veterans, those in the army, navy and coast guard. This is a total of more than 16 million people receiving monthly checks from the United States government.

This means that every seven persons must supply a check for the eighth each month. It is indeed a difficult task to decide where to start cutting. But we must, for our nation is in danger. If we do not, we shall be in the position of the Roman Empire, which lasted only a little more than 400 years. Rome had too many folks on her payroll. She was soon dust.

It is not easy to say: "Whoa!" It is difficult to get out of from under tax burdens once they're yoked upon us. But we must adopt a definite policy of reducing government expenditures. We must free our industry, and investment capital as well, from the over-burden of taxes. We must have genuine prosperity. And when we keep asking the government to spend, let us remember that power-out-of-purse is soon power-out-of-hand. It's an easy, but sure way to national ruin.

which he learns to live amicably with his neighbor. It is the formula which civilized and free people have found most useful in working out the great problem of human relations.

Knockabout Chairs If you have knockabout chairs in the sunroom or on "sabbatical leave" from the summer porch and their appearance is not everything you desire, consider making simple slipcovers for them. Use strong fabrics like ticking or oilcloth in fast colors, so they can be tossed regularly into the washing machine.

Farm Production From the top third of the nation's farms comes 80 per cent of the total production; from the other two-thirds, 20 per cent.

Handle Logs Promptly Timber cut during the growing season requires prompt handling to avoid deterioration from decay, insect attacks or sap stains, extension foresters report.

Gives A LIFT To give a lift to canned or cooked dried fruit, squeeze orange or grapefruit juice over the top just before serving.

## TIME TO REDUCE!

By MACKENZIE



## What Workers Should Know About Workers

Here are some beliefs about workers which have been definitely proved false:

Workers have more prejudice than other groups.

Even students of the problem have long made the mistake of believing that race prejudice is highest among the working population. A Fortune survey of 1939 which was undertaken at the request of the Carnegie Corporation, blasted this popular misconception. It found that people with low incomes had much less prejudice than people with high incomes. A much greater percentage of the poor were opposed to segregation than were the wealthy. And the lower income groups had did the higher income groups.

The noted American criminologist, Dr. Edwin H. Sutherland, has shown that there are thousands of crimes committed daily which are not punished. In many sections of the business and financial world such crimes as bribes, tax evasion, misrepresentation of merchandise and unethical professional practices are considered "part of the game." Since people who commit these crimes are seldom brought to court and receive little notice in the papers, the public does not think of them as criminals.

Working men who are accused of crimes do not have the means with which to get around the law. They are more often punished and

their crimes more widely reported by the newspapers. As a result, the public links crime with the worker.

Workers are naturally lazy.

Workers may occasionally show little ambition on the job, but not because they are "naturally" lazy or indifferent. Experts in industrial relations have learned that fear of unemployment and general insecurity are largely responsible for whatever laziness being fired, a worker very often may have to loaf in order to keep his job. "Undoubtedly in times of stress, workers do see in resignation (deliberately loafing) a method of postponing the layoff" (Dr. Stanley B. Mathewson, "Restriction of Out Among Unorganized Workers").

Another reason why the worker may appear indifferent to his job is that he feels he has no way of being promoted or improving his working conditions. Here the union worker is much better off. He has spokesmen who will take his grievances to the employers. Also union contracts often include provisions for promotion and pay increase. The non-union worker, on the other hand, with no one to speak up for him more readily becomes indifferent and inefficient.

The findings of psychologists indicate that workers are in no way "naturally" inferior to other groups of the population. It is not lack of ability that has prevented working people from con-

tinuing their education, but the lack of opportunity plus severe financial hardships.

Here are some facts about the worker's strong interest in education: Thousands of workers have attended the adult education programs offered by labor unions and night schools. Labor organizations have always been among the strongest advocates of compulsory free education. A Fortune survey (Feb. '40) found that most workers wanted to send their children to college. And the fact thousands of workers who are veterans are going to school under the G. I. Bill is another proof of the workers real interest in learning.

Workers are bad parents. An investigation by Dr. Allison Davis and Dr. Robert J. Havighurst of the University of Chicago indicates that during early childhood, children of working class families are allowed more free and healthy expression of their basic needs. "Middle class parents place their children under a stricter discipline with more frustration of their impulses than do lower class parents."

The less strict discipline which workers' children receive is due to neglect, for they also receive, for the most part, more warmth, affection and emotional security than do children of other classes. As a result, they tend to be happier and less tense. Unfortunately sometimes the good emotional base which workers' children receive may be counterbalanced by

economic difficulties which they and their families meet later in life.

Despite these false beliefs many workers have remained active and confident. But other workers have some times had their self-respect badly weakened. These are two ways in which these incorrect ideas weaken the labor movement:

(1) They tend to make many workers feel inferior and weak. This lack of confidence stops them from participating actively in labor's fight (A person who thinks he is weak fears that he does not have the stuff to succeed in doing things. Often, therefore, he does not even try.)

(2) Since these false beliefs paint the worker as a stupid narrow man, he does not want to believe that he is a worker. Therefore he does not like to join and be active with other working people.

Exploiting these misconceptions and emphasizing the worker's many good features will improve his morale and feeling of strength. Developing a better regard for himself and for other working people will help in unionizing the unorganized.

Unions should remove these false beliefs and should demand that the press, radio and the movies give a real picture of the American working man. Building his faith in himself develops the worker as an individual and as a union member.