

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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TIME TO EXAMINE OUR POLITICAL PARTIES

We are now in the midst of a talkathon, and when double-talk is the accepted thing. We are speaking about the present political campaign, and the promises and pledges the parties and their candidates make to special groups in order to win their votes.

These are indeed, times that try the souls of men. And if ever the souls of any group, has ever been tried, it has been those of the colored voters. He has been wooed and he has been damned by every political group who has made an attempt to win an election.

These are very crucial days in which we live, and the time is now come for some serious thinking on the part of every man, woman, and child. Of course, there are Negroes who would not think of voting for any one, except a Republican, be he a good or a bad republican, and for no other reason than that it happened to be the party in power when Negroes were emancipated. Then, there are Negroes who swear the Democratic party, and are just as sincere in their reason for supporting it, as are their republican brethren. Also, we have another segment who are ardent supporters of the Progressive party and the Socialist and other minor parties.

Political parties are built upon the threshold of great questions of time, and once those questions have been settled they go on to other questions or disband.

But we fail to see any great democrats as far as the Negro is concerned, one is no better, or worse than the other.

It boils down to the point where you must choose your man. For instance in recent years, Teddy Roosevelt was a good man, perhaps as good as Lincoln, and both were republicans. On the other hand, Grover Cleveland, was certainly no worse than republican Rutherford Hayes, he was neither the best nor the worst as far as Negroes were concerned, you might say that he steered a middle course, but he was fair, and he was a democrat. Likewise, was Franklin D. Roosevelt democrat, and he too, was a mighty good man as far as Negroes were concerned. Taft and Wilson were about alike, and one was a Republican and the other was a democrat.

Each of them has something worthwhile to his credit, but please bear in mind, that whatever any of them did in behalf of the Negro, was not done because of any spontaneous action on their part, or that of the party they represented. Whatever the benefits the Negro received, was because of constant hammering at the gate of democracy on his part.

The republican administration in 1860, would never have freed the slave, if it could have forced the surrender of the South by any other means. The democratic administration in the 1930's and up to now, would not have issued executive orders and acceded to the demands of the Negro for justice and democracy, had they not seen the handwriting on the wall in the matter of winning elections in doubtful states. Politics is politics, and whether played by a republican or democrat both will at times stoop mighty low to get into office. And when men seek to get into office the forget about moral and ethics.

The record of the Northern republican has been just as bad as that of the Southern democrat, both have played dirty politics with America's one-tenth. Look at the records of each will bear this out, The only difference, depending upon which was in power.

Party platforms are meaningless most of the time, for they very seldom carry out what they pledge in them. Take for instance, the republican platforms; they have a plank concerning the rights of Negroes in every platform since 1920, and what have they done to carry out any part of it? They certainly were in control of both branches of Congress from 1920 until 1932, and from 1946 until the present.

They have deliberately brought up measures, knowing full well that they did not intend to see them through, but only to needle the southern democrats into filibustering them to death. They did not want the poll-tax to pass, or the anti-lynch bill FEPC or any other civil rights measures for that matter! They were brought up only to embarrass the administration now in office. The democrats, on the other hand, brought up these measures only because it needed votes to win elections. We have only benefited from either party, because the Negro like other minority groups has grown strong enough to put pressure upon the politicians, thus forcing them to accede in granting his rightful share of democracy they talk so much about. There is no way under the sun, that the republican can explain away the reason why it acted as it did in the last special session, not only about those measures affect all of the people. Unless it was to gather campaign ammunition. The question of whether or not the president is sincere, or is playing politics in the matter of civil rights program, is left to the individual voter. But we do know, that if he is it is no more than what the republicans have done and are now attempting to do, except that Truman has beaten them to the draw.

Every citizen should be interested in men and measures, and in the party. In the South, where there are only demagogues running, a choice must be made between the candidates, crats running, a choice must be made between the candidates. So it is East, North West or South, men and measures should be considered above party labels.

But the tragedy of it all, is the fact that the kind of Congress we have been electing; set such a bad example in demagogues we have been electing; that it is a hollow mockery to democratic ideals and principles. It is a sad commentary but true that our Congress is nothing more than a sideshow. There is nothing in it, electrically about it, nothing that can make us feel proud of the fact that we elected them to represent us. There is nothing too high and warm, and low, to which most of our present day statesman won't bow down, if it means keeping his party in office.

NY CASE WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS

Maybe he saw the movie, "Gentlemen's Agreement," or the book. Maybe he thought of it himself. At any rate, the prize winning reporter Ray Sprigle of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette shaved his head, got him a deep sun-tan in Florida, and then spent four weeks in the Deep South disguised as a Negro.

It was a clever stunt, and Sprigle made the most of it. He traveled around using jim crow railroads and bus facilities, he traveled in Negro communities, and talked to Southern Negroes

as a Negro from Pittsburgh. He came back almost hating the white race for what it does to colored brethren, and wrote an emotional series of articles about what it feels like to be a Negro in the South (when you're used to being a Northern white man.)

One of the reasons white men behave so badly toward the Negroes it that they are only partly conscious of what they are doing. Most Northerners have no conception of the disabilities under which Negroes labor. Southerners are not so naive as that, but they usually manage to make themselves believe that they treat Negroes as well as they deserve, and that Negroes are happier when "kpt in thir place."

It is only by mental experiments like the one Sprigle performed physically-imagining yourself in a Negro's position—that white men can get any idea of what they are really doing in human terms.

Holdings Carter, Southern liberal who edits the Delta-Democrat Times in Greenville, Miss., has been writing an able series of articles in reply to Sprigle's.

He points out (not quite correctly) that th Negro's lot is far from perfect in the North, and that conditions in the South are changing fast in many respects. Some of Sprigle's worst horrors still happen occasionally, but are no longer typical.

In Carter's own Mississippi Delta county, for example, there have been no lynchings for 40 years. It's still a trigger-happy country, with lots of homicides but few of them have any interracial aspects.

Last year, says Carter, the Greenville trade area (70 per cent Negro) had an average of two killings of Negroes per week, usually over gambling or women. (Incidentally this is one of the chief grievances of Southern Negroes: the law gives them little protection against violence by whites or Negroes.)

There were three killings of white men by white men. There were no killings of Negroes by white men. There were two killings of white men by Negroes.

In one, a Negro watchmen shot a white hold-up man in self-defense, was tried and freed. In the other case a low grade moron confessed to killing the white salesman whose chauffeur he was in an attempt at extortion. But the body has not been found, his stories conflict, so the chauffeur may be tried only for forgery. Carter says there was much local indignation when the chauffeur lost an eye while in custody.

We prefer to think of the Carter and Sprigle series not as a debate, but as division of labor. Race relations are one of the things Americans have bungled. It is important that all Americans should be conscious of what their mistakes have been—their own as well as their neighbor's in another state. It is important that they would know what cages are taking place—and they are many North and South.

These things are important not just as an intellectual exercise, but as a preparation for action. When we know the evils are in American race relations, when we know that growing points are for better race relations, then we can go on more surely toward up which is bored with grandpappy's obsession. For two generations the South has been biting off its own nose to evade the 14th and 15th amendments to the federal constitution: lying the gutter to hold the Negro there; now in the face of a series of Supreme Court decisions knocking the props out of many of its evasions, the South is considering the whole matter anew for the first time in half a century.

In the North, four industrial states and five of the largest cities have embarked on an adventure which gives promise of healing the worst sore in race relations here: with laws against discrimination in employment and new administrative techniques of enforcement which amount to "Compulsory education."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Horizontal

1 To cease
3 Flying mammal
8 Migration
12 No score, in tennis
13 Challice
14 This place
15 Solar disk
16 End
18 Gull-like bird
19 Spanish article
20 Constrains
21 Feline
23 Archaic antiquity
25 Gone by
27 Heraldic: grafted
29 Kilt
33 Third sign of the zodiac
35 Yellowish
37 Sweetsop
38 Latvian
40 Instrumental duet
41 Local: to bewitch
42 Before
44 Tilled land
48 Symbol for calcium
50 Annoys
53 Catastrophe
55 So be it
56 Entry
57 Poetic: to unclose
58 Narrow ribbon
59 Receptions
60 Greek letter
61 Poker stake

Vertical

1 Lath
2 Colloquial: to carry
3 To conquer
4 Normal con-our feather
5 Foundation
6 Charm against witchcraft
7 Sticky substance
8 Those things
9 To gather
10 Gaelic
11 To capsize
17 Spanish hero
22 Numeral
24 For fear that
25 Turkish title
26 To become
28 River in Africa
29 Symbol for oleum
30 City magistrate
31 French coin
32 Pair
34 Exists

36 Devoured
39 To exclude
41 Owls
43 Lasso
44 Mineentrance
45 Ceremony
46 On the ocean
47 Barriers in rivers
49 Plane surface
51 Retained
52 To cut, with "snick"
54 Digit

Answer to Puzzle Number 43

Series 31-47

Death of Presidents

Seven Presidents have died in office: William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, Warren G. Harding and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Only Taylor and Roosevelt died in office while congress was in session.

Largest Attendance

The largest football game attendance was at Soldier Field, Chicago, November 16, 1929, when 112,912 spectators watched Notre Dame defeat Southern California 13 to 12.

Popping the Question

Most young men present their diamond engagement rings just before escorting a girl to a social affair, a recent survey shows.

Navigated Lake Michigan

Jean Nicolet is credited with being the first white man to navigate Lake Michigan, according to Encyclopaedia Britannica. Sent west by Champlain on a voyage of exploration, he treaded his way in a birch canoe through the Straits of Mackinac and discovered Lake Michigan in the summer of 1634.

BUT IT'S YOUR BUSINESS



The caption on this week's cartoon is "HAVE A HEART". But we think that there is more to the story than just THAT. We have here before us a clear picture of the present-day situation, as it really is. As is shown, we have the cost of Government, then taxes, and more taxes! John Q. Public now has just about all that he can possibly carry. But in the background he hears the voice of a non-descript character, asking him to take on another bag of expenditures, under the pretext that it is an emergency.

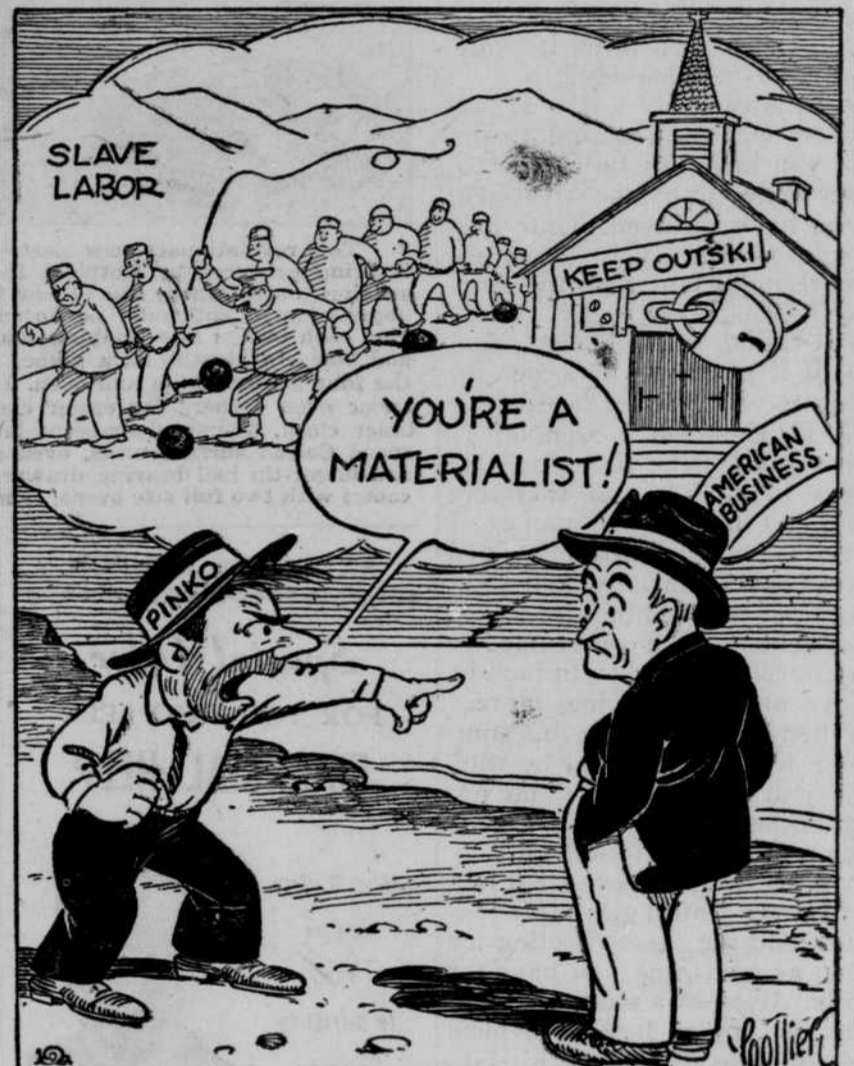
All of this is YOUR BUSINESS! Since you, and you, must pay the bill. We are afraid that the average citizen doesn't know too much about how his tax dollars are spent, or just doesn't care!

Every one should be interested enough to make some inquiry about how his money is being spent. We do so in our every day activities, WHY not do it so when it concerns our Government?

But to learn these things afterwards, costs us Billions annually, and while no one would not hesitate to pay his taxes when due, it is also our duty to see that they are spent wisely and will be of benefit to ALL of the People and not for a PRIVILEGED FEW.

Indeed! This matter of spending billions for unnecessary expenditures IS YOUR BUSINESS, for it is YOU who must pay!

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!



TAKES



Massage Those Gums

A new electric vibrator for home use features a rubber cup attachment for gum massage. Three other accessories are a roller for skin stimulation, rubber fingers for the scalp and a rubber cup for tired muscles.

Care in Cleaning

It is safer to do dry cleaning out of doors because of the danger of accidents when this work is done in the house. There is always a danger of fire when cleaning fluid is exposed inside a home.

Daniel West Says: In My Opinion

It is hard to measure the results of the new laws against racial or religious discrimination in employment in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut, because several other forces are working in the same direction, good times, and public sentiment. But these forces are at work over much of the country; the laws are just in four state and five additional cities. A study of Situation.

In a period of one to three years, the difference is really measurable. LeRoy W. Jeffries, assistant director of the industrial relations department of the National Urban League, has a manuscript of the employment of Negro white collar workers in private industry in 25 selected cities.

The 25 were cities where the Urban League had adequate staff to find out how many Negroes were employed on Jan. 1st, 1948 as white collar workers, technicians or professional employees, in private enterprises for profit—not counting those workers in Negro communities.

Half in Four Cities
Half of these Negro white-collar-and up employees were working in FOUR CITIES ONLY—and the four cities were in states with anti-discrimination laws for employment. Another third were in Chicago, which has a city anti-discrimination ordinance.

Chicago is a special case, however. Most of the Negro white collar workers there were clerks in mail order concerns at the edge of town, where they do not meet the public. Chicago had only three Negro department store sales persons outside Negro neighborhoods, against New York's 382 and little Hartford's 89!

Omitting Chicago, the four cities in anti-discrimination law states have 77 per cent of the Negro white-collar and up workers in all 24 cities.

Squeezed Out of Jobs
Negroes do have more education, more property, better health now than they did 20, 30, or 70 years ago.

But they have not yet regained the political power they had briefly in the late 1860s and 70s when they had far less preparation for it. And there has been a steady drive to squeeze them out of one occupation after another, and to keep the best of the newly developed jobs from them, except when they are catering to their own race alone.

This has been true North and South. In some ways it has been worse in the North, while restrictive unions are stronger and the Negro's need to earn a living is less apparent.

The wartime shortage of labor or made a temporary dent in this trend, with the assistance of the federal fair employment practice commission. The state anti-discriminatory laws give promise to holding these gains, and making vast new ones. They give promise to bridging the long-time gap between the American WORDS about equality of opportunity and American DEEDS.

They give promise of making the Negro and other oppressed minorities first-class citizens, for the first time.

Your Fire Loss

Direct losses by fire in 1947 soared to an unprecedented 70 million dollars, or 23 per cent higher than in 1946. This fire loss, if apportioned equally among America's 60 million jobholders, would cost each wage-earner \$11.66

Need More Timber Growth

The forests of the U. S. are now growing at the annual rate of 13.4 billion cubic feet. A growth of about 20 billion cubic feet annually is needed by the nation.

World's Oldest City

Dating back nearly 8,000 years, the prehistoric village of Mersin in southern Turkey, the most ancient settlement ever discovered, was unearthed recently by Prof. John Garang, 70, archeologist.

Here's what WORK HOURS WILL BUY

RUSSIAN WORKER	AMERICAN WORKER
1 hour, 18 minutes	QUART OF MILK
10 hours, 42 minutes	10 minutes
More than three months	POUND OF BUTTER
1 2 3 4 5 6	48 1/2 minutes
6 9 10 11 12 13	1 2 3
Two weeks	WORSTED SUIT
	Three days
	PAIR OF LEATHER SHOES
	Less than one day

RUSSIA seizes all inventions, killing incentive. Result—standard of living is low; prices are high.
SOURCES: U.S. estimates by Bureau of Labor Statistics—Latest Russian prices reported by Associated Press.

U.S. PATENT SYSTEM provides incentive for invention and the basis for highest standard of living—with quality of American goods and distributive services immeasurably ahead of all foreign countries.
Prepared by National Patent Council.

BROTHERLY BEHAVIOR

By Earle Conover
Finding the combination of a safe nearby recently made pickings for a thief. Each vacation time brings for me a happy combination of visiting, recreation, sightseeing, and possibly a little business. While you have been reading (?) this column for the past five weeks its writer has been riding about the country by train and auto. Certain memories stand out today. An automobile trip of about 4,000 miles took us into eastern states where we saw a host of relatives and old friends. Some had not been seen for years so we were shocked by their changed appearance. Gray hair had come out all over the place, and those "crow foot" wrinkles at the eyes that tell tales. (We must have looked just as ancient, also.)

Historic Spots
Some of the historic spots visited include Gettysburg Battlefield, Valley Forge, and the Lincoln Log Cabin Court House at Decatur, Illinois. We felt sorry for the exceptionally tall squire, Abe Lincoln, who must have had to lower his head constantly as he walked underneath the low beams there.

Gettysburg is holy ground for many reasons. Innumerable statues, markers, and implements of warfare dot the surrounding countryside.

Valley Forge brings back memories of real deprivation and impending disaster.

Barbara Fritchie's home in Frederick, Maryland, is now a museum. Whittier's poem has immortalized her waving an early American flag from an upper window in the face of passing British troops. A postage stamp commemorating this event was placed on sale there just two days before our arrival.

John Brown's fame is tied to Harper's Ferry, W. Va. The little fort he defended is frequently visited. At nearby Charles Town we saw the court house in which he was condemned. The apple tree in a neighboring yard from which he was hung has disappeared now.

I stopped at the little house of two elderly spinners, friends of long ago, and learned that the second one had died recently. These sisters as young ladies, had provided food for John Brown's besiegers.

Do You Know These Nebraskans?

Beginning next week, the Omaha Guide will run a series on Nebraskans, past or present, who have distinguished themselves. How many of them do you recognize? The quiz will appear weekly.

Lost But Won Election
A man who made no election campaign and who did not have the highest number of electoral votes was elected President of the United States in 1824. World Book encyclopedia says that John Quincy Adams made little effort to get votes, but received 15 less electoral votes than the leading candidate, Andrew Jackson. Adams was selected by the house of representatives because none of the candidates had a majority.

Race Horse Wires
Probably the first commercial telegraph system in the United States was constructed in 1827 by Harrison G. Dyar, to send results from a race course at Long Island City, N. Y.