

The Lighthouse

AND INFORMER

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What Does The Negro Want?

Last week end the City of Columbia advertised in daily newspapers for applicants who might pass the civil service examinations and be employed as police officers and firemen.

We understand that for some time the city has been waiting for five or six other colored officers to serve along with the three now on the force, and also plans to employ colored firemen before long.

The fact that the city has now to beg for colored applicants who might be put on the police force is, to our way of thinking, "a scandal to the jaybirds." Were call that as far back as ten years ago there was considerable activity among Negroes for employment of colored police officers. Their reasoning was of course sound as proved by the excellent service the city has received since several were hired. But what puzzles is that these same people who were so loud for colored policemen are now so quiet when it comes to getting the eligible men to apply and get the jobs, or of having also proof that their people really wanted the chance to be on the enforcement end of law enforcement.

Were this the only instance, and the only place where it is necessary to go around and plead with Negroes to make use of opportunities they said they wanted, and finally received, it would not be worth discussing. But the use of the municipal swimming pool in Seegar's Park here over its two year period has been far less than was expected or has it? And there are before us reports from other communities

which are having and have had difficult times trying to find Negroes for jobs they said Negroes wanted and should have.

Then, take the matter of voting. Here is an area which was a sore spot ten years ago. Everybody was lamenting the fact that state laws did not allow Negroes the chance to hold an important vote—that is, everybody Negro. Now that it is easy to register, we have most of the eligible Negroes still unable to vote, only this time because of themselves.

Not only is the majority making liars out of their leaders by failing to make good use of these privileges before them, but they are also making clear to their traditional enemies favoring limitations and Negro exclusion, that their way of living in and operating the community may be the correct way after all. Nobody has patience and time for him who shirks his opportunities. And what is worse, the leaders who once stuck their necks out and endured all manners of abuse and sufferings, are apt to get a stomach full of it and elect to do what has been done in behalf of the race for too long—that is, nothing.

One wonders what the Negro really want? Does he want to be like the rest of the community, or does he want to be a second class, inferior citizen, a sort of civic scavenger who feeds upon the scraps and wastes set aside for this lower type of citizen? The only answer certain right now is that he isn't particular about being anybody important.

Loss Of A Priceless Citizen

Last Sunday afternoon they lowered the remains of a priceless citizen to their final resting place in Columbia. We refer to our late and good friend, James Arthur Roache, who for a number of years operated a printing plant at Benedict College. At one time he also published a newspaper, trained a number of young men and women in the trade of printing and lent assistance to every deserving cause in his community.

Mr. Roache had come to Columbia as a young man and had with diligence and pa-

tience worked himself up to good standing in the community. He was the faithful sort of reliable plugger the world knows too little or in our present day crop. He held a high position in his church since the days of his youth, and could be counted on. What support he could, he gave to those agencies and movements about him which purported to bring a happier people and community.

In his death, Columbia and South Carolina have lost an invaluable citizen, whose place will remain unfilled, but whose works will be long remembered.

The Pawns And Puppets

What may be a healthy sign is that more and more lay citizens are learning first hand that South Carolina's political leaders are the most ruthless rulers one can imagine.

For example, most people are learning that the meeting of local Democratic precincts for the biennial reorganization is but a farce. Most of these are "cut and dried" process, which meet and do their business in a matter of a minute or two, and before the average voter has time to sit in his seat.

And the process becomes more ruthless progressively. It is a little more rambunctious in the county meeting and reaches its peak in the state convention where, for example, delegates to the national convention are all nominated by one man—one in the center of the machine, and done in such a manner as be informative, rather than a recommendation.

The Critical Steel Strike

A federal judge ruled that the President of the United States has not authority to seize operation of a vitally important industry, as when President Truman took over the steel industry, assuming that the demands upon his country's output during a state of emergency made the continuous operation of the steel industry a necessity.

The merit or demerits of the legal and

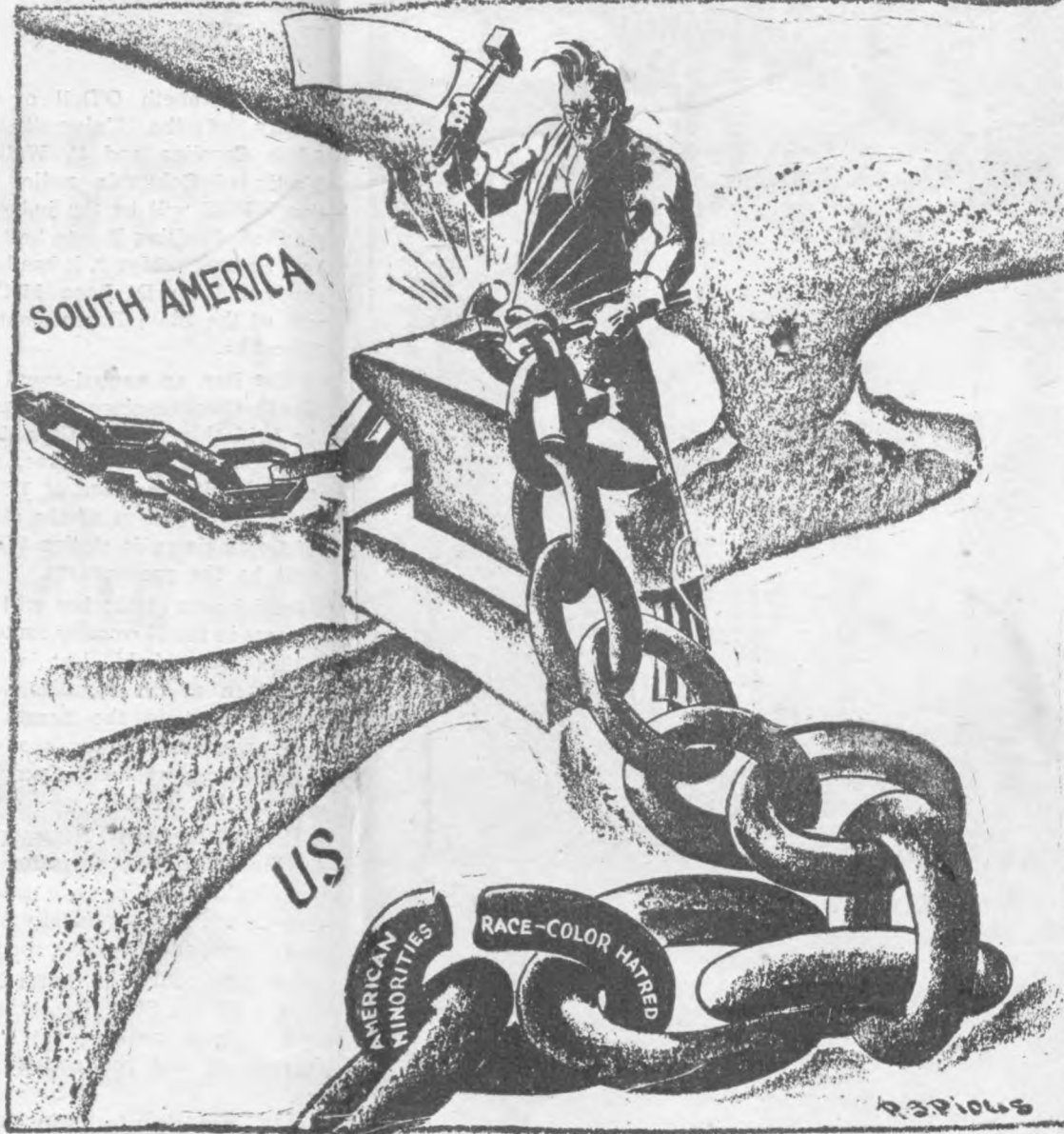
The net result is that, as long as we have been watching it—and that is ten years now—the position this state has had to hold to in the national picture, is one the rank and file—the lay citizen—has nothing at all to do with.

The people—all of them—are consequently nothing but pawns and puppets on the politician's chess board, or at the end of his maneuvering string. And it is only honor and integrity which has kept the people from pushing through a revolution which would end this sort of rule and government, the likes of which we went to war to defeat in Germany and Italy.

The operation of the present "Democratic" party of South Carolina is but a farce against the intended manner such organizations were intended to be run in a democratic society. And the background of it is racial at home and for personal gain among its politician-leaders.

constitutional issues involved we do not discuss, but if the chief executive has not authority to keep such vital industries operating in a time of distress, congress, the courts or somebody ought to have that authority. The war isn't over yet in Korea, nor is the world and America yet removed from the brink of war. The soldier in the foxhole cannot strike or refuse to bargain fairly with his employee.

"The Strongest Link Is Civil Rights."



John H. McCray

It's Interesting Moving About

To anybody interested in getting the more accurate view of what has happened and is happening about them, I suggest: "Get out. Move about and talk with people." You'll learn much more this way in one day than you can get from years of digging in books on the subject, or from the lips of your leaders, most of whom take facts and figures lightly, or distort them.



Two week sago, up in Edgefield county long since regarded as one of the toughest for minority groups in this state, I listened spellbound as one elderly citizen related what he knew actually took place during the "Phoenix rioting" back in 1898 when enforcement of the "white-only" state constitution was begun. I was particularly impressed when he began the subject as a casual experience, being the first person I had ever heard discuss this clash which was long before my time.

He rambled through this experience before his attentive audience and then related other experiences as a boy on his father's farm, which left the impression that, willing, though he lives in a hellish and ticklish spot, the Negro can command respect and match wit for wit with anybody else.

I got the impression I had gotten on many occasions before in conversation with the old timers that nobody trampled the rights of a Negro in Edgefield county in the good old days, nor were the white people as mean and tough as they are said to have been.

Then, last Sunday, following a visit to Bishopville in Lee county, we got into conversation with an experienced minister who once pastored in the county and community. Twenty years ago when he preached there, he said, he found it easy to get along with the white leaders and on one occasion, entered into a business deal with one of the town's biggest men, which somewhat revolutionized the thinking of Bishop-

ville Negroes.

His church had to have \$2,000 immediately. He tossed and prayed at night for some solution, then one morning while walking along the main street, he thought hit him that this white man who was said to be the biggest "Negro-hater" might be just the man. So he went in to see him and walked out with a check for the \$2,000 and what is more, the man wouldn't take one thing as security. "Reverend, your word is enough security for me. I know you folk aren't going to mistreat me," he is quoted as saying to the minister.

The church membership was started. They just couldn't believe this had happened in their interest from this man of all people. But it had, and that was the beginning of a happier community and better understanding between both races. Of course the money was repaid, and much quicker than had it been loaned under normal conditions.

The more you move around the more you get to know the people—all of them. Here and there you sit down and talk with white men. While it is yet difficult for most of them to discard the traditional approach to talking about community problems with a Negro, once they get warmed to the subject, all of them wind up thinking alike. And I say to you that not all the white people in South Carolina are bad—like, say the Dixiecrats. Not one-half, nor a quarter of them is bad.

W. McK. Bowman

Under The Shadow Of The Cross

On May 6th thousands of Baptist preachers from every "nook and corner" of the State will make their way to Mullins, to attend the State Baptist Convention being held at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Rev. J. L. Brooks, Pastor.

There will be a special incentive to go on Tuesday this year because the pre-convention speaker will be that nationally known orator Rev. J. H. Jackson.



J. H. Jackson, Vice-President of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois. It is common knowledge that Dr. Jackson is one of the world's foremost orators and thousands of preachers will attend the pre-convention session just to hear Dr. Jackson. An interesting program has been planned. Dr. Daniels will be at his best in his annual address. We will hear sermons by Dr. W. H. Neal, E. J. Whipper and others. Other outstanding personalities scheduled to appear on the three-day program are: Dr. G. L. Prince, president of the National Baptist Convention of America, J. M. Hinton, member of the Board of Directors of the NAACP, Charles H. Brown, Dean of the School of Theology of Benedict College, Dr. H. E. Hardin, Dean of the School of Theology Morris College, Dr. J. A. Bacons, president of Benedict College, Dr. O. R. Reuben, president of Morris College and many others.

The goal has been set to raise \$50,000 for Mission and Education. Morris College, our school, must have a Science Building by September. We must raise \$25,000 in the convention session. Benedict College needs funds for its building rehabilitation program. There is no reason why \$10,000 can-

not be given to Benedict College. We have been neglecting the cause of Mission, if the world is to be saved, it must be saved by preaching of the gospel in every land. This cannot be done except we give more for the cause of Missions. The Foreign Mission Boards of the National Baptist Conventions need funds now more than ever.

We should give not less than \$5,000 to help the emergency needs of the Foreign Mission Boards. Every genuine Baptist preacher in South Carolina should attend the meeting, take part in the discussions, and support the cause. The revised constitution is up for adoption again this year, we should be there to see that our ideas are incorporated in this constitution which will guide the Baptists for the next hundred years.

Do not forget the office of Public Relations which has been working hard to keep the objectives of the convention before the public.

See you in Mullins, South Carolina, May 6th. Let us Watch, Fight, and Pray!

Calvin's Digest

by L. BAYNARD WHITNEY
(For Calvin News Service)

REBELS vs. YANKEES

Sometimes a little horseplay develops into a tragedy. I have in mind the manufacture, display and wearing of Confederate and Union caps, flags and uniforms. Although many of our best editors look innocently upon the practice as something for children to toy with, adults are taking it up, too. From here, it looks like a very potent form of psychological warfare. Elements that seek to divide the Nation are making increasing use of it to remind us of hatreds that should have been Gone With The Wind.

Comes now Chicago's Edgar G. Brown, a Republican, who says he will sport a "Union soldier" hat during his campaign, in the First District, to unseat Congressman William L. Dawson, a powerhouse Democrat. Of course no one can imagine Dawson putting on a "confederate to gain publicity is decidedly silly and undignified. soldier" hat just because he is a Democrat. Such fardelard Brown's clouting ought to go far toward pushing votes for Dawson.

But, juvenile as the practice may be, it is reported that Army brass has "okayed a request that the bandsmen" of the lily-white 31st Infantry Division of Alabama and Mississippi National Guardsmen... "be permitted to wear Confederate uniforms at a time when Navy has ordered Destroyer Division 122 to haul down its Confederate flag."

Perhaps one reason for the request being granted is that most of the high-brass seat warmers in the Pentagon are Southerners, and other white supremacists. Is it any wonder that nations abroad that look to America for leadership, see us a divided country unworthy of their confidence?

Do the Negro's enemies throughout the Nation plan to fight it out again rather than grant him the same Freedom enjoyed by white Americans?

WHAT IS A BRAT?

The Thorndike-Baronhart Dictionary says a brat is a contemptuous name for a child. By which we easily infer that when the conduct of any child is such as to cause us to regard it with contempt, disgust and righteous irritation, it is a BRAT—even though said child "unbrats" by subsequent good behavior, and is no longer a brat. This is about movie brats.

Last week a group of white mothers in San Francisco, calling themselves the Lafayette Mothers Committee on Mass Communications went on record against "rodyism, roughhousing and horseplay" at Saturday movie matinees. They sent out a questionnaire to theatre managers. In the preface the mothers charged that "children cannot hear the dialogue" because "missiles are thrown, hair is pulled, fists fly, children are tripped, there is running up and down the aisles and unrestrained traffic to and from the candy counter during the performance." The kids also slash the seats with knives and break things.

Well the managers couldn't deny it and were therefore all the more angry at the mothers blaming it all on lack of proper home training. (The women had various retorts for that one...)

The theatre men's chief reply was that kids are like that. Which is the poorest of all excuses for not maintaining discipline. The excuse also completely ignores the rights of adult patrons, many of them parents who accompany the children, who pay to be entertained instead of suffering agony in a madhouse.

STRAIGHT AHEAD

BY JULIUS ADAMS

NEW YORK (Global) — The pressure is on General Eisenhower, candidate for the Republican nomination for President, to open up and explain his views on a variety of topics. One of the issues many folk would like to hear "Mr. Ike discuss is that of civil rights. It is only fair that the voters should ask a candidate for his stand on important questions and it is quite likely that the General will give his answers. The big point is the timing—which is important in politics as it is in mechanics.

Most probably the Eisenhower big brass intends to have the candidate take the field of battle, but they may be wise in not allowing the opposition to choose the battleground or the hour the offensive is to begin. This has been one of the weak spots

in previous efforts of the GOP in Presidential campaigns. The Party has been kept off balance, has been maneuvered into positions to make statements or answer questions at most unpropitious times and under unfavorable circumstances.

There is hardly any need for worry over Ike's failure so far to speak out. For one thing, the very company he keeps speaks well for him... Dewey, Duff, Lodge, Ives, Driscoll, Saltonstall. These are all good men and true—men whose position and stand on civil rights and all other American rights are beyond question. It is doubtful if they would be so strong for Eisenhower or if he would leave his affairs in their hands if they didn't see pretty nearly eye to eye on the major United States and World issues.



"Keep your hair neatly groomed, but don't lose self respect doing it."