

Comments

EDITORIAL PAGE

Opinions

THE OMAHA STAR

OMAHA'S MOST PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY

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EDITORIALS

Is Your Next Door Neighbor Registered?

Fellow Citizens, we are now facing another city election, and it is our unalterable duty to do our part to see that not only are we as individuals registered, but that our next door neighbor is also registered. Ask yourself the question, "Is my next door neighbor exercising the right of a Citizen?" Then immediately answer that question by going to the home of your next door neighbor and repeat to him the question that has passed through your mind, and should his answer be a negative one, then insist upon his going to the office of the election commissioner and do his duty as an American Citizen by registering.

Now as you read this editorial there no doubt, develops within your mind the question, just what is necessary to become a properly registered person in the City of Omaha, County of Douglas and State of Nebraska.

It is necessary for you to have been an inhabitant of the State of Nebraska for the last six months and of the county for the last 40 days and of your precinct for the last 10 days; that you have attained the age of 21 years. Further if you have met all the above requirements and have in the past exercised your citizenship rights by registering and voting, but for some reason or another, since the last election, have moved, such such renders you automatically ineligible to vote. Therefore, prospective voter, if you have changed address recently, even if only next door, you are urged to re-register, thus avoid having your vote challenged on April 14th.

WE OUGHT TO HELP ONE ANOTHER

Somewhere within the confines of the Book of Books, the Bible, will be found this passage, "BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS AND SO FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST."

This author of the above verse was the Apostle Paul, the occasion of which was the writing of an epistle to the Galatians to let them know that they cannot serve their brother or sister.

What was true of the Galatians is also true for the Negro. We often say that we are going to church to serve God. At the same time, while we are saying these words, we are passing or talking to someone who needs our services. Let us cease to go to church merely for the purpose of serving God, but to the contrary, let us go to church to praise and thank God for strength, then let us use that strength to serve our fellowman. How can we best serve our fellowman? By doing our part through organized effort to make for better working conditions for the less fortunate of our group, by supporting our own race enterprises, in order that they may grow and subsequently be able to build an economic structure fully capable of employing our boys and girls. With the building of such an economic structure, through united effort motivated through a spirit of brotherly love, not only will Negro business move forward, but the physical and spiritual church will become a reality.

ORCHIDS TO ROOSEVELT POST NO. 30

In recent months a pronounced awakening has been in evidence within the city of Omaha, especially in this noticeable within the realm of the largest minority of our city. A definite improvement over the past.

Through a coordinating movement on the part of several progressive organizations of the city, a need was brought to light for a Health Clinic.

Sensing the appalling need for such an institution the Roosevelt Post American Legion No. 30, under the astute leadership of Dr. Wm. W. Peebles offered the facilities of their building in which is to be found a modern Clinic manned and staffed by members of our group.

Because of the high mortality among Negroes from the plague of Tuberculosis, special emphasis is being placed on methods of control and cure.

Tuberculosis to our group is as bateur with a 40% increase in 1941 over 1940. Thus, the American Legion running true to form of loyalty for a cause, comes to the rescue of a people, armed with competent Physicians in the persons of Dr. W. W. Solomon and Dr. Wesley Jones, cooperating with the city and state Health Department, have declared war on the much dreaded disease known the world over as Tuberculosis. To the people, we say, grasp the opportunity, to the American Legions we say, Orchids!

FREEDOM AT HOME

We who constitute one-tenth of the population of America find ourselves now as never before confronted with the task of making America a real Democracy. It is for us, to remove from the American horizon all semblance of discrimination and injustices as has and is now being perpetrated against America's most loyal citizen.

President Roosevelt has spoken in the words of a true commander, quote: "We must have a national unity that can know no limitations of race or creed or selfish policies." We who love our country must bend effort effort to see that this order be carried out, lest a disastrous effect on the probability of an eventual victory for the democracies befall us.

The time has come when we must train our guns of reasoning with deadly aim upon the Uncle Tom intelligentsia, those self-appointed leaders among us who would have the Negroes masses forget the lynching of Negro civilians and uniformed soldiers, discrimination in defense industries and in the armed forces. None of which make for national unity.

We must through concerted action convince White America that it can not hope for victory and the ultimate preservation of Democracy by preaching the gospel of the four freedoms abroad while at home the above conditions run rampant.

The action of the mis-educated Negro as mentioned above and the unscrupulous Caucasian who in the face of a national crisis will dare to place a dastardly tradition above national unity is to be pitied and as such they have no right to be allowed the tranquility of an otherwise perfect union. The age of the passive Negro has flown. The new Negro must of necessity be one filled with militancy, not the kind that will mean the destruction of material things, but truly the kind that will cause all mean to respect the principles of democracy bring to America freedom at home at well as abroad.



WHAT OTHER PAPERS SAY

Chicago Defender
FIGHT TO SAVE DEMOCRACY
(An Editorial)

The regrettable circumstances that made the bombing of Pearl Harbor possible and the deplorable conditions that led to the lynching of a Negro citizen in Sikeston, Mo., a few weeks later, are the result of chronic delinquencies that must be remedied quickly if American democracy is to survive the acid test to which the Axis has put it.

We cannot forget Pearl Harbor for it represents in the mind of every red blooded American an outrage upon our national honor that must be avenged. We cannot forget Sikeston for it has come to symbolize the institution of lynching as a national crime that must be wiped out.

The criminal psychology of the mob that kept Negro tenants from occupying the Sojourner Truth Homes in Detroit, is not unrelated to the lynch mob spirit that dragged and burned the body of a black man in Sikeston, Mo., therefore is symbolic of America's general attitude toward the Negro citizen—an attitude that takes variegated forms in the navy, in the army, in the industries, in federal housing and in the high administrative offices of those who, despite the crisis that faces our nation, are yet insisting on denying the Negro his rightful share of this American democracy for whose preservation black blood is at this very hour being spilled in some distant outpost.

It is the Sikeston spirit that underlies poll-tax, peonage and disfranchisement. It is that evil spirit that is creating a paralysis of national morale while obstructing all efforts toward the unification of the loyal people that make up this great republic. Because discrimination, segregation and lynching have been permitted to exist even in this hour of trial, Germany and Japan are pointing to them in their propaganda as incurable weaknesses of democracy. Japan, in particular, has used this propaganda technique advantageously on the colored races at Hong Kong, Singapore, and Java. But the American Negro is too loyal a citizen to ever fall prey to so deceitful a tactic. He knows that the weaknesses of our democracy are not incurable. He knows that there is hope for him under our form of government, under our constitution. It is this hope that keeps his spirit alive; it is this hope that gives him the courage to demand that his rights be respected, and that the opportunities for service be not denied him on account of color or creed.

Thus in remembering Pearl Harbor as an assault upon our national dignity and security, as a weak link in our defenses that must be strengthened, the American Negro remembers equally Sikeston as a blot on our national consciousness, as a weak spot in our national morale that must be wiped out so that democracy might triumph everywhere through the collective energy and might of freedom loving people against the forces of oppression and slavery. Not until such a victory is won, shall we forget Pearl Harbor and Sikeston.

THE WHIRLPOOL IN THE NEWS

Zipping Up Output

Donald Nelson, the Army, and the Navy are getting desperate about lack of enthusiasm in the production effort. Output is climbing but there's no real zip in it. The same plodding spirit that dominates Washington is evident in the factories. After Pearl Harbor, a wave of fervor skyrocketed output but the impetus has almost completely worn off.

That's why Nelson feels compelled to risk the gamble of an all-out hoopla campaign. And it is a gamble. A wave of slogans, posters, and medals (see box) may stir the worker to the belief that his lathe is a machine-gun—or it may subside in a morale-sapping fizzle.

Production Planning Arrives

Tighter planning of war procurement, the placing of new orders with an eye to quicker delivery, was made possible when Nelson formally issued this week the directive abolishing competitive bidding forecast last month (BW—Feb. 21, '42, p. 5). An important phase of this move is to put smaller plants to work on standard items—frequently the only work of which they are capable—and release the big plants, which are now underbidding them on the easy jobs, for more difficult work on the military's specialized needs.

But an immediate increase in output, more production from present contractors, requires that new drive be instilled into the men at the machines.

Not the Murray Plan

Official CIO position is that labor will feel more responsibility, if it obtains a voice in management. CIO President Murray has been proposing for months that labor management committees be given the job of working out means for increased production. Nelson has little interest in his new scheme, but their job is little more than that of cooperating on moral-building devices. Nelson's position is that labor's job is to increase the output of the individual worker—the operation of the plant as a whole is management's responsibility.

An Opening for Labor

Though organized labor feels no particular enthusiasm for Nelson's program, there's no sign that it won't cooperate. In fact, where management hangs back, the unions will try to capture the program, by pushing a series of little Reuther plans.

The fate of Nelson's effort to apply the techniques of the advertising campaign and the sales contest will have considerable bearing on labor's continuing drive for radical changes in the

handling of production. If ballyhoo can't put oomph into the assembly lines, the unions will try their hand—at a price.

New War Powers Voted

By the skin of its teeth the clause in the Second War Powers Bill permitting requisitioning of tools, even though they are in use on non-essential work, got through Congress. The previous requisitioning law forbade taking any tool essential to the conduct of a business—a limitation which has prevented any widespread reshuffling of tools. By a margin of five votes, Congress knocked out the restriction, but stipulated that payment for the tool be based on the damage done to the plant as a going concern. During its month-and-a-half trip through Congress, the bill (BW—Jan. 24, '42, p. 5) lost provisions compensating civil defense volunteers for injury and permitting easy naturalization of aliens in the Army and Navy.

A \$5,000,000 limit was set on direct purchases of government bonds by Federal Reserve banks.

Powers to condemn any real or personal property, to include trucks under the emergency powers of the Interstate Commerce Act, to waive navigation and ship-inspection laws, to exempt \$1-a-year men from the Hatch Act, to grant free postage to soldiers and sailors, and to permit the government to accept conditional gifts came through substantially unchanged.

New features inserted into the bill would:

Authorize use of civilians to protect war industries, utilities, and natural resources.

Permit coinage of five-cent pieces from a copper-silver alloy until 1946. (BW—Feb. 28, '42, p. 23.)

Authorize procurement agencies and WPB to inspect the plant and audit the books of any war contractor or sub-contractor. Allow the Commerce Department to make census or statistical studies for war purposes, to waive any of its regular census data available to other government agencies.

Wanted: Specialists

The Army plans to curtail its practice of giving commissions to qualified civilians. Instead, they will be appointed to the new Army specialist corps and assigned to work within the department. Such persons will be uniformed but will hold no regular rank. They will be subject to civil service rather than Army regulations. Purpose of the plan is to place civilians in jobs now occupied by regular Army officers, who will be sent to combat service.

Businessmen, scientists, technicians, and most kinds of professional men will be appointed to the corps. Write the Civil Service Commission for further information.

THIS WEEK'S THOUGHT

"They Got Wings"

"You got wings, I got wings. All God's Chillun got wings." These words became literally true for five courageous and studious Negroes on March 7th, 1942. They were the first to graduate from the 99th Pursuit Squadron Air Base.

We encounter so many discouraging and disgusting reports and experiences, we become exceedingly glad and hopeful, when our people make progress in new fields. These five commissioned pilots have paved the way and we hope their number will soon be multiplied by one thousand.

Every Negro (especially Texan) is very proud of Dorie Miller, 22 years old, Waco, Texas farm boy who fired the machine gun on December 7th, at Pearl Harbor. As we remember PEARL HARBOR, and Collin Kelley, we also shall remember Dorie Miller, a messman, who was willing to fight with a machine gun although he had been denied training in such tactics.

ONE WONDER why this story is not published widely in all American newspapers and broadcast over EVERY radio station. This would be good material for the morale builders. Why can't we get an official report from the navy and let that Department honor Dorie Miller as others have been honored?

Facts Every American Citizen Should Know

By Sgt. George Bivens
(Continued from last week)

Summary

1. Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean in 1513.

2. Ponce De Leon started from Porto Rico and discovered (1513) Florida.

3. With a small band of soldiers Cortes landed (1519) at Vera Cruz and conquered Mexico in 1521.

4. In 1419 Magellan began the first voyage around the world. He found the strait that now bears his name, and discovered the Ladrones and the Philippine Islands in 1521.

5. Coronado began in 1540 the exploration of the southwest. In the same year De Soto traveled through the gulf states and died on the banks of the Mississippi.

6. St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States, was founded in 1565. Date to be remembered: 1565, the founding of St. Augustine, the first permanent Spanish settlement in America.

1. In 1534-1535 Cartier discovered and explored the St. Lawrence and claimed for the King of France all the territory drained by this river.

2. Champlain founded at Quebec in 1608 the first permanent French settlement in America.

3. Missions were founded along the St. Lawrence river and the Great Lakes. In 1763 Father Marquette explored the Mississippi river.

4. In 1682 La Salle traced the Mississippi to its mouth. The territory drained by the river he named Louisiana and claimed it for the King of France.

Date to be remembered: 1608, the founding of Quebec, the first permanent French settlement in America.

The Southern Colonies—Summary
1. James, the first permanent English settlement in America, was founded in 1607.

2. The first representative assembly in America met in Jamestown, July 30, 1619.

3. Slavery was introduced into Virginia in 1619.

(To be continued)

THIRD SELECTIVE SERVICE LOTTERY FINISHED

LINCOLN, Nebr. March—With the third Selective Service lottery finished this week, men who registered in February were wondering how soon inductions are to be made from their ranks.

"While a definite answer is impossible," Brigadier General Guy N. Henninger, State Selective Director, said, "indications are that the earliest registration inductions may be expected in May."

In most counties, however, induction calls for third registration men probably will not come until later. The General explained also that induction of third registration men will not in any way halt or check inductions

from the first two registrations.

He emphasized that before any members of the third registration are called for induction their classifications must be cleared.

Questionnaires for classification are being sent out to the new registrants just as rapidly as local boards can arrange their cards in conformity with the order determined by the lottery held in Washington, March 17th.

Registrants have 10 days after receipt of their questionnaires to fill them out and return them to their local boards for classification. Registrants dissatisfied with their classifications have a right to appeal.

General Henninger cautioned registrants, particularly those of the deferred classes, that no classification is permanent.

The classifications in brief:

1-A Available for general military service upon successful completion of induction examination.

1-A-O Available for noncombatant service; conscientious objector.

1-B Available for limited military service; usually minor physical defects.

1-B-O Conscientious objector of 1-B class.

1-C Member of land or naval forces.

2-A Man necessary in his civilian activity.

2-B Man necessary to war production program.

3-A Man deferred by reason of dependency.

4 Subdivisional groups of this class include neutral and enemy aliens, ministers, divinity students, registrants declared physically, mentally or morally unfit for service and a specially limited group of conscientious objectors.

Medical Aid Units Being Organized For War Emergencies

Omaha's preparations for organized medical aid in possible war emergency situations are rapidly being completed, reports Dr. C. M. Wilhelm, chairman of the Civilian Defense Committee of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society.

He announced this week that approximately one hundred physicians on hospital staffs have been organized into first aid emergency squads and that rescue squads, to move injured persons to first aid stations, are being trained. The rescue squads are being recruited from Red Cross volunteers.

Omaha has been divided into eight zones for medical aid activities. Immanuel Hospital has been designated as headquarters for activities on the north side, and St. Joseph's Hospital as headquarters for the area south of Dodge Street. Dr. Herbert Davis heads the first aid squads of physicians ready to go into action from Immanuel Hospital and Dr. W. L. Sucha is director of emergency activities from St. Joseph's Hospital.

Dr. Wilhelm has notified hospitals of the following plan of action for mobilizing medical aid in case of air bombings or other war emergencies.

PRIVATE JOE PALOOKA SAYS—

IF YOU CAN'T JOIN UP WITH ME, THE NEXT BEST THING TO HELP US WIN THE WAR IS TO BUY THE UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS YOU CAN!!



NOT TO BE USED AS GIFTS, PREMIUMS, DISCOUNTS, OR TRADE STIMULATORS

Use of defense stamps or bonds as premiums in connection with the stimulation of trade has been barred under a policy adopted by the Retail Advisory Committee of the United States Treasury, according to an announcement by Robert J. Bauer, president of the National Association of Better Business Bureaus.

At the request of the Treasury's Retail Advisory Committee, the Better Business Bureaus throughout the United States will supervise the enforcement of this policy with retailers in all sections of the country, Mr. Bauer said.

The new ruling states that Defense Stamps and Bonds "shall be sold for cash or on salary deduction plan only; that under no circumstances should defense bonds or stamps be used as premiums, discounts, gifts, trade stimulants, or be in any way associated with the promotion of merchandise."