

BETWEEN THE LINES

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For The Associated Negro Press

Tribulations Of A Color-Struck Democracy

With inflation as a creeping paralysis, and ever-present threat, with our bought international friends threatening not to stay bought, with the country's New Negro in open revolt against the Old South and with Khrushchev and his satellites making a personal invasion of our land in their bid for world domination, and with Cuba at our doors definitely within the communist orbit, it may be truly said that our great nation hath its tribulations.

With cent-by-cent step, our dollar is buying less and less and the waning our earning powers; and what's more, there seems to be no definite remedy for these dangerous symptoms and tendencies.

We may be able to today to "squeeze by" in the matter of subsistence, but it is just a matter of time when our "squeeze" will no longer get us by.

Unless some way is found to stop cost of living is therefore outstrip our creeping inflation, our economic and social chaos will ripen us to fall like an apple into the lap of communism. As concerning the cold war between the Old South and the New Negro, it can be confidently predicted that it has the potentialities of a one-sided hot war, if the subtle suggestions frequently offered by the champion crusaders of the Old South.

THE TRUMP CARD

Even at the Democratic National Convention, Virginia's Governor Almond mentioned the possibilities of violence if too great pressures were foisted upon the South in the matter of civil rights. Ever and anon exponents of Old Southism refer to the matter of violence which goes to show that in the last analysis violence is the Old South's trump card.

And the new Negro is fighting with a determination that will not be denied. The New Negro has seen so much of democracy as it relates to his white neighbors, that he is resolved to have it for himself and his children. To dangle democracy before the Negro and then deny it when the Negro reaches for it, is to impose a cruelty that Negroes naturally resent.

Come what will, the New Negro is currently in open rebellion against the Old South and there is little evidence that the Negro will be less insistent tomorrow.

Khrushchev and his communist entourage have forced themselves into the forefront of a critical situation and this very projection of himself and communism is a show of confidence which is not matched by our stipulation that he confine his activities to Manhattan Island.

NEED NOT FEAR

If we are sure of our democracy as he seems to be of his communism, we should not be afraid to let him roam at large in this great country of ours. If democracy is as strong and great as some of us think it is, we are not afraid to let Khrushchev and his henchmen see it at close range.

This writer exposed the subject of communism in juxtaposition with democracy for many years at Virginia Union and when so exposed there was general agreement that democracy was far more desirable as a way of national life.

We are not impressed with the democracy that must be protected in a hot-house for preservation. Real democracy will stand every test when placed over against communism. Negroes who have tasted only of a color-struck democracy have willingly died for it in the hopes that there would be a great tomorrow.

FIGHTING AGAINST ODDS

There are millions of Negroes today who would lay down their lives for democracy, Khrushchev or no Khrushchev, Castro or no Castro; and these Negroes protest anything that savors of weakness before their invasion.

But it cannot be denied that a color-struck democracy is fighting against fearful odds. We may as well face that sad and sobering fact; and the sooner this country wakes up to said fact the easier will be its task and mission in the world. Great tribulations are the inevitable sequel to a color-struck democracy.

When a Fidel Castro can receive an ovation in New York harbor we are made to wonder many things. Here is a scoundrel who has confiscated our properties and insulted us time and again and yet he is accorded an ovation. It seems to this writer that somebody is asleep on the job.

Moscow would have had things cut and dried just as Washington and New York might have jointly worked out a plan of reception for Khrushchev and his entourage.

It is most unfortunate that Castro could receive an ovation in this country.