

EDITORIALS

A WHOLESOME SIGN

When one American tolerates another, is a "Wholesome Sign," implies the Arkansas Democrat, a local daily that our people have always referred to as being very conservative in its dealing with the minority, in an editorial release, commenting on the four-lynching report given out by the Department of Research and Records from Tuskegee Institute. The editorial in part: "... That is a wholesome sign. It exemplifies the sentiment that is growing in the South, a hatred of mob violence and an accompanying greater racial tolerance." The Democrat goes farther: "The South always has been a safer and more decent place than Harlem for the Negro to live."

Not capable of deciphering the good editor's definition of "safer" and "decent," we are reluctant to acquiesce, but if there is any truth in the editor's saying... we sympathize, with all our heart, the plight of the darker brother in Harlem.

ONE THOUSAND PERCENT

When Joe Louis stepped into the ring Friday night against Buddy Baer, he proved two important things: That he was the greatest American living today; that he was 1000 percent an American; That he considered the principles upon which this country was founded more than the country itself, when he offered to contribute more than a million dollars to a department of the government that has never offered the Negro anything!

NEGRO LEADERSHIP

Negro leadership in Arkansas is an emergency leadership, that is to say, it displays itself in times when there are inter-racial grievances, inter-racial clashes or on occasions when the leaders think Negroes should have representation or should participate in public demonstrations or public facilities.

A new Negro leadership is coming to the front. It is concerned mainly with the improvement of community conditions and community relations. It points the way to better housing, better public sanitation, improved school facilities and teachers, improved health conditions, better home life, better social conditions, and improved conditions in the crime and delinquency and employment situations.

This new leadership realizes that as the general welfare and personal welfare of communities and individuals are promoted, the things which are harmful will gradually cease to be effective. As intelligence and employment and recreational facilities and domestic relations improve, crime and delinquency and poverty and ill health and suspicion, and personal and racial group antagonisms, decrease. The better people live, the more respect they have for one another, and the better they get along together. Rowdiness, malice, hatreds, touchiness, are not active qualities of thrifty, contented, law-abiding, healthy, intelligent people.

This leadership emphasizes prevention rather than remedy. It holds that a large part of the work of Negroes should be applied to improving basic life conditions, as a foundation upon which to build a better and sounder community.

The slogan "training for leadership" has dominated the training process of Negroes in Arkansas, as well as throughout the South. The slogan "training for service" has never met with popular approval. Every preacher is a "leader," so is every "doctor" and lawyer. Teachers have not clamored for "leadership" honors, yet they have done good work in improving their people, especially in the reduction of illiteracy and in inculcating principles of social morality and wholesome living.

PREJUDICE AND LEADERSHIP

By A. F. CUNNINGHAM

That prejudice abounds in this country against Negroes is without question. We see and experience it daily. To solve this problem is one of paramount importance to every Negro man, woman, boy and girl.

The parents of the present must have the wisdom to see and the courage to make the solution. In over 75 years of freedom, the Negro has made wonderful progress along many lines and this progress in many instances has irked some classes of the other group. It is difficult for one who has been in power and has had others look to him for sup-

port and advice to recognize another who was once his subject. This accounts for much of the prejudice against the Negro today in this country.

Our leaders must continue to teach and preach good citizenship among the people and those with financial means must organize businesses to give employment to the youths as they emerge from high schools and colleges. There is enough money among Negroes in this state to have a factory turning out some product that society needs. If the white man should close his establishments to the Negro, what would be the result? Our leaders should encourage business ventures, organize and pool their means and trust one another, just a little more.

A people will never rise until they have leaders of their own who know what to do, how to do and when and where to do. We must not look for someone else to build a boat for us to ride in. We must not look for someone else to manufacture clothing for us to wear and furnish land for us to work. We must launch our own boats; manufacture our clothing and work our own lands; furnish our own boys and girls jobs and sail along the line of least resistance. When you continually call upon someone for help he soon feels that you are doing nothing to help yourself and will ultimately brand you as "A No-Good."

Prejudice cannot long stand where people are working together in the right for the right and with leaders that know the right.