

Comments

EDITORIAL PAGE

Opinions

THE OMAHA STAR

OMAHA'S MOST PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY

Editorial and Business Office
2216 North 24th Street WEBSTER 4041S. Edward Gilbert, Editor, General Manager
Mildred D. Gilbert, Adv. Mgr., Fin. Sec'y.
Thomas L. C. Hughes, City Editor, Legal Advisor
Miss Auverne Kincaide, Secretary
John C. Doss, Circulation Manager
Clemmie E. Reynolds, Bookkeeper
Charles Martin, Sports Writer
Percy Byrd, Artist

Matter intended for publication in The Omaha Star should reach us not later than Wednesday morning

SUBSCRIPTION RATE—\$2.00 PER YEAR

Subscribers will confer a favor by reporting to this office any irregularity in receiving paper.

Advertising rates made known on application.

EDITORIALS

THE NEWSPAPER AN INSTITUTION

Only insofar as a minority group has a voice to express its hopes, aspirations and ambitions—and yes, its grievances, will it be heard.

As Negroes, we have our dissatisfactions, because we are oppressed. In that we hope to rise in spite of all obstacles, fight because we are forced to. The newspaper is an institution—and a militant one. It cannot be expected that such an agency, endeavoring to voice all phases of a group discriminated against, be a conservative organ. Were it so, then a newspaper would have no reason for being, for are there not other institutions performing the work of conservatism.

THE OMAHA, a progressive weekly newspaper, and dedicated to the cause of the people that "No good cause shall lack a champion, and that evil shall not thrive unopposed," shall forever be a militant organ—the true voice of the Negro in Nebraska.

BETTER RACE RELATIONS WOULD MEAN A BETTER OMAHA

Approximately ten per cent of the population of Omaha are Negroes, which by chance are the largest minority group in our city. For the most part they live in segregated districts and it follows that in their isolation they are all known by the other ninety per cent of our citizenry. It has been said which is true in the majority instance that white race know the Negro and as a result of this lack of interracial understanding the Negro has been retarded in his progress.

His wages are low, and his tenure of service is always uncertain. He is the last to be hired and the first to be fired.

His opportunities for economic advancement are limited for as yet the jobs open to him are of the most menial sort. True, there are exceptions. There are Negroes who have gained distinction in the learned professions, but they have struggled against great odds, unknown to the more favored to work and to develop the latent qualities. All the Negro asks is the opportunity that he has. No one would contend that he should be denied this right, for he too is an American citizen.

OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE

Political Justice and Economic Opportunity are two of the chief features in a new program of action now being put into motion by the farsighted Negro.

Political justice, when broken down, is now portolan in enjoyment. It is an American national ideal.

Under the present set-up of political procedure, it is necessary to function through parties. The first choice of party of the Negro was the erstwhile party founded by the immortal Abraham Lincoln—that party which after 50 years of legal support on the part of the Negro en-masse, fell to almost egnomious depths of short sightedness and indifference.

Therefore, with the ever increasing intelligence of the black millions of voters, there was a drastic change of feeling and evolution of thought on the part of the New Negro and consequent casting of ballots.

The New Deal came into being under the leadership of the second humanitarian Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and as such, many things have been done in behalf of

the Negro, that for several decades, have been left undone by Republicans.

Never the less, there remains yet much to be done. The determined filibuster actions of certain democratic Senators and the painful silence of majority Republicans, regardless of noble effort of protection vouch safe by the last anti-lynch bill, cannot soon be forgotten.

The continued trickery of civil service photo-rules, Jim Crow cars of the South discriminations, are uppermost in the minds of the thinking Negro and will be remembered with ballots Economic opportunity is another lofty desire and determination of improvement that must be called emphatically to the attention of all. All too long, black workers as a class have been "The last hired and the first fired." All too long, American Economic practices have been based on color. This must stop. Fitness and merit must be the measure. Whenever and wherever this rule has been applied, in any field, men and women have measured up to the proper standards. It is all insidious poppycock to say that our men and women must be held back from this and that place of employment, industrial or executive, solely because of color. Something must be done. What Will It Be?

OPRESSED RACES GAIN COURAGE THROUGH HISTORY

All minority races are subject to oppression from majority races.

One of the worst things about racial oppression is that it succeeds in making some of the oppressed regard themselves as actually being inferior. They in most cases have no inner resources in nonbat injustices perpetrated against them.

This has never been true among other races, as among the Jews and the Negroes in this country. The nearest to these two, perhaps were the Irish, who felt the wrath of injustice during the fiercest days of the anti-Irish Catholic riots in U. S. before the Civil war the mass of this great race stood firm. The reason for this point to their knowledge of Irish history. History is a source of strength to an oppressed fold for it teaches them to respect their own past heroism. They learn in centuries and to hang on grimly until the oppressor has met his historical and inevitable doom.

It teaches them methods of fighting and resistance it breeds morale and unity—all that an oppressed race or group needs if it is to survive under the cruel injustices of the period.

Through the study of their own history throughout America the Negro is awakening from his state of lethargy. They are discovering that it is a record to be proud of.

The names of Denmark Vessey, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and other liberators an folk leaders are becoming known to the Negro masses, coupled with such modern leaders as A. Phillip Randolph, Solon C. Bell, Henry Johnson, and numerous others whom space will not allow to be written therein.

More, they are learning that they are Afro-Americans, immigrants like the Germans, Poles, Italians, Greeks, or British in America, with a hereditary culture that traces back to the time of King Solomon, and is as rich and fruitful as that of any other race. They have contributed much historically.

The Afro-American is a builder and citizen who can show full title to his American manhood. You Afro-Americans in the state of Nebraska are being urged through the medium of The Omaha Star to peruse the achievements of your own history, learn of the many outstanding deeds of a great race and then take courage through having known.



MAKE
YOUR
DOLLAR
COUNT

WHAT OTHER PAPERS SAY

Chicago Defender
National Unity

"It doesn't take much flag-waving to get Negro boys from southern cotton patches to answer the nation's call to the colors." These words came unsolicited from the lips of Sergeant Chester R. Vaughan of Columbia S. C., a veteran recruiting officer with more than 23 years' service.

Implementing his statement, the sergeant said:

"I've found that after a Negro has served one or two terms in the army, he is much more patriotic than a white man."

Sergeant Vaughan is correct. It is, however, not with unmixed feeling that we state here what circumstances and candor compel us to say. That is, the Negro's eagerness to answer the nation's call and his unbounded patriotism have meant little or nothing to him in the past. And of course we can only judge the future by the past. Except for casual marginal references or foot-notes in some obscure history books, the black man's role in the critical hours of this republic, his unstinted devotion to the flag, his painful sacrifices have failed to secure for him those blessings of democracy which some of his fellow countrymen, with less devotion and patriotism, have so generously received.

Black blood flowed copiously in the War of Independence, in the Civil war, in the Spanish-American war, and in the first World war, not to mention lesser intervening armed struggles in which this nation was plunged. All this has been in vain. For, the Negro is yet segregated, ostracized and lynched. He is yet denied full citizenship and democratic rights." He is yet considered, to use Chancellor Hitler's own terminology, an auxiliary race.

The U. S. army doesn't want him; the navy disqualifies him except as mess attendant; and the air corps rejects him outright. Yet some people expect him to form a piece of the general pattern of the present war hysteria.

To them we say: the granting of unabridged democratic rights to the masses, the abolition of segregation, of peonage, poll-tax and lynchings are the first and most important steps toward close-knit national defense. Without these provisions there can be no national unity. Without the unity of the people there can be no effective national defense.

THE WHIRLPOOL IN THE NEWS

Excess Profits Tax Goes To Senate—With Teeth

The excess profits tax bill which passed the House recently is one of the most complicated and highly technical pieces of legislation ever drafted. Corporations which had a high ratio of earnings to capital during the last four years will, for all practical purposes, find that their normal income tax rate has been boosted from 20.9% to 25%.

How the Excess Profits Tax Shapes Up Now

The basis structure of the program analyzed in the last report is retained. Corporate taxpayers are still offered the option to treat as normal earnings (a) average earnings for the period running from 1936 to 1939, or (b) a percentage of invested capital equal to the ratio of earnings to capital in the four-year base period. Then the different between normal earnings and current earnings will fall subject to the graduated excess tax rates. However, and this is the vital change, for the privilege of using average earnings as the measure of normal earnings the corporate taxpayer will be required to pay a stiff price—an additional 4.1% normal income tax and stiffer excess profits tax rates than corporations using the invested capital measure of normal earnings. The rates are graduated more sharply for corporations with large dollar earnings, which ever option is adopted. This is because the rates are graduated according to fixed sums rather than a percentage of normal earnings. These two modifications are expected to boost the 1940 revenue yield from this tax by over \$100,000,000.

Break for Corporations With Poor Earnings Record

The invested capital measure

The one is in direct ratio to the other. Czechoslovakia, Norway, and France are classic examples of what military defense without national unity means.

Battleships, airplanes, however numerous are worthless without voluntary, spontaneous support of the people. Such a support can only come through love and faith; love for a fatherland that makes it possible for loyal citizens to live, breathe, prosper and be happy; faith in a system of political government that places rights and freedom above all other safeguards.

The Negro's wailing cry in the night has been unavailing so far. Yet it is not too late for the nation to repair the wrongs. Born and bred on this soil for the security of which he fought and bled, the black man wants full manhood suffrage; he wants the Fourteenth Amendment carried out to the letter; he wants the Fifteenth Amendment enforced; he wants lynching, peonage, poll-tax abolished now, henceforth and forever. Without these fundamental securities national defense, military preparedness and consequent explosion of projectiles mean simply another cycle of empty, painful sacrifices of black blood at hand. What's worse is that the prospect of his emerging from another conflagration, naked, oppressed, decimated and beaten is inescapable.

Kenny Washington

Kenny Washington's play stole the hearts of Mid-western football fans just as it has captivated the football lovers of the Golden West in the past few years. Kenny would cause a thrill to run through professional football—if he could play—but our Kenny is a Negro and big leagues of football, like the big leagues of baseball bar black men.

Kenny's play here in Chicago can awaken us. Jim-crow in baseball and football can be licked. It is un-American, it is undemocratic. There is no element of American fair play about us.

Now if war comes we will lose all sports in our pursuit of democracy. But why not let men like the Washington and the great Negro ball players; get one little taste of democracy before they are sent away to die for what they never had in life.

Let's end the reign of Jim-crowism in sports before we end the reign of sports in our democracy.

of earnings which will escape the new tax has been made more generous. Corporations which had poor earnings or losses during the four-year base period will be allowed to receive free of excess profits tax a minimum of 7% of the first half-million dollars of invested capital and 5% of the balance. This is a substantial concession from the sub-committee proposal which allowed as a minimum credit of 6% of the first half-million and 4% of the balance. If the percentage which average earnings bore to invested capital during the base period exceeds this minimum, that percentage of invested capital can be earned free of excess profits tax provided that it does not exceed the 12% maximum credit allowed.

CONVERSATION PIECE

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE THING

By Marc Moreland, Ph. D.
New York (TYP)—I wonder just how many of us Colored folk are conscious of the extent we go in taking such a thing as discrimination or inferior status for granted. I am fairly well convinced that many of us, except in the more obvious malignancies of pariahdom or inequality before the law, look with a disturbing complacency on the position of Colored people in the United States. It is true that the cruder instances of white-folk mistreatment of Colored people get a rise out of us; false charges of rape, judicial railroadings, whippings and lynchings—these whip us into a fury as long or short-lived as our particular sensibilities allow.

But it is of the subtler proscriptions, the morality of racial

inferiority, the quiet but demoralizing accommodation Colored people to the structure of life as organized and lived in the United States, that I am thinking.

Now, it is obvious that in order to counteract the tendency to this accommodation to an inferior status and its attendant moral justifications, or better still, nationalization, it is necessary that Colored people sustain a mood of protest, cultivate realistically the relation Colored people sustain both to the dominant groups in the United States and such minority groups whose position make them the logical, if not the actual allies of Colored Americans, and to work out techniques of action which at once carries on a continuous bombardment of the bulwarks of prejudice held by these dominant groups and seeks to turn a logical into an actual alliance with other aspiring minority groups.

To do this requires a desire and willingness on the part of Colored people to examine their position critically and without those little half-conscious apologies people accustomed to living on an inferior stratum are inclined to make for themselves and to themselves. Precisely, it means that Colored people in the United States must begin consciously and convincingly to believe that all men are created equal, are endowed with certain inalienable rights; that democracy means nothing if it does not mean equal opportunity for black as well as white; that freedom, like respect, must be won, and that to win it a people must believe it deserves it.

Beliefs are, even in this day of widespread unbelief, the structure of a people's character and the motive power of their aspirations. People may not be what their beliefs are, but they are indisputably directed and disciplined and delimited by their beliefs. A people without significant beliefs are a people without a sense of direction—social tramps rootless and lost.

Beliefs are necessary for a social ethics and an effective politics. We must have a valid sense of values, of moral and social standards before we can hope to find the basis for those techniques and methods of action which make possible an effective politics. Just as colonial American felt and believe they were worthy to be, and of a right should be, free from England and began thereupon to work out those techniques of protest and action which led to independence and American nationhood, so in the case of the Colored American must significant and deeply felt belief precede any effective action in their own behalf.

The old song's refrain, "I've been down so long that down don't worry me," is no mood with which to begin the struggle upward; and yet it is perhaps no exaggeration to say that that is the dominant mood of millions of Colored American today, as it was yesterday. If it is argued that this mood is only natural to men and women so long proscribed and outraged by prejudice, it can be countered that the spirit of resentment and even revolt is also natural to people so long proscribed and outraged by prejudice. Complacency and the spirit of revolt can lie side by side in a people, and, in very fact, do lie side by side in the Colored people of America. It is the function of leaders to rouse this spirit to call it to action, to liquidate complacency, and to rise equal to the task confronting the Colored people of the United States.

I do not doubt for one moment that just this rousing of the spirit is what the NAACP and the National Negro Congress both have been trying and are trying to bring about. The work of these organizations, or any others like them, must and will remain patchy and insufficient until millions of black men and women, boys and girls, on farms in factories, in mines, on campuses, in churches, in lodges and clubs, on street corners and wherever begin to believe in the dignity of themselves as human beings, in the inherent value of themselves as members of a society and their forebears have done so much to build, in the varied promise of themselves awaiting the fulfillment which will come when, and only when black American rise, and, in their collective intelligence and strength, fight without quarter for full and dignified standing in the American order of things for the right to go where anybody else goes, to be where any-

AS A MAN THINKETH

Address your letters—Editor, As A Man Thinketh, c/o THE OMAHA STAR. Make your letters short, brief and interesting. Letters signed with a nom de plume must be accompanied by the name of the author for the Editor's information.

"I pronounce you man and wife."

For the past month or so, boys and girls throughout the United States have been thus united.

The marriage epidemic seems to have reached our own CHOCOLATE AVENUE also.

Could it be the REAL THING, or, are you afraid of bogey man Hitler?

Personally, I think its Hitler.

Listen, brother, if it is, then THAT'S where your worries lie. What with worrying about whether she's home, or out with some other lucky guy who didn't have to go, you couldn't hit Hitler if he was nailed to your gun sights.

Me, I'm the kind if a guy that NEVER goes where I want so you got a pretty good idea how bad I want to go, but the marriage vows are out of my line, (just now.) I can't dodge bombs and have night mares too.

A while back, "Old Abe Martin" gave warning of a severe winter. Now, I'm not afraid of cold weather, but up here it's too sudden.

Where I come from, you have to ask for snow like the Indians ask for rain during a four month drought.

body else is, to rise wherever ability and talent will tell them to enjoy in fullest measure the blessings and the sorrows of political privileges and obligations.

On the immediate and practical sides, colored Americans ought to vote not so much for a few favors from Democrats or Republicans in the coming Presidential election; they ought just now and at least this once act, talk and vote their belief in an ideal, a way of life they can really believe in. For whom shall they vote? First of all, let them find out who the candidates, all of them, I mean, are, and what they really stand for. Suppose their vote turns out to be a mere protest vote? That's just it; let it be a "mere protest vote." It's time we were protesting, acting with honesty and integrity. A few jobs would be nothing to lose in exchange for so cleansing and purifying an experience. Besides, a large Negro protest vote would probably do more for Colored Americans than anything.

FAMOUS FOOD AUTHORITY TO BE HERE DURING OMAHA FOOD SHOW

The Metropolitan Utilities District, in cooperation with the gas appliance dealers of the city and independent food merchants, is sponsoring Omaha's first city-wide, all-gas cooking school during the Food Show at the city auditorium, September 30 to October 5.

George Rector, internationally known food consultant and authority, will personally conduct the cooking school each afternoon starting at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Rector needs no introduction to Omaha women! His books, magazine articles and food columns in newspapers are widely distributed.

During the cooking school he will demonstrate his many famous menus and dishes, most of them from the famous Rector's Restaurant of New York City, frequented early in the century by such luminaries as "Diamond Jim" Brady, John Drew, Lillian Russell and others. Assisting Mr. Rector at the school will be the home service department of the Utilities District, headed by Mrs. Alta Weymuller. Daily attendance prizes will be given as well as copies of Mr. Rector's recipes.

This is the first time in years that 50,000 Omaha women owning gas ranges will get the opportunity to attend an all-city gas cooking school. The latest gas cooking methods and equipment will be demonstrated and on display.

Omaha's Disabled World War Veterans will observe the twenty-first Anniversary of the Meuse-Argonne Battle of the World War next Saturday, September 21, with the annual Forget-Me-Not sale. Proceeds of the flower sale are used to maintain an emergency relief program for needy Disabled Veterans and their families.

Then, you'd have to freeze it to make it stay, so you could realize it was there.

I, for one, am glad the softball season is over. Or, maybe it was the volleyball season. Honest, the way those boys juggled that ball around, you'd think it was the winter camping ground of the Vincetto Jugglers from Sillo Flotto Circus. Volley ball would be putting it mildly.

I took it for granted that it was only for the comedy it supplied. Even then, the same thing happened too often, to supply many laughs.

Maybe I'm not so hot myself, but I bet I wouldn't play like "Little Henry's" Grandfather on his 70th birthday.

Looky, Buddy, are you advertising air conditioned pants, or are they really DRAPES? They are so large in the knees, you could hide one of Hitler's pet bombs in them. The cuffs are so small, you have to grease your ankles to get them on. Now, listen, brother, the chicks notice you, but don't over do it. Me, just watch me, sweetheart, I can even give Esquire ideas.

So longs, Slaks,
Ernie Trippier.

lies, and to continue the rehabilitation program and reason service for the prosecution of claims of deserving veterans.

The D. A. V., as this organization is commonly known, has a charter of incorporation from Congress, and is, therefore, the official spokesman of the war-time disabled. It is composed of only those World War Veterans, whom the U. S. Government proclaims to have been wounded, gassed, or disabled by reason of their military service. There are approximately seven hundred such veterans in Omaha and Douglas County.

In order to render an adequate service for Disabled World War Veterans, the D. A. V. needs the assistance of the general public and for that reason they conduct the annual Forget-Me-Not appeal, according to Adler Petersen, commander of the Omaha Chapter. "Our comrades hope that gratitude for their past service will prompt Omahans to respond generously to the flower sale next Saturday. By helping the D. A. V. to help the unfortunate war-time disabled and their dependents by emergency relief, employment and rehabilitation service, they will also be helping the community," Petersen stated.

The Disabled Veterans have generously offered a part of the proceeds of the flower sale to a group of Omaha mothers of dependent children, who will sell the little blue remembrance flowers on the streets next Saturday. Buy a "Forget-Me-Not" and help two very deserving and needy group of real American citizens.

THIS WEEK'S THOUGHT

by Robert L. Moody

The Ministry versus the Actor

Recently a controversy arose over the portrayal of a "typical preacher" in the film "Maryland." Much discussion is reported by the PITTSBURGH COURIER. Unfavorable critics claim that the actor presented a burlesque of the Negro preacher, his church, and his religion.

Mr. Clarence Muse, the actor, contends that the dramatization was justifiable because (1) its production gave employment to more than 100 Negroes; and (2) it was a reproduction of the "real ignorant preachers." He says that the ministry should not make impressions that it does not want to see reenacted on the screen.

We do not take side with either group, but this affair has caused many to realize how ignorance reflects upon the ministry and progress of the church. It is challenge to become prepared to present the gospel and all matter relative to religion with dignity and the power of God. Then if actors want to reproduce our "real church life," they will be compelled to present intelligent, spiritual, and inspiring reproductions.