

# ... EDITORIAL ...

## **The Ultimatum of the Ninth Street Bus Situation???**

For several months racial tension has been mounting in the area served by the Ninth Street bus, increasing hate in the people who have looked for years to that mode of transportation to the point of explosion that will make the atom bomb look like the average Fourth of July firecracker celebration. This is not written as a suggestion—but an inevitable prediction, unless the Capital Transportation Company does something about it, and does it damn quick.

No right thinking person in any community wants to see violence in his community, or read about it in any other community, but it is a certainty in Little Rock as long as the officials of the transportation company continue the employment of low-grade-Negro-hating-uncouth-hoodlum-type to drive transportation buses, and pass off as a fancy their insults and abuses to Negro passengers.

The "Tail-tucking dog type of Negro" who was prevalent a few years ago has just about passed off the scene. Out of this past world's conflict comes a new Negro, who has been taught to expect a new deal, and one who has been trained by the best instructors in the world to die for the principles of democracy.

These new men did not return to American soil, the soil of their birth, seeking favors from the white man, neither did they return to resume the role of the inferior group, accepting abuses, insults and dog-like treatment from any other group. It is folly for anybody to expect that! If the white man has learned nothing from World War II, the Negro has. He has learned that the practice of superiority among races ends in disaster. He, himself was a party to making the end drastic. Uncle Sam did not train men to accept abuses from enemies with smiles, and neither were they trained to see their women folks abused without coming to their rescue. These things dealt the Negro from employees of Capitol Transportation Company, and full knowledge of the instruction given the Negro during the past four years, make us know that serious trouble is inevitable unless some action is taken to prevent it by the officials of the transportation company.

What can the company do?

There are several applications that will remedy the situation. But, What will the company do?

One may offer suggestions only to be told: "It won't work." How does anybody know what will work until it is tried? Since we are the victims of a stinking Jim-Crow law, it is folly for any man to expect peace and pleasant relations as long as such a stinking piece of legislation exists, because the law within itself is motivated to keep America from being a democracy and to breed hate and disunity. There are too many Southerners of the type that are running our buses and street cars who would have no other method of showing their superiority without the law.

The employing of Negro bus drivers gets the "ball" back from the officials when even mentioned. Instructing bus drivers to deal humanely with Negro passengers as white passengers would have no bearing with the type of uncouth upstarts, Negroes encounter on the buses running through Ninth Street, for very few men in the south will make demands strong enough for effect to white employees in dealing with Negroes. The company can institute the method that is used successfully in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City is a city of the south, infested with the still stinking Jim-Crow law as Little Rock, still doesn't see the advisability of employing Negroes as bus drivers. Yet, Oklahoma City has solved a problem saving the city of disgrace. A problem similar to the one we are facing today. On the bus line there known as N. E. Fourth going into the heavily populated Negro section, similar to W. Ninth Street, ridden mostly by Negroes, all Jim-Crow restrictions are ruled completely out. Negroes seat themselves in any seats available. Even when boarded by whites, the white sit wherever they find seats, if they desire; if not they are at liberty to stand. This is a solution to a problem that was headed in the same direction as the one here that brought bloodshed to the little God-forsaken town of Tennessee.

The problem is solved in Oklahoma City, and no one is any the worse off. Special observations were made of the white riders who seated themselves on seats with Negroes, and no visible signs were present of their suffering from any plague of inferiority, any more than the "white supremacists" of Little Rock.

Oklahoma City didn't do this as any favor to Negroes. It was not a Negro problem, neither an Oklahoma City problem but it was a problem of America, brought on by the stinking Jim-Crow laws of the south designed to make the white man feel because his face is white that he is better than anybody else.

If such a procedure works in Oklahoma City, it will work here, for we feel that people of the Wonder State can use as much judgment as people from the Sooner State.