

Portland Challenger

An Independent Newspaper

WILLIAM A. HILLIARD
EDITOR AND PUBLISHERTED BURGER
MANAGING EDITORRICHARD BOGLE JR.
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

3300 North Williams Avenue, Portland 12, Oregon MURdock 4092

Published every other Friday in Portland, Oregon. The Challenger is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts or photographs.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

10 Cents per copy

\$2.50 per year

Why A Brotherhood Week

This week, February 15 to 23, is observed throughout the country as Brotherhood Week. Certainly a week all Americans can take cognizance of, Brotherhood Week, begs the individual to examine himself in the light of religious morals and principles and base his day to day living-practices accordingly.

In a country where the individual is respected and his right to live as a free man goes unchallenged, one may wonder why the necessity for a Brotherhood Week; likewise, why Fair Employment Practices and other civil rights statutes.

Closer scrutiny of most Americans' concept of individual freedom readily reveals flaws in our strict interpretation of the Constitution which affords this freedom to the American people.

Boastful as we Americans are of our basic freedoms, we still admit to stupefying paradoxes that disrupt advancement at home and hurt prestige abroad. Worst of all, it threatens our national unity, an essential tenet to any progressive country.

Most Americans have yet to learn and accept the individual freedom rights of all their brother citizens. Race, religion and national origin prejudices come to the fore to block such acceptance. Yet, the realization of this necessary Constitutional right is the basis of the American democratic form of government.

Whether we like it or not, as men in a society where peace is essential for human survival, we must throw away prejudices that stand in the way of individual freedom. We must submit to our religious teachings and common sense and righteously practice democracy.

Race is a biological classification of man according to certain physical characteristics; religion is the recognition of man's relation to a divine or superhuman power to whom obedience and reverence are due. To resort to these as basis for prejudice in an attempt to justify superior feelings reveal a weakness in man's ability to benefit from "freedom education."

Let's examine ourselves and follow the dictates of human dignity and respect. Man is man and as man he reserves the cherished right of recognition, not as a group, but as an individual. Without this principle in mind, freedom is a lost goal, hard to obtain and psychologically hard to realize for the "kicked around" minority.

So we have a Brotherhood Week.

Civil Rights Bill Topic of Meeting

A letter was read from Senator Phil Hitchcock, Klamath Falls legislator who introduced the civil rights bill now in committee, and reports given by representatives Phil Roth and Monroe Sweetland at the monthly meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People last Sunday at the Williams avenue YWCA.

In his letter Hitchcock said he expects a fight in the house so he hopes the bill will not stay too long before the judiciary committee so as not to give the opposition time to solidify.

Monroe Sweetland, one of the other leaders in the fight to pass the bill, said, "the situation is more uncertain than discouraging." He also stated that if Senators Richard Neuberger and Hitchcock come to the lower house and help steer the bill, it should pass.

Sweetland read the essence of the bill, telling exactly the scope and rights guaranteed by the proposed law. He pointed out to the high school students present that

they are in an excellent position to affect public opinion.

Republican Roth stated that the support of many of the downstate legislators will be a big help.

The meeting was then opened to discussion from the floor and board member Edgar Williams recalled past efforts to establish a civil rights bill. He then made an appeal for funds to continue the fight for passage and \$45 was collected quickly.

The youth group under the direction of Bob Herndon held their first installation of officers since reorganization of the group. Those installed were Grover Campbell, president; Sam Whitney, vice president; Betty Lou Miller, second vice president; Joan Johnson, secretary; Shirlene Peachier, assistant secretary; Warren Washington and Evelyn Muckleroy, treasurers; and Earl Bouey and Fannie Mae Whitney, sergeants-at-arms.

The group was sworn in by the president of the local NAACP branch, Otto Rutherford.

Very Few Nigerians Receive Wages

This is the fourth in a series of articles on Nigeria and the customs, thoughts and culture of the population of that African country by Ephraim Layode. From Nigeria, West Africa, Layode is a student at the University of Portland where he is majoring in education. He has spent time in London and is very familiar with the present-day situation on the African continent.

BY EPHRAIM LAYODE

NIGERIA—A Leading Protectorate Nation—In Nigeria only a very small proportion of this huge populace receives wages. There are no industries on a large scale, except the plantations and mines. The Government controls many departments, hence in the country its industry can give work to very few people.

The wages are too small, nothing short of a hand to mouth existence. Many of the workers are classified as unskilled laborers and they are poorly paid, especially those who are not fortunate to have some kind of education. The independent farmers in villages and farms have the same difficulties to face. In the first place, they are not encouraged by the British government or by any organized groups to improve their methods for large and easier production. And where such organizations exist, they are not yet strong enough to have a large directing aiming power which will enable them to sell well and profitably.

Accept Any Price

The result is, while they produce too little with the maximum human energy, they are also bound to accept any price from the European buyers. In turn, they fix the prices of manufactured goods brought back to the country to be sold to the people. There has been a definite increase in the unskilled populace, because education is still the luxury of the wealthy.

Nigeria ranks as one of the foremost nations, rich in potential wealth. In mineral resources, Nigeria is extensively rich in tin, tantalite, coal, gold, iron, zinc, groundnuts, rubber, cotton, cocoa, palm products, silver lead, dia-

monds, bauxite, mineral oil and uranium.

In addition to all these natural potentialities, Nigeria possesses numerous streams, waterfalls and rivers, which can cheaply be used to generate electric power. For instance, right now, the Nigerian Electricity Supply Corporation, Ltd., is producing 14 million kilowatts of electricity per year from its stations at Kaura, Kwall and Jekko Falls, with which tin mines are supplied with power around Jos, a fairly big city rich in tin.

Natural Wealth

In view of the foregoing facts, therefore we can rightly come to the conclusion that Nigeria, ranks in potential with other economic powers of the world. Only very few countries in the world today, have such immense natural wealth, so varied and yet so concentrated within their borders.

But in spite of this economic potential, and as I pointed out in my previous writings, the country lacks the political power to develop her resources so necessary to obtain, if Nigeria is to maintain a democratic way of life and higher standard of living. However, some progress has been made in the line of small business.

Nigeria today has fifteen banks, with branches all over the country, independent of any foreign management, that is, they are purely run by Nigerian bankers, of course with the permission of the British government. These banks carry on business with banks all over the world, except Russia.

Many Good Schools

There are schools opened by private educationists, others by the missionaries and the British government. There are teachers' colleges all over the country, mostly missionaries' colleges. Nigeria has now a University college affiliated to London university.

At the moment, very limited courses are offered, since it is still in the stage of infancy. There are no public schools or compulsory mass education, as in America or

in England, where children go to school freely. In all our schools and colleges, we pay school fees, buy our own textbooks and other school materials, from the first day of getting into school, until the last day in school.

This is not very good, especially for a country like Nigeria. We feel there should be public school system and other many fine amenities in the line of education, in order that the youths of the country may have proper education.

Nigeria Vast Territory

In conclusion, and in order to refresh the memories of my readers, a quick summary of what has been said before will be given. First, Nigeria has a vast territory. The total area of the country is 372,696 square miles. The attention of the reader is called to the enormous size of the country.

By comparison, if the whole area of Japan were spread over Nigeria, it would cover less than half of the country. The total area of Great Britain would cover about a quarter of the same country. To bring the comparison closer home, the total area of Nigeria would cover about eleven largest states in America put together.

Secondly, the population of Nigeria, now said to be about 40,000,000, is really considerable. This is more than four times the population of Australia, which is 7 million. It is four times the population of Canada, which is 10 million, to go further more, it is more than the populations of Spain and Portugal combined.

Thirdly, Nigeria ranks among those so-called leading nations of the world, I mean those which are the foremost owners of potential wealth. The resources of Nigeria, both mineral and agricultural are rich and varied.

Taking all the facts as stated above into consideration. It is therefore not out of the way, to say that Nigeria, is indeed a leading protectorate nation in West Africa. Next issue: Lagos—The Capital City of Nigeria.

Real Estate Firm Helps Integration

How can a Negro-owned business enterprise play an active part in the program for better interracial relations? Herman C. Plummer real estate and company is a good example of this. Celebrating their fourth anniversary, they now boast a new office and a business volume which has doubled itself since 1950. The staff is comprised of 10 salesmen and two secretaries.

Besides this, and as a contribution to Negro socio-economic advancement, the company has actively dedicated itself to the project of "making it possible for Negroes to buy and live in communities of their own choosing." They are presently engaged in a new low-cost, spot housing program which affords living accommodations for families in any location which they choose to provide. Plans are in the offing for the establishment of a general insurance company.

Quite aware of the amount of community response, Plummer says, "we feel that the growth of the business has been greatly aided by the encouragement, cooperation and confidence that the older citizens have displayed."

From Kansas City, Kansas, Plummer and his wife Lonnetta have both had considerable experience in real estate and insurance enterprises. Plummer attended Lincoln university in Jefferson, Missouri, where he majored in economics.

League Officer Hits Race 'Tags'

Attacking anti-minority stereotyping procedures, E. Shelton Hill, industrial secretary of the Urban league, said Sunday night that by examining just one part of the individual we do not get an adequate perspective. Hill was guest speaker at the Brotherhood week program held at the Vancouver Avenue Methodist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver avenue, sponsored by the educational committee of the church.

Other speakers were Miss Marceline Casey and Samuel Whitney, whose texts were the origin of Brotherhood week and "Negroes in Action" respectively.

Speaking extemporaneously, Hill said that envy between members of the same minority was also having a detrimental effect on the interracial situation. He observed that rather than pull each other down, members of minorities should be trying to help each other.

Tracing the history of brotherhood week, Miss Casey accredited the National Council of Christians and Jews with its origination. She advised that we should live brotherhood, believe in it and support it not just during brotherhood week but all during our everyday existence.

Whitney spoke on the life of Mary McLeod Bethune, noted Negro educator and president of Bethune-Cookman college in Florida.

Vancouver Gets New Business

J. Willard Parks, formerly of Canton, Ohio, who now resides in Vancouver, Wash., opened officially for business on January 5th. Parks Agency offers services in bookkeeping, public typing, notary public, tax service, and general agent.

Prior to coming to Vancouver, he operated an adjustment and collections service in the Canton - Massillon area in Ohio. Mr. Parks also worked as a special agent for the Supreme Liberty Insurance in that area.

Besides completing a course in business at the School of Credits and Collections in Roanoke, Virginia, he studied public relations at the National Academy of Broadcasting in Washington, D.C., and also took a course in photography.

While serving with the Navy at Saufley Field, Pensacola, Fla., he served as chief library clerk in charge of the public information office. A number of Naval libraries were set up by him.

Parks is affiliated with the Vancouver branch of the NAACP and is working with the Youth Organization. He served as a member of the research committee appointed by the National Office to investigate the Harry T. Moore case in Florida.

Parks Agency is located at 516½ Main street in Vancouver. His telephone number is 3-2181.

STEWART'S CLEANERS
GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS!



J. Willard
Parks

STEWART'S CLEANERS
GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS!