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GEORGIA'S GOVERNOR DENOUNCES RACE PREJUDICE, DISCRIMINATION

By Chesley E. Corbett

The brilliant, erudite, dynamic, courageous, fearless and Christian-hearted young Governor of Georgia, the Hon. Ellis Arnall, in an exclusive interview with Walter Davenport, as appears in "Collier's Weekly, July 28, came out frankly and boldly denouncing race prejudice and discrimination that has been practiced and which still exists in America.

In the incipency of his remarks he states.

The South has lived too much in the past. It's time she rejoined the Union. She is entitled to be back in the house of her fathers. For her political and economic reverie the South has been paying a huge price. We have been content to blame many of our woes on the rest of the country, particularly the North, the damyankee. Gentle

warnings, subdued alarms, polite suggestions have failed to awaken the rest of the nation to the fact that here is a great economic frontier, crying for development. Growing pains have not yet awakened all of our own populace here in the south to our great potentials. It's time to make a rude noise.

The narcotic that has been keeping the South in her twilight sleep is poverty. Her evasion of reality, her self-pity, her inertia has given her bad government, filled many of her important political offices with demagogues and incompetents. Here and there thieves who went into office penniless emerged millionaires—even went to prison for their racketeering.

Since the war between the States (the Civil War to the cold bread country), the South has at times given the rest of the country reason to think of some of her governors as clowns and some of her legislatures as dominated by charatans and scallawags. The South has sometimes elected to office noisy quacks and fanatic scatterbrains. Able men have had difficulty in being heard or seen in the burlesque played by some of our leaders.

To these latter misrepresentatives of the people of the South, her poverty and the ignorance begotten of poverty have been political capital. Men as mentally and spiritually benighted as the meanest illiterate voting for them have won and held office on no other issue than race and religious prejudice. Intellect and liberal minds of the South have gone about proclaiming all this for years. They have named education as its cure—education and then more education.

Georgia was ruled by a dictator whose chief ambition was self-perpetuation in office. The state was being pictured in the theater, in literature, in classrooms as Tobacco Road. Georgia to the outsider meant chain gangs, peonage, pardon racketeering, Ku-Klux, crackerism, race prejudice and bankruptcy. It was gross libel on the people, but only an overblown picture of their government. With undeveloped resources and wealth reaching out begging for cultivation, Georgia, in financial ruin, had a state debt of thirty-six million dollars. Within the next twelve months this debt will have been paid in full.

He stated that much of the bad government that we have had

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N. Y. Senators Hit Bilbo

WASHINGTON — Senators Wagner and Mead of New York struck out at Senators Bilbo and Eastland on the floor of the Senate last Thursday following demands of Harlemites that they would not support them in the next elections if they did not take the floor to defend Negro troops against the attacks of the two Mississippians. Senator Wagner read to the Senate statements of commanding generals commending the fighting ability of Negro soldiers and declared that Eastland's statements "had no factual basis." Senator Mead also defended the record of Negro troops and called Eastland's remarks uncalled for and distasteful. The New York senators had been sent telegrams following the "To Hell With Bilbo" meeting at Abyssinia Church last Sunday.

NAACP Asks Action Against Col. Selway

CINCINNATI—Col. Robert Selway, former commander of the 477th Bombardment group now headed by Col. Benjamin O. Davis, may find himself in hot water if the War Department carries out the request of the board of directors of the NAACP meeting here this month, to investigate and take appropriate action against him.

It was Col. Selway who issued an order in April in violation of a War Department directive banning discrimination, which resulted in the mass arrest of 101 Negro officers at Freeman Field for entering a white officers club. The last three of the officers were freed of the charges last week.

Farm Labor Wanted

WASHINGTON—Pointing out that a serious shortage of farm labor threatens the 1945 crops, the Department of Agriculture this week urged Negro high school and college students, teachers, clerks, stenographers and business and professional men to join the 4,000,000 volunteer Crop Corps workers needed for the harvesting of this year's crops.

Executive Secretary of National Urban League Lauds U. S. Navy

The Navy has made remarkable strides during the last two years toward complete integration of Negroes into that branch of the armed services, Lester B. Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League, said at a press conference at Navy Department Headquarters in Washington, D. C., July 13, 1945.

Mr. Granger had recently completed, at the request of the Secretary of the Navy, a tour of 12 naval stations, bases and depots on the West Coast as well as the Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill. Naval establishments selected from the Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Naval Districts included approximately 3,000 Negroes among their total personnel.

The Urban League official said he made the tour for two reasons: (1) To observe the actual administration of the Navy's policy of integrating Negroes into all branches and activities of the naval service, and (2) to discuss with Negro enlisted men and their officers the practical results of the racial policy as they affect the performance and morale of Negro personnel.

"First of all," Mr. Granger said, "I consider the Navy's policy of integrating in all phases of the services to be admirable sound as officially set forth.

"Second, I found that policy to be honestly and intelligently administered in the headquarters of all the naval districts I visited. I found no sign of resistance to the policy, but, rather, found a lively and sincere interest in making the policy successful.

"Third, I found that the farther down in the ranks of command the administration of this policy descended, the more instances there were of deviation from it or violation of its spirit as in its letter. This should be expected and emphasizes the need for greater effective means of policing the policy so that failure to conform on the part of commissioned officers and petty officers alike may be detected and disciplined as easy as would be the case in any other serious breach of regulations.

"In spite of these not infrequent violations of policy, it is evident that the Navy has made

remarkable strides during the past two years toward complete equality of expression in the service. It is a progress which reflects great credit upon the integrity and intelligence of the Navy's leaders and which should evoke a warm spirit of cooperation from the Negro and white public which is anxious to see our armed services more completely democratized.

"Some of the gains which have been made in the past two years include the following:

"1. Admission of Negroes to general service.

"2. Rating of Negroes in practically every category and training of Negroes as commissioned officers.

"3. Assignment of Negro personnel to auxiliary craft up to ten per cent of a ship's complement.

"4. Assignment of Negro commissioned and petty officers to these vessels to serve in their duties without regard to rank.

"5. Important elimination of racial segregation in mess and in recreational facilities.

"6. A beginning of assigning Negro personnel to combat duties on warships."

Bilbo Kept Busy Writing Letters

WASHINGTON—Senator Bilbo is busy answering letters and telegrams these days, and what answers he gives to those who have condemned his action against the FEPC bill! In reply to a letter sent to him last week by an Italian-American woman, he addressed her as "Dear Dago," and proceeded to insult her in harsh and undignified terms.

Following his insulting reply to the Garibaldi American Fraternal Society of the International Workers Order wrote to him, telling him, among other things, that the word "America" derives from an Italian name, Amerigo Vespucci.

Last week, in reply to Miss Josephine Timms, secretary of the American Communications Association, he told her to keep her proboscis (snout) out of his business.

This week he answered a letter from Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert, president of the Savannah branch of the NAACP, calling him misguided and ill-informed, and saying that he has been "poisoned, tainted and bamboozled" by contacts with Walter White and the NAACP.

These letters are only a few of those that the Mississippian has written in reply to the hundreds of letters and telegrams he has received concerning his filibustering tactics against the FEPC bill and his advocacy of sending Negroes back to Africa.

House Saves FEPC Measure In 188-116 Vote

WASHINGTON — Despite Negro-baiting and parliamentary maneuvers, the FEPC was saved for another year by a vote of 188 to 116 in the House Friday.

Clutching at the last straw Congressman Rankin of Mississippi read the roster of names of the national and regional FEPC committee, pointing out that they were mostly Negroes, Jews, and of Japanese, Spanish and other foreign descent.

He declared that the passage of a law legalizing the FEPC would be a betrayal of the white race in the country. "Read these official lists (of names) carefully," he said, "and you will see that not 1 out of 10 on these rolls is a white, gentile American."

The decisive vote was on an amendment offered by Rep. William Colmer (D, Miss.) to strike a clause earlier inserted in the War Agencies Appropriation bill, stating that the \$250,000 appropriation for FEPC would be used "until" Congress established a permanent anti-discrimination agency. The clause, which the committee had inserted in the bill earlier in the week under pressure from FEPC forces inside and outside of Congress, cancelled out an earlier insertion by the committee, which said that the appropriation was to be used to "liquidate" the agency.

POWELL TAKES FLOOR
Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, who has been ill at his home in New York during the

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OPA Announces New Benefits For Veterans

For the benefit of Negro veterans, many of whom have very recently returned to civilian life, Miss Frances Williams, special assistant to Price Administrator Chester Bowles, this week reviewed Office of Price Administration regulations that assist veterans in obtaining employment, open small businesses and getting special allotments of gasoline.

Miss Williams said it would be to the veterans' advantage to check with the nearest OPA local board or district office to obtain details on these and other actions taken to aid them.

Employment

One of the first steps in OPA's program to help the returning veterans was the announcement by Mr. Bowles that war veterans would be hired in OPA boards and offices through the country as rapidly as suitable vacancies occur. Plans were worked out with the Civil Service Commission to help qualified veterans. Among the jobs in OPA that will provide

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