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EDITORIAL

By Chesley E. Corbett

CAUSE AND EFFECT

There is an old saynig, but a true one, "That for every cause there is an effect; for every effect there is a cause." This was manifest last week, immediately following the article that was published and very much publicized in the Oregonian Wednesday of last week styled "Negroes Desire Segregation," and other papers in the city. Many persons, desiring to stir up racial antipathy and discontent between minority groups were glad to see such matters being discussed, and there appeared in the Oregonian in Friday's issue the following letter from one Warren Erwin, which we print for your presual.

"Quote":

THE PEOPLE'S OWN CORNER—LETTERS

Segregation

To the Editor: I feel sure the serious thinking people of Portland will be interested in the attitude of a group of Negro business men who have asked the city commissioners to keep "persons of other races" from opening new businesses in their district.

It appears that some white man has signified his intention of opening a "dine and dance club" in the vicinity of Williams and N. E. Broadway. Fearing that a license might be granted him, this forward-looking group of colored men remonstrated against it.

I herewith quote from the letter to the city council: "We most certainly object to persons of other races imposing themselves and businesses such as this one."

Had not the venerable and respected Booker T. Washington, noted Negro educator, long since crossed over the River Jordan, I would be inclined to feel that this local group of Negroes had sat at his feet and absorbed his wise teachings.

Following a contrary reasoning, certain Negro groups in recent years have sought to break down all social and business segregation. These groups have now prevailed on the Negro business men (as I see it) to repudiate their stand. It is my opinion that they were right in the first instance, both from the standpoint of their own happiness and welfare, and of the happiness and welfare of the community.

Yes, by all means, keep other races out of the Negro district. Respect their wishes.

As the Negro population grows, and it is beginning to show signs of rapid increase, let them expand their district, install their own commercial enterprises, their restaurants, hotels, theaters and even schools.

Let all races cultivate an attitude of greater civil courtesness and less inclination to impose themselves. Peaceful relations in our country may be forever maintained under such conditions.

WARREN ERWIN.

4623 S. W. Garden Home Rd.

"Unquote."

In the same issue, in the editorial column the Editor commented on Mr. Irwin's article as follows:

"Quote":

Segregation

Warren Erwin in his letter favoring racial segregation, which appears elsewhere on this page, finds no sympathy with us.

Once in a while, as in this case, some group of Negroes will advocate against whites the very exclusiveness from which they ordinarily suffer. But there is no point in seizing upon such an incident. Usually it is the result of badgering, mere retaliation. The over-all policy of the Negro people is to achieve acceptance, and certainly in a northern city such as Portland, with a comparatively small colored population, there is no sense in hashing over the arguments which were typical of the deep south in the past century.

In the present instance, virtually every Negro organization in the area disavowed the original petition of the Business Men's association, and the association itself joined in this repudiation, objecting to the way the petition was

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1412 N. Williams Avenue



"V.D. RESPECTS NEITHER RACE NOR RANK—STAMP IT OUT."

interpreted. Let it go at that. As we look at the matter, the problem of racial harmony is difficult enough at best. Sometimes we object deeply to the manner in which the Negro organizations push toward acceptance. But no one should grasp an opportunity to pretend that anything other than acceptance is their ideal. In a city such as Portland, where racialism is comparatively so minor a problem, it would be shameful for us to engage in even a discussion of extreme reaction.

"Unquote."

We doff our hats to the editor of the Oregonian for the above mentioned article. Segregation has no place among civilized nations and when we see one attempting to suggest it or urge its enforcement we must condemn the same in its incipency.

Had not the various organizations of our group met in mass meeting, as they did, and clarified their position relative to the erroneous idea that we wanted segregation, many more articles such as Erwin wrote, and other movements to "muddy the water" would have taken place. We are glad that it was "nipped in the bud." There was a cause—but quick action on the part of the said organizations acted in time before matters became effecacious.

FREEDOM HAS NO "BUTS"—

By Chesley E. Corbett

The wonder of 1945 was that so much could happen in so few months. Staggering headlines became commonplace. There was the death of President Roosevelt; the war ended; the United Nations Organization became a hopeful fact; and, most cataclysmic of all, was the thunderous dawn of the atomic age. These were but a few of the headlines. The events they portray have left a turbulence in the human mind such as has never been experienced before. That turbulence is shaking the postwar world to its very foundations. The peace and plenty which so many had hoped for when the guns fell silent, is nowhere to be found. Whether it will materialize in the reasonably near future depends upon the fortitude and common sense of millions.

An indication of the temper of the times is evident in the words of one veteran, a college graduate who lost a leg at El Alamein: "There is evidence among us of a growing distaste for orations. We will tend to judge parties and proposals by results, not by protestations of high purpose. We know freedom doesn't mean much without groceries—how can a man enjoy free speech on an empty stomach?"

Appealing as these words sound on the surface, they reveal the terrible weakness in thought that today threatens the future of the American republic and hope of democratic government throughout the world more seriously than any dictator or combination of dictators ever has. First, this veteran—and his reasoning is paralleled by millions of civilians—is assuming that freedom is somehow to blame that there is a grocery shortage. Second, he infers that a little less freedom can result in a few more groceries. Third, he makes the potentially fatal blunder of inviting a strong man of group to take action, in the same breath, mind you, that he questions the validity of freedom unless it is accompanied by a three-decker sandwich. This bread and butter philosophy leaves the way wide open for the demagogue to step in with a hatful of promises—impossible promises that will result in less freedom and fewer, not more, groceries.

General Carl A. Spatz, former commanding general of the United States strategical and tactical air forces in
(Continued on page 7)

DRIVE AGAINST BOSWELL AMMENDMENT

DRIVE AGAINST 'BOSWELL—
BIRMINGHAM — (ANP) —

Condemning the proposed Boswell amendment as a device to maintain minority rule in Alabama politics, over 100 delegates to an emergency conference on jobs and security who met here Saturday called for defeat of the measure when it is voted on next November.

Called by the committee for Alabama of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, progressive leaders from every part of the state and from all branches of organized labor met here to discuss the problems of reconversion and the social security legislation now pending in Congress.

Predicting that widespread mechanization would displace three million people from the farms of the south within the next five years, Gould Beach, editor of the Southern Farmer, declared that only rapid industrialization can prevent a large and growing number of unemployed in Alabama.

W. O. Hare, state secretary of the Alabama Federation of Labor, stated that the proposal to appoint fact-finding boards in industrial disputes offers little hope of eliminating labor-management strife. "After a life-long experience with fact-finding boards," Mr. Hare declared, "the only thing I know about them is that they never find any facts. In Alabama if a board were appointed today the first man named would be Emmet Brooks, the second would be Frank Dixon and the third would be a degraded and corrupt labor leader."

Speaking for the United Mine Workers, District President Bill Mitch condemned the action of Congress in granting tax refunds to corporations. "The tax refunds were supposed to be used by business to help in the problems of reconversion, but actually," he declared, "the giant corporations are using this money as a slush fund to fight labor."

"In the coming elections, labor may pick a loser but labor will back a man who will support its program." Criticizing Congressman Carter Manasco for blocking passage of a real full employment bill, Mr. Mitch stated that the miners in Walker county will vote for any candidate who runs against Manasco in the coming congressional race.

Defending the FEPC, Mr. Mitch stated that it was the policy of his organization to insist on equal pay for equal work. "You can't keep another fellow in the ditch as far as labor is concerned," he declared, "without getting down with him."

Emory O. Jackson, editor of the Birmingham World, described the Boswell bill as the political twin of the Bradford act which prohibits the closed shop. "These two bills," he stated, "make up the two-edged sword the enemies of trade unions, working under the smoke screen of 'white supremacy' intend to use in trying to crush the labor movement in Alabama."

Carey Haigler, president of the Alabama State Industrial Union council, state that "Congress has been engaged in a sit-down strike against meeting the needs of the American people. In the months ahead, the progressive-minded citizens of Alabama must stand together, work together and vote together if we are to prevent a depression worse than that of 1929."

Speaking on the medical needs of Alabama, Dr. John Newdrop, regional medical officer of the Farm Security administration, stated that "low income and poor health go hand in hand. We cannot hope to materially raise the health standards in Alabama without first raising the income of the great majority of our citizens."

THANKS FOR THE BOUQUET

Muskogee, Okla.

January 15, 1946.

Dear Corbett:

I must acknowledge my appreciation for the two issues of "The Portland Inquirer" you sent me. The minute I read the editorial and carefully examined the arrangement, et cetera, I knew and recognized the familiar shove, drive and zeal you can give anything.

The paper lost its savor when you ceased to function with it, but now it's natural again.

I've always had and always will have the highest regard for your ability. Really there is none to exceed you in anything you want to do. This is one thing I want you to remember and remember well: I consider you "THE ESSENCE AND QUINTESENCE OF CULTURE," and as long as I live I want you to feel towards me as you've always—no matter what's the score.

I shall send you a check for a subscription soon. Keep the good work up. Write and tell me all about yourself, your plans, future, etc.

Let me hear from you pronto. Be good to yourself.

Lovingly,
Lillian.

Editor's Notes:

The above epistle was from Mrs. Lillian B. Crutcher, Music and English teacher in the Ft. Gibson (Muskogee County) High School, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Crutcher is a graduate of Wiley University, Marshall Tyler and also of Langston University, Okla., has done graduate work at the University of Southern California and the University of Minnesota; she has been in charge of several glee clubs that have gained national recognition. She spent her vacation this summer in Portland, visiting her sister, Mrs. LaRue B. Corbett, at the Royal Palm Hotel, former wife of the editor.

I thank you, Lillian, I hope and trust that I may merit the things you said about me.

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