

# PORTLAND INQUIRER

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Editor's Note. We have had several requests that the following editorial which your editor wrote and appeared in the Portland Inquirer under date of June 15, 1945 be re-printed, and we are complying with these requests.

## CHIPS ON SHOULDERS

By CHESLEY E. CORBETT

In former days boys desiring to see two of their buddies fight, would put chips on the shoulders of each and dare one to knock it off. Of course one of the boys, not wanting to be called a coward before the crowd, would knock the chip off the shoulder and then the fight would begin.

We have men and women of all races, creeds and colors, here in Portland, with chips on their shoulders—just itching, it seems, for some one to knock them off.

They may be found in cigarette lines, in the crowd getting their supply of liquor, at sport events, on street cars—in short—almost any place.

These persons are pests—they are obnoxious to all—they are the ones who stir up strife, racial antagonism, segregation and mob violence.

There are those among the whites, "The Jumping Jacks"; they are the bourbon type who, when a colored person takes a seat in a car or bus beside them, jump up and rush out of the seat—and sneer. On many occasions fights have occurred as a result of such actions.

Those "Jumping Jacks" knew when they came to Portland that there were no segregation laws; that Negroes and whites rode in the same cars, attended the same schools and that when they came they would meet these conditions.

Notwithstanding this, they came—with "Chips on Their Shoulders"—the yare typical advocates for those signs: "We Cater to Whites Only", that have been placed in several cafes in Portland within the last three years.

Among our group are those who have "Chips on Their Shoulders"—they are typical advocates for those signs:—they came here with a grudge because of some insult suffered by them or by some member of their family, and at the slightest provocation they give vent to that pent up outburst that has long been smoldering.

When these types meet, and they do in many cases, some one knocks off the chip.

A particular pest, with chips on his shoulders, is the one who stands out in the street or may be found in public places using useless profane language in loud tones—those who have no self-respect and whose utterances cause women to cross over from public places where this type "hangs out" in order to not be embarrassed by the vile utterances they know they would hear if they had proceeded in that direction.

Then another type of pest, and the most despicable—are women who may be found in public places drunk, and uttering the most vile profanity constantly. They have no self-respect nor do they respect any one. They have chips on their shoulders—just begging someone to knock them off.

It behooves all of us to do our best to help remedy these conditions. Through various agencies, such as The League, recently formed and headed by Mr. Kelly Foster, The Colored Citizens Taxpayers League, we can fight one type of pest. From the pulpit and platform the ministers and speakers can continue to call these conditions to the attention of their listeners and plead with them to make themselves a committee of one and try to make conditions better; to teach the youths coming up not to have chips on their shoulders that will cause them to have hatred and malice against anyone.

We hope the day is not too far distant when all men and women of all races will remove these chips and that the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man will in truth be realized and practiced.

## MARTYRS and HEROES

There was a French philosopher and sociologist who said: "All I owe to you I owe to myself. What I do for you I do for myself. What I do against you I do against myself." These words contain the core of the lesson we must seek to learn.

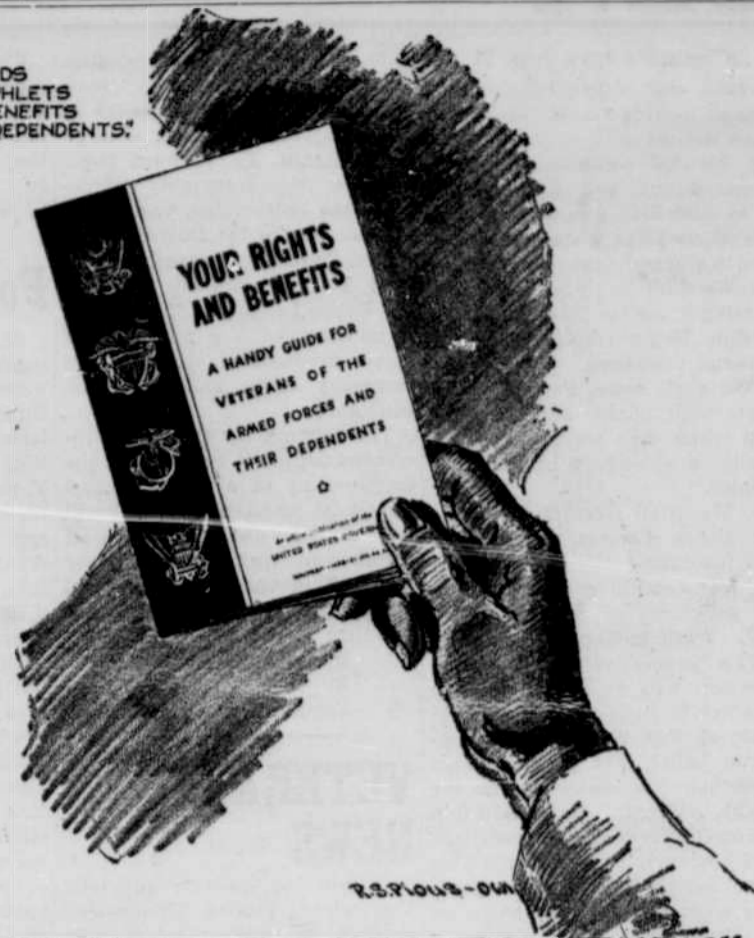
The greatest peril of modern society is the exclusiveness of group against group, in which the stronger groups shut out the weaker from sharing the benefits and opportunities of the commonweal, in which the stronger grow proud and hard and intolerant and prejudiced, denying their common humanity, in which the weaker groups grow bitter and frustrated, so that on all sides rancor increases, and the energies of men are turned from creativeness to destructiveness, from cooperative gain to universal loss. And the consummation of this evil thing is here before our eyes, the final inhumanity of man to man.

Let us ask ourselves: What have the intolerant gained from their intolerance? What have the persecutors reaped after the persecution? What did Czarist Russia achieve by its pogroms? What have the Nazis gained by their mad fury against the Jewish people? They have gained the most terrible of all retributions, such ruin upon ruin as has never been visited on a country since civilization began. What they did against the Jews, against all groups but their own, they did against themselves. The same law holds, though it may wait its time, though the persecutors may triumph for a season. Hatred breeds hatreds as fear breeds fear. Men sow the dragon's teeth, and the dragons at last arise and devour them.

But let us not look only at Europe, where the dragons are finishing their job. Let us look at ourselves. We too, as a people, as men and women are guilty. We too practice the exclusiveness of the group; we too discriminate, discriminate grossly; we too reject difference and deny it equal rights. We too sow the dragon seed. Even when we fight against its fruits we are fostering their growth. The evil is widespread among us. In every part of this land there is prejudice and strong intolerance, and on the other side there is frustration and there is fear. The Jewish people suffer much from it. The Negro suffers grievously. Many other groups suffer in varying degree. There is perilous indoctrination, there is pernicious propaganda. It is not confined to the rabble of Silver Shirts and Coughlinists and their kind. It flourishes in the most respectable quarters.

## NEWS ITEM -

LOCAL DRAFT BOARDS  
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Sometimes it is soft and insidious and whispering, sometimes it is loud-voiced.

Can we bring home to them, to the respectable, to the complacent, the lesson of Europe, the lesson of Germany, the lesson of Poland? Can we teach them that they too, in their respectability and in their pride, are guilty? Can we teach them to see something that touches themselves? Can we ever teach them to say, as they look on the vagers of Europe, what a good Scottish divine said when he saw a criminal led to the scaffold, "There but for the grace of God, go I"? We should seek to make this an object-lesson in a great campaign. There are strong forces on our side too. The anti-discrimination law of New York State, which Governor Dewey strongly supported and recently signed is a splendid achievement. But we must attack on the educational front. In the last resort we must trust to social education, and we must muster our forces to reform our education, everywhere to this end, in the school and in the home and in the church and in the exclusive club. We should and we can maintain a great continuous educational assault upon the forces of darkness.

There is urgent need for it. We never tried it. Now is the time. There is another and even harder victory to win, a victory of the

mind not of the sword. For this fight we have never yet formed our ranks. We shall be fighting for the truth, for the brotherhood of man, for the well-being and the unity of our land. If we keep these banners before us we shall conquer in the end.

Negro police officer of Knoxville, Tenn., encountered difficulty in arresting a white race-baiting truck driver who had blocked traffic for several blocks in four directions by parking his truck. When ordered to move on by the colored officer, the driver replied that "no nigger can make me do anything" and was immediately snatched out of his truck and felled by a lusty head blow. Several white by-standers attempted to rush Officer Guess, but a large number of Negroes appeared on the scene and warned "unless you want real trouble, don't start anything here."

Trouble was averted when Officer McMannus, a white patrolman, answered Guess' help whistle. Although subdued by the Negro patrolman, he repeated the same remarks to McMannus about "can't no nigger arrest me, a white man."  
"You had better be thankful that this colored officer has you,"

the white policeman replied, for if I had you in charge I would whip your head. Law is law here in Knoxville, it matters not whether it is represented by a white or colored officer."

The police judge backed both officers by imposing a \$10 fine on the race-baiting truck driver.

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## Vanport Community Church

9:30 Sunlay School  
11:30 Church Service  
6:30 Young Peoples Hour  
7:30 Evening Service  
7:30 Tuesday Evening, Teachers Meeting

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