

'And crown thy good with brotherhood

from sea to shining sea.'

Negro progress slowest in southern states

(Second of a series.)

The Negro in the United States wants three things, things which he feels he should have because it is his legal and moral right to have them. These are the right to equal job opportunities, the right to equal education opportunities, and the right to vote for the candidate of his choice. He has lacked these opportunities, to greater or lesser degrees, over much of the United States ever since the Emancipation Proclamation, 100 years ago. (One would be foolish to claim only the Negro has been denied opportunities in this country's history. In Oregon we have only to look back a short time, to examine the status of the Oriental or the American Indian, to find considerable discrimination. Our national history is full of discrimination against various groups because of race, religion, or national origin. But never has discrimination been as complete, as absolute, or lasted so long, as it has against the Negro in the Deep South.)

The Negro in the United States has made considerable progress in the past 100 years. It is in the Southern states that this progress has come most slowly. It is in those Southern states the greatest number of Negroes are concentrated. The Southern state which has most strongly opposed the ending of various discriminations against the Negro is Mississippi. It was to Mississippi the editor of this newspaper went to try to learn more about the status of the Negro in the South.

Just as few sweeping generalities about white people are universally true, many of the categorical statements about the Negro and his place in the South are untrue. Just as there are various degrees of racial discrimination against Negroes in Mississippi, different Negroes look in a different manner on the whole problem. Discussions with Negroes in such varied occupations as teaching, taxicab driving, kitchen help, civil rights organization work, made this clear. There is no considerable number of Negroes who feel there has not been extreme racial discrimination in their state. But there are varied opinions as to what should be done about it, and whether progress is being made at a satisfactory rate.

Two men, in particular, spotlighted the differences among Negroes in their attitudes and feelings on the whole question. One was Charles Evers, of Jackson, state field director for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The other was principal of a Negro school in a smaller city in the state. Evers is about 40; the other man is half again as old. Evers does not like

to look at the past — among other things it reminds him that his brother, Medgar, was shot in the back and killed by a white man only a few months ago. The principal looks on the past, compares it with the present, and feels he and members of his race have made much progress in Mississippi over a period of 40 years.

Evers complains of police brutality toward Negroes; the other man says police brutality may exist, just as it has in such cities as San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles. But, he feels, it decreased considerably when the federal government became more interested in the civil rights field. Evers feels his people have too few job opportunities. The principal agrees that opportunities have been limited, particularly in some parts of the state. He feels they will improve rather considerably as Negroes qualify themselves to fill better jobs. Evers is making a drive to register Negroes to vote. The other man has voted for many years, but admits the tests required of him were not required of white men his age. Further, he is sure that in other parts of the state it is far more difficult for Negroes to register and vote. (He is right. In six of Mississippi's counties there are no Negro voters at all. There is only one registered Negro voter in each of three others.)

Charles Evers is not typical of the young Negro of Mississippi. He is a dedicated man, dedicated to a cause he was interested in and fighting for long before his brother's assassination. He is better educated than most of his fellows. He has lived outside the South, albeit for a relatively few years. He has been engaged in private business; and he was Mississippi's first Negro disc jockey. He is now a leader for the organization that most residents of his state feel is the most moderate of all the "outside agitator" organizations in the field.

Trying to conduct a lengthy interview with Evers is almost an impossibility. The telephone in his Jackson office rings constantly. Visitors pop in and out the door. He's intense in his approach to his job, and puts all his waking hours into it. (His family still lives outside the state. After Evers' brother was killed he feared for their safety.) His main efforts are to get Negroes to register to vote, to put economic pressure on those who discriminate against Negroes, and to try to help qualified Negroes to increase their living standards through better jobs.

Voting registration figures vary greatly from county to county within the state. In some counties a relatively large number of Negroes register. In

others, registration is discouraged, even fought, by county officials. And if that is not enough, representatives of the Ku Klux Klan call on newly-registered Negroes to suggest they take their names off the rolls. The suggestion often is sufficient. The Negro is rightly afraid of the economic pressure the white community can put on him.

Both public and private job opportunities have been limited for Negroes in the past, and still are limited. Some limitations are inherent problems of Negroes, the result of poor education and lack of training. Other limitations are there because prospective employers look upon the Negro as an inferior being, unworthy of consideration for good jobs.

There is not, Evers complained with what appeared to be justification, a single Negro employed by the state of Mississippi in other than menial work. Nor, he said, has the federal government employed many Negroes in what he termed "decent" jobs, certainly not anywhere near as many as he feels they are entitled to in a state where they represent nearly half the total population.

There are really, Evers claims, only two fields of employment in Mississippi which offer worthwhile career opportunities to Negroes. One is in teaching. With the recent upgrading of Mississippi schools for colored youngsters, the need for qualified colored teachers has increased rapidly. The other field is in agriculture, where it is sometimes possible for Negroes to lease or own good farms, and operate them. (There are a number of prosperous Negro farmers in the rich Mississippi Delta. Although farmers are predominantly white, quite a few Negroes have acquired either leases or ownership of good farms. Some are good-sized operators.) But the number of farmers in the state is decreasing rapidly, as operations are consolidated to make them profitable. In too many cases, it appears, the poor Negro is the man who is shoved out first.

Feelings run deep among Negroes in Mississippi. But, like the situation among the white segregationists, the circumstances vary considerably from locality to locality.

One of the brighter spots in the state, from the standpoint of some Negroes, is the town of Laurel, in the hill country in the eastern part of the state. (The name of Laurel is not unknown in Central Oregon. The Gilchrist Timber Company, on Highway 97 a few miles south of Bend, moved to Oregon from Laurel in the 1930s. Various other

Central Oregon residents came here about the same time, as lumber mills in the Laurel area cut out. At the time, short-sighted tax policies in Mississippi made sustained yield forestry impractical, if not impossible. Now the state has a burgeoning forest products industry, since it can grow sawtimber in about one-third the number of years required in most of Oregon.)

Two of Laurel's favorite citizens are Negroes. Neither lives in Laurel any longer, which is the tragedy of small towns all over this country, not just in Mississippi. One is Leontyne Price, the Metropolitan Opera star; the other is Ralph Boston, member of a large Laurel family, who won the broad jump for the United States in the Rome Olympic Games, and still is holder of the world's record in the event. Leontyne Price has given two concerts in Laurel since she first became famous, both for the benefit of the church in whose choir she sang as a youngster. Both concerts were open to both white and colored people; seating was mixed. This is against the law in Mississippi. A Laurel high school senior, Charles Sampson, a less-famous Negro, is national president of a high school service club.

Job discrimination in wood products, Laurel's largest industry, ended at the start of World War II, when Negroes gained wage parity. Since that time crews have been integrated, and there are a significant number of Negro foremen, supervising the work of white men. There appears to be little pressure to keep Negroes from voting; schools have improved rapidly, although Negro schools still may not be on a par with white schools. The number of Negro high school graduates who go on to college is high, although the number of graduates is lower than from a white school of the same size.

So, the paradoxes appear again. The Negro youth wants to move, NOW. Even the strongest white segregationist feels the lot of the Negro will improve greatly in Mississippi in the next ten years. The real question is whether or not the Negro is willing to wait ten years. Some are; many are not. The man who will not wait is the son of a man who has seen progress over the years, and who is more satisfied with its pace than his son. The man who is dissatisfied often moves from the state, to an area which he feels will give him a better break. So Mississippi is losing, in some respects, its best-educated, best-qualified Negro citizens, just as too often the bright youngsters are leaving rural areas all over this nation.

'We didn't agree to stop testing you'



November, 1964, seems to be key date

It appears Oregonians will be voting on a sales tax proposal in the November, 1964, general election. The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation is on hand with a proposal for the type of sales tax its members would like. Other proposals undoubtedly will pop up during the next 12 months. It appeared a good deal of the strength to the movement against the 1963 legislative tax program came from advocates of a sales tax. With this kind of public sentiment, it may be possible to pass a sales tax for the first time in Oregon history.

It won't be easy. Some organizations will oppose it as they have in the past, largely for historical consistency. Those who oppose a sales tax too often do it because it's the thing to do; they have no alternative proposal to offer.

Working out a sales tax proposal is no easy matter. No sales taxes in this country are all-inclusive. Each has built-in exemptions. And the proceeds of such sales taxes are not distributed on the same formula in any two states. This, too, is natural, since various states have different formulae for meeting state and local government expenses.

The Farm Bureau had better take another look at the report of its own committee before it tries to gain signatures for a possible constitutional amendment. The OFBF proposal is too loaded in favor of some groups; conversely it is unfair to others. The program would almost certainly be beaten at the polls, thereby delaying the inevitable Oregon sales tax a few more years.

Capital Report

Maryland laboratory seeking answer to pressing nutrition problems of world

By A. Robert Smith

Bulletin Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Government scientists are building an explosion-proof laboratory on the University of Maryland campus as the arena for a new United States effort to create a nutrition explosion throughout the world.

This College Park, Md., lab is the center of what promises to be a multi-million dollar project, promoted by the Kennedy administration and quietly approved by Congress, for the purpose of producing the world's cheapest and most plentiful source of animal protein.

Partly altruistically humanitarian and partly a calculated gamble of the cold war, the project's objective is to develop a highly refined product called fish protein concentrate.

"Cookies, doughnuts, noodles, and similar foods could almost magically be transformed into sources of good-quality protein if properly supplemented with fish protein concentrate, resulting in less parental worry over the starch-consuming teenager," said Dr. E. R. Pariser, a bio-chemist who came from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to head the project.

If this gives the project domestic appeal, its whole emphasis is to produce fish protein concentrate at a fantastically low cost to put it within reach of most of the world's people, especially those in underdeveloped lands who need it most. The supposition is that the country that can accomplish this aim will gain great prestige in the eyes of these people. At an African conservation conference last summer, a Ghana official asked Interior Secretary Stewart Udall: "When are we going to get this fish protein concentrate?"

Soviet Russia and 35 other countries are working on such a product. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has done preliminary research, spurred by the hope that malnutrition might be eradicated in even most primitive lands. A Swedish firm is producing such a product, but at a relatively high cost, which is added to bread to give it protein enrichment.

A form of fish protein concentrate is at least as old as ancient times. By a primitive method of salting whole fish to halt the fermenting action of the enzymes, the Romans produced what they called liquamen, a liquid concentrate, and sold it all over the Mediterranean world. Ancient Roman recipes include liquamen as a seasoning.

A similar product has been made for years in several Asian countries but it is too expensive for mass consumption and too salty for babies or pregnant women.

In recent years it has been produced in several other forms — as a brownish powder, which looks like instant coffee and has a nasty taste; as a brown paste; and as a tasteless white powder. An important virtue of the powder or paste forms is that they don't require refrigeration, and still retain their nutritional value for long periods in either moderate or tropical climates.

Dr. Pariser took from a laboratory shelf a jar of Swedish-made paste and asked me to taste it. It looked and tasted like a beef bouillon concentrate, with no trace of its fishy origin. He said it was 20 months old and so concentrated that molds couldn't survive on it. The paste makes an excellent soup, Dr. Pariser said, and the powdered form can be added to all sorts of foods — from mashed baby foods to baked goods and vegetables.

An estimated 2 billion persons in the world lack adequate animal protein in their diets, compared with 600 million who fare pretty well in this nutritional need. Common sources of animal protein — meats, poultry, eggs, milk and cheese — are scarce or relatively high in cost in many areas of the world. Fish is cheap and plentiful

along many seacoasts, but it is unavailable to inland populations of primitive lands which lack refrigeration facilities to preserve it in warm climates. In Liberia, for example, the average total animal protein intake is 3 grams per person compared to 66 grams in the United States.

Objectives of the new U.S. project, being carried out by the Interior Department's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, are to develop production methods which would require small investment, are economical to operate, flexible to utilize for small or large operations; and to produce fish concentrate in forms acceptable to local taste preferences, cultures or taboos, fully satisfactory to nutrition experts, and in forms that permit cheap shipment, long storage and low prices for consumers.

In short, the idea is to make it possible to produce it wherever fish are abundant, for sale wherever protein is scarce.

Dr. Pariser's price goal is 10 to 13 cents per pound for concentrate with 80 per cent protein content. At this price, he estimates the individual's protein requirements could be met for less than half a cent per day.

In 1959 a UN report stated that fish concentrate should not cost the consumer in underdeveloped countries much more than he would pay for dry skim milk in the same area. An American firm at that time reported it could produce a partially deodorized fish flour for about 18 cents per pound. The UN report said 10 to 19 cents per pound was considered "realistic."

In seeking a cost breakthrough, American scientists in their new lab plan three approaches:

1. Chemical — various solvents, many highly volatile (hence the explosion-proof lab), are used to extract the liquids or fats from the fish to produce a tasteless, odorless powder. This method has been used in Chile, Morocco, Canada, England and the United States. The search is on for a cheap, plentiful solvent.

2. Biological — enzymatic processes have been used in Uruguay, where chopped fish were inoculated with a special yeast to which molasses has been added, resulting in a liquid paste within 2 to 3 days. Bones, scales and fins disappear in this process along with the characteristic fishy odor. The Danish

used another enzymatic process to produce a fine, fluffy powder of pronounced but excellent taste.

3. Physical — a German method of passing high voltage currents through macerated fish, producing a highly nutritive product, will be pursued.

If one or more of these approaches or others leads to the project's objectives, it will be an unprecedented achievement of the ocean's vast marine resources, which in turn would give commercial fishing the world around a hefty boost.

"Our consumption of fish in the oceans is less than one per cent today," Dr. Pariser noted. "We hope to hasten the day of harvesting food from the sea on a large scale."

Congress has backed this effort with initial appropriations of nearly a million dollars.

While confidence is high among the scientists, there is an unsentimental obstacle to such an achievement. Another federal agency, the Food and Drug Administration, regards fish protein concentrate with outright hostility if made from the whole fish.

With one agency holding the power to block use of food products in the American market and another pressing ahead to develop such a product, a bureaucratic tug-of-war of mounting intensity has been building with cold war implications.

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(Next — When is a cleaned fish clean?)

Barbs

Probably the safest gamble of all is to take a chance on yourself.

When peaches are ready to pick you can easily see what Mom has to put up with.



Hubby calls his wife a doll and she has him take her to a restaurant so she can get stuffed.

Most families are back from detouring to a vacation spot.

KEEPS CLOSE WATCH

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The State Department said it is keeping close watch on movements of military supplies from Communist North Viet Nam to Laos.

Department spokesman Robert McCloskey told newsmen Monday that U.S. officials now considered the shipments "a replenishment and resupply" of military equipment for Laotian Reds rather than a buildup of Pathet Lao strength in violation of the Geneva accord for a neutral Laos.

Playthings

- ACROSS
- 1 Airborne plaything
 - 3 Badminton
 - 5 Girl's plaything
 - 12 Biblical name
 - 13 In three parts (comb. form)
 - 14 Indian
 - 15 Golf teachers
 - 16 Rodent
 - 17 Breed of pheasants
 - 18 Spanish city
 - 20 Rents
 - 22 Convent worker
 - 23 Sup
 - 24 Retaliation
 - 28 Insurgent
 - 32 Tumorous (suffix)
 - 33 Night before
 - 35 Seraglio room
 - 36 Pedic
 - 37 Reverend (ab.)
 - 38 Conducted
 - 39 Perfume
 - 42 Countries
 - 45 Toy for a boy
 - 47 Oriental coin
 - 48 Swap
 - 51 Burial
 - 53 Iroquoian
 - 56 Since
 - 58 Wicked
 - 59 Plumes
 - 60 Large cask
 - 61 Memorandum
 - 62 Castle ditch
 - 63 Abetment
 - 64 Legat
 - 65 Groomsmen
 - 66 Singsong
 - 67 Singsong

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

31 Striplings 34 Dodges 40 Curly 41 Sturgeon eggs 52 Cry of bachelors 53 Ceremony 54 Winter vehicle 57 Pop

32 Tumorous (suffix)

33 Night before

35 Seraglio room

36 Pedic

37 Reverend (ab.)

38 Conducted

39 Perfume

42 Countries

45 Toy for a boy

47 Oriental coin

48 Swap

51 Burial

53 Iroquoian

56 Since

58 Wicked

59 Plumes

60 Large cask

61 Memorandum

62 Castle ditch

63 Abetment

64 Legat

65 Groomsmen

66 Singsong

67 Singsong