

NEGRO'S RIGHTS DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT

Side-Show of Washington Bicentennial

BY CARTER G. WOODSON

To the office of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History have come numerous inquiries as to what we are going to do about the George Washington Bicentennial celebration. Some of these persons addressing such communications seem to have the idea that we have charge of the affair or that, if we have not, somebody more liberal-minded than the Herbert Hoover-Sol Bloom Commission now directing it should have the work in hand. With such complaints we shall have nothing to do, and we are not in a position to answer inquiries with respect to the procedure of those charged with this responsibility.

We understand that the Commission has appointed two Negroes for publicity work and that various committees will be called upon to function here and there throughout the country in the segregated fashion in which most Negroes are willing to serve. Right here in Washington we have been asked to register our names as willing to play the part of slaves in the celebration which will be staged in the capitol of the nation, and it is highly probable that most of the Negroes who will be selected by the management handling these various celebrations will be better qualified to serve as slaves than anything else. Unfortunately many American Negroes have never been willing to play any other part.

It is true that most Negroes of George Washington's day were slaves. It is true also that most American white men of George Washington's day were serfs. A large number of them, moreover, were indentured servants whose status was practically that of the slaves, their only advantage being that they were free when the indenture period was over. I am wondering if Sol Bloom's Commission will try to dramatize this part played by a large element of whites of that time.

It is indeed sad that American Negroes have failed to understand history and historical settings and for that reason have permitted others to discredit their past which is just as glorious as that of any other race. While we often talk about the Negroes being held as slaves we do not think of the system of that day and ancient times two-thirds or three-fourths of all white men were slaves; and it was not until about one hundred years ago that poor white men in this country had any rights that the public would respect. In practically all of the original thirteen poor whites could neither vote nor hold office because they could not meet the property qualifications. As late as 1800 only one white man out of every fifteen could exercise the right of suffrage in the original thirteen states. Will the Commission seek to dramatize this sort of thing? Certainly it will be just as appropriate as that of playing up the Negroes altogether as slaves.

It might be suggested also that these gentlemen in dramatizing the educational system of that day would just as appropriately emphasize the fact that the schools were taught by those who were crippled, diseased, or socially ostracized. Many of the academies of that day were established by running lotteries. In 1773, according to Jonathan Boucher, teachers of the teachers in Maryland were felons and convicts who had been brought over to this country as indentured servants and in return for their passage fare and the opportunity to become free at some time in the future served here temporarily in the capacity of slaves.

There can be no objection to certain tableaux or pageants which show that Negroes once occupied the low status of bondmen. Such a dramatization will show the depths from which the race has come and will help the public to appreciate much better than it does what the race has achieved since that time, but to restrict the celebration altogether to one phase of this sort would be a tragic error on the part of those who should make the demonstration ring true to history.

Prior to the American Revolution certain Negroes had become free, and during that struggle a considerable number of them attained this status largely as a result of their defense of the flag and took their places in the higher spheres of social and economic order. Crispus Attucks was the first of the patriots; and three thousand other black men offered themselves as a sacrifice for independent America. No woman of that time was writing more interesting verse than Phillis Wheatley, and no American showed more versatility than Benjamin Banneker in his work as an astronomer, a surveyor, and an advocate of world peace. Banneker's Almanac was just as creditable as "Poor Richard's Almanac" brought out by Benjamin Franklin, and Banneker's plan for the abolition of war, published in 1793, carried every principle set forth by Woodrow Wilson in his scheme for the League of Nations.

Kosciusko, interested in the same sort of split, left all of his property in America as a fund to provide for the manumission of slaves and their education. Thomas Jefferson was made the executor of this will and when Kosciusko died, Jefferson, being old, had another executor appointed by the court. Matters were complicated, however, by a second will which Kosciusko's relatives claimed that he had made in Paris to bequeath such property to them. Other troubles arose some years later when a third will was presented by one Zetner of Switzland, claiming that Kosciusko had left such property to the poor town that had befriended him. It seems that after much furor the court accepted the last will as valid and disposed of the property accordingly.

—SPECIAL CHRISTMAS—

GIFT

SALE

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(From Page One Column Seven) ardon, in the period between June 9, 1927 to May 13, 1930 deposited sums of money which totalled the sum of \$24,849.19—less than three years, or an average of more than \$8,000.00 per year—and when he died he had less than \$4 to his credit in cash. In a letter which Mr. Allen wrote to Mr. Richardson while the former was visiting in the east, introduced in evidence, bearing post mark, "Detroit" and forwarded, by air-mail, he said: "Dear old dear," You guess Moore (meaning George P. Moore, former business associate of Allen) and empty your safe to him? "I don't care how much money you let George Moore have as long as you save some for me."

Besides himself, the following witnesses testified favorably to the defense: William Gilmer, attendant in Mr. Allen's club at the hotel; S. Schweich, a guest at Allen's hotel; Eugene J. Minor, attorney who testified that he had handled close on to 500 cases for Mr. Allen as his attorney; that he thought Allen had borrowed about \$400 from Richardson but had repaid the amount. Attorney Minor's testimony was impeached when Attorney Williams introduced a faulty legal document in evidence, which Minor had drawn for a client.

Mr. Allen denied the charges but testified that he had settled in full all he owed Mr. Richardson before the latter died. He failed to produce witnesses to the settlement or any books showing the same, although he claimed to have the latter and was ordered by the Court to produce them. He also testified that he cautioned Richardson over and over, against letting Moore have money.

Attorney Silvestone bitterly assailed the defendant saying that he had used Richardson—squeezed him like a lemon—dry and then cast him like the hull away. He stated that he believed Richardson's untimely death was hastened by the shock that he received when he discovered that his confidence had been misplaced; that he did not doubt but what Allen cautioned Richardson not to let Moore have money so he Allen would have that much more to get from the deceased himself.

Attorney Silvestone closed his jury with an impassioned plea to the effect that these significant lines from Shakespeare's "Othello":

"Oh, Heaven that such companions thou wouldst unfold And put in every honest hand a whip To lash such rascals through the world To lash from the east unto the west!"

FOUND DEAD
Edward E. Richardson, well known for his thrift, economy, and strictness toward money as well as property, was found dead at his home, 901 Mallory Avenue on January 5, 1931 by his son-in-law, C. H. Stanton who went to look for him when he failed to show up at his usual time at his place of business.

It was generally believed that Richardson had money as well as property, Mrs. Stanton, in due course was appointed administratrix of the estate of her step-father which resulted as above stated.

To date Mr. Allen has not served notice of appeal and it is generally thought that he will accept the circuit court verdict.

LYNCH REPORT IS BROUGHT TO LIGHT
(Continued from page one)
And where the bosses find it inconvenient to carry out their murders of Negro workers by rope and fagot, they resort to more subtle means to frame them up in a noble cause, and then way, and railroad them to death sentences. Witness the case of Orphan (Lee) Jones in Maryland, witness the case of the nine innocent Scottsboro Negro lads, whose only crime is that they had money, and were not afraid. "And to make it easier to carry out their terror, to prevent resistance from their Negro victims, the bosses are disarming the Negro masses, denying them the right of self-protection." The Kester report states: "Already we talk of a race war and so great is the fear of such in certain sections, notably Alabama, that Negroes are being disarmed wholesale. Hardware stores, pawn shops and dealers in firearms have been instructed not to sell firearms and ammunition to Negroes. Alabama has become the local point of race tension in the South in the last few months. The tension has gradually spread throughout the lower South."

The report is silent on the frightful conditions forced upon the Negro masses by the white bosses on the robbery of the Negro croppers by the landowners, in the system of forced labor, on the pollution of Negro women by the white landowners.

The struggle of the Negro masses against starvation and landlord robbery, for equal rights, for unemployed relief, are met with the most murderous terror by the imperialists. At least 75 lynchings since August this year in Alabama alone! More than 100 in the United States as a whole! Truly an impressive record!

The purpose of the Kester report is a warning to the masters of this organization, the white bosses, and is intended to draw into tactics which will destroy the Negro masses and null them into inactivity.

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Helpful hints

BY NANCY LEE

A young girl acted very foolish, some one saw her peering late at night in front of her home and now her friends are gossiping about her. She feels cheap, hurt, and indignant at the unkind remarks made by her friends and doesn't know what to do. The only thing she can do now is to carry herself with so much poise and dignity that people will have no cause to talk in the future. She might study a book on etiquette, and learn how to conduct herself on all occasions. There is an interesting magazine on the News stands called "Etiquette and Charm," describing in story form the correct thing to do on all occasions from girlhood to marriage; it also might be of help.

As a gossiping, tale-bearing, and injuring another's reputation, one shows a small mind with nothing constructive to think about. We should be far too busy with our development to criticize another's lack of moral or spiritual growth, and should bear in mind that every thought sent out returns in due time enlarged tenfold. If we are blessed or not depends on the thoughts sent out, so it behooves us to pay strict attention to our own affairs.

FORMER RESIDENT WRITES

Mrs. Mary Russel, of Philadelphia, formerly of Portland, writes the Advocate that she is well and wishes to be remembered to inquiring friends.

BIG SHOTS PUT ON SPOT

NAPIERVILLE, Ill., Nov. 26—News has just reached The Advocate that J. L. Nichols & Co. of Naperville, Illinois are publishing a new edition of "The Official History of The Negro Race."

The book is called **PROGRESS OF A RACE** and is by W. H. Croghan, L.L.D. and J. L. Nichols, AB, with an introduction by R. R. Moton of Tuskegee Institute. There are special articles by Mrs. Booker T. Washington, W. M. Dogan, C. M. Melden, Alton I. Holsey, and other noted writers. 475 gravings tell the tale of Race Progress as it has never been told before.

Where can you find more thrilling heroism than was displayed by one Crispus Attucks in the famous Boston Massacre? Or Peter Salem at Bunker Hill? Or Major Jeffrey in the campaign of Mobile? Or John Wall and William Carney at Fort Wagner? Or Capt. Callicaux at Port Hudson? Or Quinton Bandero in the Cuban War? Or Privates Roberts and Johnson, the first Americans to receive the coveted Croix de Guerre in the World War? Why, beside the glorious achievement of such men the modern gang warfare of Al Capone and his notorious gun men look like a Sunday School Convention.

THE BIG SHOTS
Furthermore, The New Progress of a Race now includes "Who's Who in The Negro Race," an exclusive copyrighted feature that tells you who the big shots are today and why. Nothing like it ever printed before. You read not only history, but history in the making.

Prominent people everywhere praise this amazing work:
"The best accomplishment yet published."—T. J. Johnson, Prin. Shelby Inst.
"Deserves a place in every library."—O. H. Bernard, Tenn. State Agent.
"The best I have ever examined."—D. C. Brayton, Pres. Alabama Christian Inst.

"I would not be without it."—J. D. Hill, Pres. C. & S. Baptist College.

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Standpatism Apostle Justifies His Faith

(By Kelly Miller)

On November fifth, Dr. John R. Hawkins, President of the National Negro Republican League, issued a release setting forth for the first time the work of the League and justifying the treatment which the Negro race has received at the hands of a Negro Republican party. Mr. Hawkins is an unweanable Republican whom his party delights to honor. He is a successful business man, an eminent churchman, loyal and devoted to his race, keenly alive to civic duty and responsibility, and withal, a splendid gentleman of integrity, dignity and honor. Indeed he is too good a citizen and too fine a gentleman for the role of politician which he engages to play. In addition to his personal qualities, he is head of the political organization through which it is assumed, the Grand Old Party deals with its slighted Negro contingent. The Party chest, properly enough, is subject to the overlordship of the party bosses. Dr. Hawkins, then is doubly qualified to serve as spokesman and apostle for his party to his race. It is but fair then, to assume that he has made the best possible defense for his distinguished client. But candor compels the reader of his release to conclude that, if this be the best defense that the Grand Old Party can present to justify its treatment of the Negro during the last ten years of its tenure, the case must be indefensible. His plea is both weak and specious. This child-like simplicity of faith in the G. O. P. does not require either argument or proof. Like a throwed attorney, Dr. Hawkins artfully dodges the gravamen of a Negro's grievance against his ancient political savior which now has grown cold and indifferent to its claim to political and civil equality under the Constitution. To offset this, he recites the number of Negroes on the Government pay roll under the Republican dispensation. I am amazed to the point of amusement at his utter duplicity or disingenuousness. There are today, 54,000 Negroes, including soldiers in the Army, on the government pay roll, he tells us, drawing \$3,000,000 from the federal treasury. But why not tell the whole story? These fall mainly in the lowest bracket of service and pay, and are wholly without political significance. President Wilson doubled the number of Negroes he found employed under his administration, and left the number practically as it stands. If I should say that there were four hundred thousand Negro soldiers on the federal pay roll under Woodrow Wilson, Dr. Hawkins would quickly rejoin that these appointees were non-political. Neither are the 54,000 civil service and sub-civil service employees and soldiers employed under President Hoover. But Dr. Hawkins recites Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania some thirty odd Presidential appointments are pleased to learn for the first time above the Civil Service. These include a municipal judge and ministrals to the race un-

der Republican and Democratic administration alike. Indeed he was hard pressed to swell his list to respectable proportions that he included the colored members of the Board of Education of the District of Columbia. It is indeed arresting that he seems disposed to play politics with the public schools. Ordinarily we expect to keep politics out of education and religion.

But comparisons are odious. We are told that Woodrow Wilson took from the race the registrarship of the Treasury, an assistant attorney generalship, the auditor of the Navy and the ministerial to Haiti. But why did he not tell us that the Republican party has failed to restore these important posts after ten years' restoration to power? Did Dr. Hawkins forget that President Wilson appointed colored men as special assistants to the Secretary of War and Secretary of Labor? Did it occur to him that the last Democrat President issued over six hundred commissions to colored men, a number which transcends all of the commissions issued to Negroes by Republican presidents from Abraham Lincoln to Herbert Hoover? Dr. Hawkins is adept in extolling the virtues of his client and denouncing the vices of his adversary.

Some Southern Democrats introduce in Congress unfriendly bills against the Negro. Dr. Hawkins knows of no such a bill ever got beyond the congressional pigeon hole, even under sixteen years of Democratic rule. He probably would not like to be reminded that the only anti-Negro measure that ever got beyond the congressional grave yard was an anti-miscegenation bill for the District of Columbia, introduced by a Republican representative, Julius Kahn from California, which swept through the house like wild fire with all but the unanimous vote of Republicans and Democrats alike. Dr. Hawkins would advise the Negroes in New York to vote against such men as Senator Wagoner of New York who made the only forthright defense of the Negro's political and civil right in the Parker debate which came from either side of the Senate, because Senator Bleese of South Carolina introduced a Jim Crow car bill. The Negro should join in to defeat Senator Walsh of Massachusetts and Senator Bruce of Maryland, true and tried friends, because he dislikes Senator George of Georgia. The good doctor's realigning acumen must have gone on a leave of absence. Dr. Hawkins' release is surprisingly informative. He reveals the fact that the chief function of the National Negro Republican League is to serve as the patronage monger to distribute the hundreds of hungry applicants. I am sure that the Negro Republicans of Hoover, But Dr. Hawkins recites that Dr. Hawkins and his league has included a municipal judge and ministrals to the race un-

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HOOVER DEMURES ON ABOLISHING INJUSTICE

DENIES ANY REAL SEGREGATION

Washington, D. C., Dec. 8.—At midnight of yesterday the 23rd annual session of the National Equal Rights League came to an enthusiastic and fervent close with a great public meeting in the Big John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church, 14th and Corcoran Streets, addressed by Representative Oscar DePriest, colored congressman, Bishop W. J. Walls, national vice president of the League, J. Finley Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, and Isaac H. Nutter, Esq., of Atlanta, Chief of the National Equal Rights League.

The sessions begun on Sunday night with a splendid observance of "National Equal Rights Sunday" in this same beautiful Church, Rev. H. D. Gilman, pastor.

After a brief opening session Monday morning a delegation of twenty men from the White House consisting of president Spencer, Rev. J. M. Howard, Rev. Somerville, Mrs. Minnie Scott, Exec. Sec'y of the National Association of Colored Women, J. A. Roberts, Ohio, and five others, President Hoover greeted the delegation. Mr. Spencer said they would present wrongs which caused restlessness and presented Mr. Trotter who reminded the President of the 1930 audience against lynching and segregation, declared no action had been taken, protested non-protection of life, of political rights, federal segregation, which reduced the race to a caste, the Un-touchables of America, the degrading and disintegrating of the 10th Cavalry and the exclusion from civil service positions of several whole groups of colored workers arranged for efficiency, some of whom would lose their jobs if whites were mixed in. He doubted any real segregation and asked for details. Mr. Trotter insisted that segregation ought to be abolished even to a system of school for the time being, the president demurring and Trotter reiterating, also promising specifications. Trotter then asked if the president would recommend to Congress anti-lynching legislation. The president declared that Congress should be seen on that.

The president discussed quite freely and thanked the delegation for coming.

Only Race Body Able to Get Pres. Hoover to Talk

Prof. Kelly Miller of Howard University made a frank speech on the report of the White House delegation. He commended the League as the only organization which had succeeded in getting President Hoover to talk on the race issues, having done so twice. It had kept the civil service segregation issue open. He said he had heard Pres. Coolidge tell Mr. Trotter that he would gradually abolish segregation by the gradual elimination of colored clerks. He said Pres. Hoover was correct in saying the photograph did not constitute the only disclosure, and said we must get presidents to take a personal stand for fair play. A battery of eloquent notes held the big audience spellbound Tuesday night until midnight.

Bishop W. J. Walls, 1st vice-president and special league spokesman, declared for the ideal which the League represented, self-direction, self-determination of the people for rights. This race needed such an agency, as every other race and class which ever achieved freedom and equality had always had. He enjoined Trotter for the severe sacrifice he had made in sticking to racial organization for the sake of all those, reducing himself to poverty in the effort.

SENTENCED TO DEATH CHAIR

WORKERS RALLY TO STOP LEGAL LYNCHING OF NEGRO YOUTH

HOUSTON, Texas, Dec. 9.—Mass meetings are being held throughout this section by the International Labor Defense to rally Negro and white workers to the defense of Barney Lee Ross, 23 year old Negro, sentenced to death on the charge of attacking a white woman in Dargerfield.

Ross was tried four days after his arrest and sentenced to the electric chair after a two hour hearing. He was allowed no chance to prepare a defense. Lynch mobs were immediately formed and Ross has been shifted from jail to jail. The International Labor Defense has secured a lawyer to demand a rehearing for him, and has set its legal investigation committee to work securing witnesses and testimony with which to prove innocence. The I.L.D. labels the Ross trial "another Scottsboro case, in line with the error projected against poor Negroes and whites by southern landowners and bosses who fear an uprising due to starvation, unemployment, and misery among workers."