

MISOURI COURT REVERSE MURDER CONVICTION

Lack of Cooperation Among Negroes

By CARTER G. WOODSON

In the solution of the problem of the high schools. The negro enterprise to lift colored people to the higher economic level the chief difficulty is the lack of cooperation. Potentially the colored people are strong although they are actually weak. They have paid such a little attention to their own possibilities; have preferably spent so much time and energy on trifles that in this respect the outside world considers the race a joke. The unwise leadership of the race is responsible for this undesirable situation.

We often say that the greatest need of the Negro is education. If this assertion means teaching or developing in the Negro ordinary common sense there is much truth in it. If it connotes mere book learning to pass examinations to get jobs to show others how to do the same thing, the assertion has no particular significance, for our so-called most highly educated Negro in the United States shows less common sense than the illiterates.

Cooperation, is the most essential thing in the development of a people socially and economically, is all but impossible among our miseducated, highly educated Negroes. They do more to keep the race in a state of turmoil and to prevent it from serious community effort than all the other elements combined. The one has a job that the other wants; or the one is a leader of a successful faction, and the other is struggling to supplant him. Everything in the community, then, must yield ground to this perilous contest. The present state of affairs in Washington, D. C. is a case in evidence. The teamsters and hodcarriers of the city have paid no attention to the throat-cutting bout but practically all collegebred Negroes in the District of Columbia are hot in the collar and clamoring for the war on their superiors.

Recently I have visited various parts of the country, where I find this same condition obtaining. In one city of a few thousand Negroes there is no chance for community cooperation because of the antagonism of the Methodist and Baptist preachers in charge of the two largest churches. The one is determined to dictate the appointment of the teaching corps and the social welfare workers; the other is persistently struggling to undo everything accomplished by his opponent. The one is up today and the other is ascendancy tomorrow.

Several efforts have been made to start business enterprises there, but none have succeeded because on faction tears down what the other builds up. In another city the cleavage is along political lines. Preachers are there, but a lawyer and a professional man plunging into politics have dispossessed the clergy of the stage. The leader of one faction is so bitterly opposed to the other that he even warns strangers against going to the home of his adversary. To present a sane proposition to the community through one of these leaders means local warfare rather than an effort to work together for the common cause. Consequently, although there are thousands of Negroes living together in one quarter they have no grocery, no drug store, no haberdashery, no theatre, and no other enterprise of worth. The selfish struggle for personal aggrandizement, which has not yet brought either faction more than an appointment on the police force or a clerkship in one of the city offices, thus blocks the social and economic progress of thousands of unoffending people.

In another State I found that the ambition of the highly educated Negro is restricted to becoming principal of the high schools. The neglected State school has not developed sufficiently to become attractive. The warring area, then, is in the cities. In one of them, where several Negroes own considerable wealth, which if pooled and properly used, would produce all but wonderful results, petty strife has been most disastrous. Little thought is given to social uplift, and economic effort is crushed by factional wrangling. Before I had been in one of the towns an hour a stalwart of one faction sounded me out becoming a candidate for the position held by the principal of the high school. A few minutes thereafter another approached me for advice as to how "to get him out."

The high cost of insanity to the community can be estimated only by taking into consideration the fact that this strife is all but endless. If it were a matter that developed now and then only to be forgotten by people directing their attention thereafter to more important things, it would not do much harm; but this confusion continues for years. Sometimes it grips a community for a whole generation, vitiating the entire life of the people. The ruling classes have set aside such a few positions for the Negroes to aspire to that the competition is too often cruel and vicious; and this very state of affairs is the chief reason why the Negroes have not made larger opportunities for themselves.

"I wonder if a systematic drive to make the chronic knocker unpopular would not be a solution of this problem," said a friend to me the other day. "Of what value is a Negro who is too disagreeable to work? If one Negro cannot subordinate himself to another, the race is doomed. The run-of-ruin Negro must be silenced. We must do something to prevent these agents of disorder from blocking the path of our progress. We few who know better have stood by watching these men destroy us when we should have been exposing them as the worst enemies of the race. The people who follow them will listen to reason; but having overestimated their influence, we have not had courage to call them down."

Evidently something must be done, for this foolhardy procedure lies the explanation of the failure of the Negro to develop toward social and economic efficiency. This is the thing which keeps the Negro dependent and accounts for his tendency to become delinquent. He is thereby impeding his own progress and must bear the blame for the disproportionate number of the race now in the bread line. The remote cause, to be sure, is slavery and the persistent influence of that regime in the present-day education of the Negro; but three generations of freedom have been long enough for the American Negro to learn better. If he does not improve the world will be justified in turning its back on him.

HONOR STUDENT WINS SCHOLARSHIP AT HARVARD

Cambridge, Mass., March 5—Bernard Jefferson, Harvard law school freshman, was awarded a \$400 scholarship last week which was the result of a recent competitive examination participated in by more than 400 of his classmates. Only 25 scholarships were issued. Jefferson is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, class of 1931. He was a Phi Beta Kappa, standing No. 2 in a class of 1,000. He is also a member of the National Debating and Political Science societies.

Helpful hints

By NANCY LEE

This column has been accused of showing too much partiality to the men and taking sides against the women. The purpose of this column would be wasted and its influence lost if such were the case. The idea is to give an unbiased, unprejudiced opinion as far as we are able to help both parties to see the other's point of view. It takes two to make a quarrel, and a home cannot be built or maintained by nagging, lazy, and spendthrift wife, or a shiftless, improvident, domineering and cruel husband. The home is the foundation of society and takes the combination of cooperation, love, faithfulness, self-sacrifice, and loyalty of both parties as each one's share and contribution to society and the community in which he lives. Anything else is like building a house on shifting sands that are unstable and perishable and break down and undermine society in general.

Nothing is so hard on a man's morale than for him to come home, tired and hungry to be greeted by a nagging wife, a quarrelsome family, a poorly cooked dinner and an untidy house. No wonder he seeks the pool-hall or corner drug store for companionship. The same can be said of the wife whose husband spends his money for moonshine instead of food and comes staggering home, abusive, cruel and arrogant. Possibly he might display the above characteristics without the moonshine. At any rate, either one of them is a problem that takes tact, love, understanding, and an undaunted spirit to handle. One thing more, if the women would rear their sons to be good husbands their sex would suffer less and incidentally be happier.

"AS NOTED"

by Ralph C. Clyde
City Commissioner

"OVER A BARREL"

One of the stocks expression around the City Hall is that the other fellow is trying to "put you over a barrel." As you listen to all these wild rumors, one wonders if the other chaps ever get time to do anything else besides planning to put the skids under somebody.

The phrase, "Putting you over a barrel" seems hoary with age, and the slightest rumor spreads like wild fire, until it dies out, and a new false alarm takes its place.

According to these fairy tales 965 efforts have been made to frame me and put me on the spot, but I am still doing business at the old stand. So far as I am concerned if anyone gets any pleasure in putting me over, under or on top of a barrel, let them go to it.

I have to many duties to perform to be alarmed by such foolish gossip. I have no desire, nor inclination, to indulge in this indoor sport. I have many hands full in attending to my own business.

Neither am I interested in any "barrel" stunts in the City Council. On many occasions I do not even know how the other Councilmen will vote. I do not care. It is their problem and that of their constituents.

This beautiful thought, from a hymn, expresses my view point: "I Do The Little I Can Do and Leave the Rest To God."

THE DENTIST

By Roy C. Proctor, D. D. S.

It is most unfortunate when the pulp of a tooth dies. The decaying tissue must be removed and the cavity sterilized and skillfully. Even when it is not always possible to preserve the tooth, since the tendency to abscess formation at the root-end is great.

Bacteria which find easy entrance, hasten the breaking down of such a pulp and the inflammatory processes about the root ends of pulpless teeth, because while feeding upon the blood and the dead pulp tissue, they throw out their waste matter (toxins). This is poisonous to the body tissues, and helps to destroy the bone around the end of the root.

The toxins now thrown out by the germs warn the blood that there is an enemy at work. Under these circumstances it manufactures substances which neutralizes the toxins and carries these substances throughout the body. The better the bodily health the more capable it is as a rule of making the neutralizing material swiftly, thus keeping the infection under control. This explains why in some individuals, "dead teeth" may not cause trouble for a long time.

KEEPING FIT

A Health Column

By DeNerval Ugthank, M. D.

NATIONAL NEGRO HEALTH WEEK

Large centers of Negro population are taking great interest in National Negro Health Week, April Third to April Tenth.

In the brilliant reports of health activities made last year, the Northwest was sadly lacking in their activities.

There is no reason why Portland should not take the lead in this Health movement for the Northwest.

The first prerequisite for a successful program is an interested and a cooperative community. We may only have an interested community by the leaders of our own civic organization taking the lead in this movement.

Portland needs a Negro health Committee; not just for Negro Health Week but for Negro Health Year. There should be a Committee to show interest in our indigent sick and afflicted. The whole work should not be left entirely to your physician and to the health organizations.

The Negro of Portland has access to many charity organizations that he is not helping to support in proportion to the amount of use he demands of them. A Health Committee would assure us a better feeling with these organizations and incidentally assure the Negro much more consideration.

There are many things that may be had in this line just for the asking in an organized way.

May we solicit your support in this movement?

"LOCAL WOMAN BEATEN AND ROBBED"

NEGRO SOUGHT BY OFFICERS AS ASSAILANT

(Continued from page one)

Police have closed their investigation of the case of Mrs. Marietta Roeder, who, with a wound on her head, was taken to the Klamath Valley hospital following a report to police that she had been attacked and robbed by an unknown man.

Police officers said relatives had suggested it was unnecessary to go farther with the probe. Investigating officers, in written reports to Chief Merrill, suggest the possibility that Mrs. Roeder may have struck her head on a window sill in a fall, although they said relatives believed she was beaten by a marauder in her house on Crescent avenue. Police were inclined to doubt the attack theory.

Mrs. Roeder, the police stated, at first said she was beaten by a large negro, but later has been less certain in her description of her alleged attacker. In view of Mrs. Roeder's serious injury, the officers stated, they were unable to get a coherent story from her as to exactly what happened. Blood marks on the wall near a window, and marks on the floor, led to the possible theory she struck her head in a fall. Mrs. Roeder has been moved from the hospital.

Police have in their files a note written by Mrs. Roeder which gives what is purportedly the substance of a note written by her husband, who was killed by a railroad train a few weeks ago. Roeder, investigators said at the time, apparently leaped in front of the engine.

BOOK REVIEW

THE BOOK OF FRANCOIS VILLOE

Reviewed for The Advocate by CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

This volume is provided with an introductory essay by H. DeVere Stacpoole, in which we learn that one Francois des Loges was adopted by Guillaume Villon, a chaplain of St. Benoit. Francois Villon, the adopted son, grew up to become a gay young blade around Paris and in the year 1456 he struck and killed a priest and was exiled for life.

Spending his life in prison Villon found it necessary to express himself and this he did in verse. On nearly every conceivable subject he wrote a ballad and through the centuries these ballads have come down to us and today Villon is recognized as one of the great poets of France.

As a realist undoubtedly Villon was one of the earliest. For expressing unvarnished truths he was exceptionally clear. In the dungeon of the prison, where he was confined, he thinks of his past and for each conquest, each love affair, each acquaintance, in fact for each happening of his life he writes a striking ballad.

At one time in his prison career he thought he was to be hung alone with some other culprits and this thought provided an occasion to write an appealing ballad for mercy, on their souls, and was written as an epitaph, although Villon escaped the hangman's noose.

In all there are twenty-two ballads and to me they are particularly interesting for the thoughts of Villon in prison nearly five hundred years ago were similar to a great many who today find themselves in prison.

Leaves New York

Says Negro Has Known Depression For Three Hundred Years; This One No Novelty.

New York, March 5—William Pickens, Field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, left New York yesterday on a twelve week tour of the Far West and Far South, during



which he will carry on organization work for the N. A. A. C. P.

Before leaving New York Mr. Pickens had this to say about the Negro in the depression: "The Negro has known depression for 300 years. The

present situation is nothing new to him.

"But let Negroes remember that when the white folks have a depression there are some things that do not grow less. Rather, they increase. Lynching, mobbing, jim crow and job discrimination, all these things increase in depression and they are on the increase now. People find there are many things they thought they needed which are no longer necessary when depression comes. But there is one thing that is more needed than ever, and that is a champion, a defender. Let the colored people rally to the N. A. A. C. P. as never before because in this hour is when the N. A. A. C. P. is vitally necessary. The appeals to it for aid are constantly increasing."

Mr. Pickens' itinerary will take him to Chicago, Council Bluffs, Denver, Pueblo, Salt Lake City, California from San Francisco down to San Diego, and he will return via Arizona, New Mexico, El Paso and other Texas cities, New Orleans, Mobile and Birmingham.

TEXAS WHITE PRIMARY CASE TO BE REARGUED IN SUPREME COURT ON MARCH 14TH

New York, March 5—James Marshall, of the National Legal Committee of the N. A. A. C. P. is informed by the Clerk of the U. S. Supreme court that March 14 has been appointed as the day on which the second Texas White Primary case is to be reargued.

The State of Texas was not represented by counsel at the first argument of this case on January 7 last. When Texas asked an extension of time for filing of their brief the Supreme Court asked to have the case reargued.

The N. A. A. C. P. Legal Committee is meeting today to make final arrangements for the reargument.

The 18th Amendment Once More

BY KELLEY MILLER

"I am sick and tired of Kelly Miller's harrangues on prohibition. Does he not know that his readers are sufficed with that ante deluvian stuff?" I have sensed this attitude from a thousand different directions. For a long time I have refrained from treatment of the subject in recent releases out of defiance to this judgment. You can easily surfeit the reader with food (or drink) for which



As a matter of fact the colored race is most vitally of all concerned in this nation sweeping movement. The small scale speak-easies and bootlegging are carried on in large measure by Negro agencies under manipulation of masterminds higher up. The ill gained profits will undoubtedly redound to the undoing of the profiteer. Our educational and religious leaders are growing callous to the involved moral aspect of the issue. I know of no outstanding Negro educator or minister who has cried out with a loud voice. Last Sunday, I debated the prohibition issue with Mr. L. M. Hershaw, a very scholarly and talented antagonist of wet persuasion, in a Baptist Church, only after I had declined to debate the subject with a distinguished ecclesiast whom I declined to embarrass by encouraging his espousal of the sinister side of a moral question. The physical and moral havoc wrought by the speak-easies, bootleggers and which poisonous liquors are afflicting upon the race is appalling to observe and to contemplate. A callous conscience is worse than mischievous conduct. But enough of preaching.

The Presidential election is approaching. The politicians will not be able to dodge or side-step the liquor question as the dominant political issue. The two parties are practically at one as to remedies for depression, debt payment, and economic and industrial rehabilitation. A Republican Senate and a Democratic House are pulling together as twin yoke fellows. The fall election had as well be by coalition, if it were not for prohibition. If there is any essential difference of principle between Hoover and Roosevelt, it is neither of the nature of political theory or economic policy, but on the best method of handling the liquor evil. It is no longer a question of political parties but of relative wetness and dryness that counts for most.

By a wise use of his franchise, on the principles laid down in the Non-Partisan platform, the Negro in the next election will possess his strategic chance. He may easily throw the balance to the one side or the other by crowding in and troubling the waters; whereas he will be impotent if he waits till the waters are troubled by others. Here is the challenge for courageous youth in quest for an issue against which to test their powers and exert their mortal energies. The crafty politicians without moral conviction are waiting to choose which side they will serve. The Republican will be as dry as they dare be while holding on to the wet North. The genuine drys will steer clear of entangling alliances and hold themselves in readiness to throw their strength in temperance regardless of political consequences. During the coming campaign I expect to see the shifty Negro politicians grow hoarse in advocating the dry hand. I would like to see the great mass of voters vote according to the dictates of their own conscience and judgment as to what is best for race and nation.

N.A.A.C.P. INVESTIGATES KILLING

New York, March 5—Emmett Gallie, 30, and Eual Richardson, 22, will set a new trial on a charge of murdering an aged white woman near Windsor, Mo., in October 1930, according to a decision handed down last week by the Missouri Supreme court, sitting at Jefferson City, Mo.

The supreme court reversed the decision of the Henry County circuit court rendered November 1, 1930, and remanded the case for retrial. Gallie and Richardson were convicted at Clinton, Mo., the county seat of Henry county, Missouri, at a trial where the mob spirit was rampant. The case was so raw that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sent a secret investigator into Henry county to uncover the truth.

In addition to this, the national office of the N. A. A. C. P. said for the cost of printing and filing the briefs in the Missouri Supreme court.

On the day of the trial the merchants of Windsor, Mo., declared a half holiday and the little town went in a body to Clinton to attend the trial. More than 2,000 persons surrounded the court house, some of them with ropes under their coats. The death penalty was demanded and so insistent was the mob spirit that Judge W. L. P. Burney denied the defense attorneys a continuance, fearing the mob would take action if the court delayed.

It was this error of the court, this failure to grant the defense attorneys a continuance so they could perfect a defense, which caused the state supreme court to reverse the decision. At the time of the trial, Attorney Frederick F. Wesner, defending the boys, told the court he had no time to consult with his clients and had only a hurried conference with them twenty minutes before court time. He asked a continuance so he could map a defense. Judge Burney denied this.

The supreme court last week held that the lower court erred in not granting a continuance and that in committing this error, had denied the two defendants a fair trial.

The special investigator, sent in jointly by the National office of the Association and the Kansas City Mo. branch, interviewed dozens of white people in Windsor and Clinton and declared in her summary that there had been a plot to lynch the two men. So vicious was the mob spirit that Wiley Shockley, father-in-law of GKalle, and his wife and children were driven from Windsor, where they had lived for more than twenty-five years, by threats against their lives.

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