

MEMORIALIZE HOME OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

The History of Segregation Parallels That of Slavery

By Carter G. Woodson

Segregation as the sequel of slavery is history repeating itself. At first there was some objection to systematized slavery, but the oppressor consulted his god who approved the institution as the just lot for the infidels. Now when the system became organized and apparently profitable exploitation so many of the "faithful" were not particular about converting infidels to their religion because this might destroy the pet institution, inasmuch as there was an unwritten law that Christians could not be held as slaves.

Later when the Negro slaves came upon the scene and so easily took to the exploiters' religion the god had to be consulted again for a change of will; or the god they worshipped had to be destroyed and a new one set up to do what men in his wickedness always does. Well might one say that god did not create man, but man created.

Now when the exploiters had done this his god said unto him, "Although the Negroes may embrace religion you do not have to liberate them as you do others, because the black slaves belong to a different race." This settled the matter. Books were written to prove it, and preachers of the newly manufactured faith proclaimed it as a divine decree. Negroes, taught, then to obey their masters because it was right in the sight of the new deity, accepted this faith and carried out their will for only a few like Nat Turner dared to protest. And so it continued until the antislavery forces convinced the world that the institution was wrong in principle.

Segregation has followed the same course. At first certain churchmen objected to it because of religious teachings to the contrary. The god thus standing in the way, however, was promptly thrown down, and in his place was set up another to justify the regime. Negroes, having opportunity to learn religion and ethics only from their oppressors, accepted this as final, just as they had done in the case of slavery. And they will probably put up with it until someone with vision and the power of execution comes along and shows that segregation is a handicap to human progress.

Our religion will have little bearing on the situation, for a large number of the Negro ministry approve segregation in the church, and the defender of the present management of the Y. M. C. A. says that it is not considered un-Christian to exclude Negroes from their buildings because of their color and compel them to dwell in separate establishments. These institutions, then, have become anti-Christian from the point of view of Jesus of Nazareth. He taught the brotherhood of man, but these agencies are working hard against this principle.

Here the Negro as a segregationist appears blank. Instead of making some contribution to theology and Christian ethics he has merely taken over second-hand fashion whatever his oppressor has found it convenient to have the Negro believe and preach. The Negro has not been able to work out such thought of his own. His mind is under the control of the conveniently created Anti-Christ. When he wants an opinion in these matters he reads what his oppressor says in justification of the court of the gentiles outside of the Temple of Jehovah. When the Negro prepares a sermon he works it out from books written by the protagonists of segregation.

Few of us realize, then, what crimes are committed in the name of this deity. He once ordained that the Negro should be enslaved. Now he ordains that the Negro be segregated. This deity of the oppressor is so obliging, and he should ever be praised for coming to the rescue of his creators. He has always been at hand to do the thing the oppressor desires. After all then it has been more "ad-

vantageous" for the modern man to make god than that god should make him. For if god made man he might control him, but man wants to control god. . . . I would not have any objections to this program of the prophets of segregation who live on the profits of segregation, if they did not pull me and all other persons of African descent down with them. If segregation resulted in the extermination of the oppressed would thereby be relieved of a heavy burden. The unfortunate thing is that while the Negro segregationists are made comfortable by the price they get, it works the ultimate destruction of the whole race thereby handicapped. . . . Someone will say that this thought is an exaggeration but you do not have to go far to find the evidence. A man who cannot secure as good food, clothing, and shelter as another man is handicapped in the struggle of life. A man who has to work less than another and at the same time pay the same rent, taxes, and the cost of educating his children will fall behind the other as the years go by. A man who must live in the germ-ridden districts with less of the air and ease and comforts of nature cannot keep pace with the other who has no such impediments to overcome. A man who has to work longer hours than the man of leisure will never have time to think. From such handicapped people will come no thought, no vision, no program, no power of execution. They must gradually die out. The oppressor does not need to enact any laws to provide for their extermination. The only thing necessary is to bring to pass that these undesirable conditions shall obtain, and the end of the Negroes will rapidly approach while "psalm-singing" segregationists are piously expressing interest in the race. To point out these tendencies as unwise and as un-Christian is considered dangerous, and for this reason Thomas Jesse Jones denounces me as a radical. If you listen to some of the things he says about me you would imagine that I am trying to overthrow some government. I am merely insisting that men should cease to be hypocrites and walk in the footsteps of Jesus of Nazareth. According to my traducers, however, a Christian insisting upon the brotherhood of man is an undesirable who should be crushed. Jones, a foreigner thus aided by Negroes, undertakes to destroy a man who in recording history distinguishes between the sincere and the insincere, between those forces which have tended to lift the Negro upward and those which have dragged him downward. What has Thomas Jesse Jones to do with the Negro race? Does he own us soul and body?

WHICH ONE DO YOU UNDERSTAND

(Continued from page one)

sought a high degree of permanence, they foresee the need of changes and provided for them. Article V limits the proposals of amendments to two methods: (1) Two-thirds of both Houses of Congress may propose amendments; or (2) on application of the legislature of two-thirds of the states a national convention shall be called by Congress to propose amendments. Thereafter ratification must be had in one of two ways: (1) By the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states. Congress is given power to determine the mode of ratification.

Referendums without constitutional sanction cannot furnish a decisive answer. Those who propose them innocently are deluded by false hopes; those who propose them knowingly are deceiving the people.

A nation-wide controversy over the Eighteenth Amendment now distracts attention from the constructive solution of many pressing national problems. The principle of national prohibition as embodied in the amendment was supported and opposed by members of both great political parties. It was submitted to the states by members of Congress of different political faith and ratified by state legislation of different political majorities. It has not then and is not now a partisan political question.

Members of the Republican party hold different opinions with respect to it and no public official or member of the party should be pledged or forced to choose between his party affiliations and his honest convictions upon this question.

We do not favor a submission limited to the issue of retention or repeal. For the American nation never in its history has gone backward, and in this case the progress which has been thus far made must be preserved, while the evils must be eliminated.

We, therefore, believe that the people should have an opportunity to pass upon a proposed amendment the provision of which while retaining in the Federal Government power to preserve the gains already made in dealing with the evils inherent in the liquor traffic, shall allow states to deal with the problem as their citizens may determine, but subject always to the power of the Federal Government to protect those states where prohibition may exist and safeguard our citizens everywhere from the return of the saloon and attendant abuses.

Such an amendment should be promptly submitted to the states by Congress, to be acted upon by state conventions called for that sole purpose in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Constitution and adequately safeguarded so as to be truly representative.

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VERBAL SNAPSHOTS

(By W. J. Whaaton)

They are slaves who fear to speak; For the fallen and the weak; They are slaves who will not choose Hatred, scoffing and abuse. Rather silence shrink from the truth they needs must think; They are slaves who dare not be, In the right with two or three.

The above lines written by James Russel Lowell are as applicable today as when wrote, several decades ago, for the abolishing of human slavery. In the matter of thought; there are men active in the fraternal, religious and political life of the people who fear to speak or act in behalf of the fallen and the weak. They would rather tread the path of least resistance than choose to be scoffed at and be abused. The people select and elect their representatives to act for the good of ALL OF THE PEOPLE. When it was shown that the confirmation of Judge Parker for a place on the supreme court of the nation was fought by labor, and that his utterances in the past had proven bias against one tenth of the nation's citizens; there should have been no hesitancy in voting to reject the confirmation. Those who "dared" not be in the right with two or three" can not be trusted with the representation of all the people.

The Garner-Wagner bill, providing relief for small industry and loans for private business, on adequate security, has passed the House and Senate and goes to the President for his signature. It is predicted and, ere this, read the result be known, it is assured that the bill is sure of a veto. The debate on passage was bitter. Senator Hiram Johnson, California, is a staunch supporter of the measure.

If any man is responsible to the American people for the lack of relief to human beings, it is one man and one alone—the President of the United States," he said. Excerpts from former speeches made by the President were read, wherein he advocated similar terms of legislative procedure enounced in the Garner-Wagner measure. It has shown that he has "about faced" and shown extreme vacillation.

The Government is loaning the "Bonus Army" vets camped at Washington, D. C. money to defray their expenses to their homes. We say "loan" because the Government states that those who fail to return the amount before the bonus is due the same shall be deducted therefrom. When those men return to their various homes they can give much first hand information on national legislation. They hiked and hummed their way to Washington from all points of the national compass and they will have a big influence in the determination of the November elections.

The prison camps of Florida have been noted for extreme cruelty to those who, unfortunately, were sent to them as prisoners. There were many cases of brutal murders and barbarous tortures brought to light but as the sufferers were Negroes little or no attention was paid to them. But brutality once unleashed knows no bounds and when torture and murder of Negro prisoners was not checked it felt justified in its practice. They practiced on a young man who happened to be white. A big stir is made and two overseers of the camp have been charged with murder. It's an ill will that blows no good, and this expose may prove a godsend to all.

"How much am I bid for the service of this person." Down in Los Angeles they are placing unemployed people on the auction block; selling their service to the highest bidder. To think, here in a land whose granary's are filled to bursting; where billions of dollars are closed in the banks; where nature pours her wealth from the Horn of Plenty, that such reversion to the days of human bondage should be. But then, we are slaves to the economic condition of the times.

California financial condition seems to be all wry. The treasury is in the throes of depletion and the Budget maker in the Department of Finance is at wits ends to create a balance. As usual, the tip has been taken from the Federal government and the small salaried folk are expected to suffer an equal deduction in pay with the \$10,000 man. The \$2000 a year and under should not be called on to shoulder an equal burden. A 14% per cent can well be afforded by the ten thousand dollar man, while it will work considerable hardship on the man or woman receiving two thousand and less. Many of whom are supporting and raising growing families.

It seems to be the sense of the present national Administration that Prosperity should come from the top down. Its a poor structure that is not based on a firm foundation. The workers of state or nation are the foundation on which PROSPERITY MUST BE BUILT.

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Helpful hints

By NANCY LEE

When one comes in contact with the trials and tribulations that beset the human family, one thing is obvious, and that is necessary for acquiring noble characteristics by developing a higher plane of thinking. To hear about the petty jealousies, the fault finding, backbiting, intrigue, and greed; to say nothing of the hatred, selfishness, laziness, and faithlessness of people makes one wonder how long it will be before they turn away from the darkness of self to the light of an impersonal point of view.

The thoughts that are uppermost in people's minds are: How can I better my condition in life? How can I be happy? How can I win admiration— attract men and make friends, etc., etc? Very rarely do we meet anyone of any race who wants to help some one else without a thought of remuneration—a trace of self-elation or glorification; a person who obeys the mandate, "If ye do it unto these my brethren, ye do it unto Me!" One who sacrifices his comforts and well-being to make another's burden lighter. But this new spirit is taking root in the world today, awakening souls to a broader, a higher idealism. People want something to cling to, to help them seek a solution of their daily worries, but the only way to better one's condition is to help others better theirs; the way to happiness is to make others happy, and the way to win admiration and make friends is to be considerate of others.

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"AS NOTED" by Ralph C. Clyde City Commissioner

"WHO IS PAYING HIM?"

No matter what position the average man in public life may take he is always accused by some misguided person or persons of accepting bribes to influence his decisions.

From personal knowledge of men with whom I have been associated in public bodies at the sufferance of the voters, I say without the slightest hesitation that many such charges were false and malicious. At first, I was wont to quickly and emphatically deny shafts of falsehoods hurled at me, but as I grew older and more experienced I discovered the best method was to ignore these unjust attacks.

Frequently assaults come when one is doing one's best work for the community. When I advocated public power development, gossip had it that I was being paid by the power trust, so it could unload its plants on the public. I favored an incinerator site that was not accepted by the city. Opponents whispered that I was to receive \$10,000 in the event the site was selected. The amount I was supposed to have received, had my market proposition been accepted, would stagger you. Gossip also had it that as committee chairman, in the drafting of the street car franchise, I was to receive \$10,000. Space will not permit me to chronicle all these vicious assaults but Amos and Andy think in smaller figures that the amount enemies alleged I had "salted" away.

There is a deal of satisfaction in reading what others have to say on this subject. At the suggestion of Fred K. Ross I read Menken's "Notes on Democracy" which depicts the unjust attacks on many men in public life. The chapter "Rewards of Virtue," is sarcastic but appropriate. Thanks, Fred; I feel much better.

DUKE ELLINGTON

Duke Ellington and his Famous Orchestra have swung into a highly successful engagement at the Lincoln Tavern in Chicago, where he threatens to eclipse the record which he established at the same spot last season.

In addition to an augmented orchestra of fourteen musicians, Harlem's Aristocrat of Jazz, has with him in the floor show at the popular rendezvous, a group of such well known entertainers as Louise Cook, Fred Washington and Al Moore, Ivie Anderson, and Kid Charleston.

Duke and his boys are being heard twice a week on the radio over the Columbia network, Wednesday and Friday nights. At the conclusion of their engagement at the Tavern on July 27th, they will play a week or ten days of one night dances in the vicinity of Chicago and will open at the Castle Farms in Cincinnati, on August 8th, for an indefinite engagement. There they will again be picked up by the Columbia System for broadcasting and in addition will be heard nightly over WLW.

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DEDICATE CABIN WHERE EDUCATOR LIVED

NEGRO HISTORY HEAD DELIVERS MAIN ADDRESS

CHARLESTON, W. Va., July 16—Through the efforts and work of the State Federation of Women's clubs, the boyhood home of Booker T. Washington has been reclaimed and dedicated as a national shrine. For years the cabin which housed the famous educator as a boy stood virtually neglected a few yards from the state highway. Then at the annual convention of the State Federation of Colored Women's clubs it was decided to make it a shrine for his race.

Last week prominent men and women of both races met at the tiny cabin in the little town of Malden, near here, to dedicate what was the West Virginia home of Booker T. Washington, noted educator and emancipator, as a national shrine to his memory.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder and president of the Negro History association, delivered the main address. Other speakers were Howard B. Lee, state attorney general; Mrs. A. D. Spalding, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, and T. G. Nutter and others.

Dr. Woodson declared that West Virginia was fortunate in having Washington settle there, and Washington likewise was fortunate in growing up here in this atmosphere of liberty than in that of the state from which he came.

"We do well to assemble here between these hills to dedicate this home site as a national shrine," said Dr. Woodson. "Visiting this hallowed spot and standing on this sacred ground, we may be inspired to noble deeds for our race and nation."

"We revere the memory of this man because he loved his race. He loved his race because he loved humanity. In spite of all the white man had done to oppress the Negro, Booker T. Washington would not let this sour his spirit. He said: 'I will suffer no man to drag me down so low as to hate him.' While advocating the uplift of the Negro, therefore, he did not fail to speak out for the handicapped white man. He realized that our relationships and interrelationships are such that the one cannot stay down without holding the other down, and that the one cannot rise without bringing the other up with him."

The dedicatory exercises covered three days of activities about the little home, Mayor R. P. Devan of Charleston and a group of social workers and educators joined in the memorial exercises.

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