SAYS "NEGROES IN CITY PLAY WHILE ROME BURNS"

Advocate Editor Responds To Editorial

(Continued from page one)

riod, Mississippi lynched 561 people, an average of a little more than 12 a year. Eight of the mob's victims were burned alive. Walter White, in his book, "Rope & Faggot" describes a Mississippi lynching as follows:

"I watched a Negro burned at the stake at Rocky Ford, Mississippi, Sunday afternoon. I watched an angry mob chain him to an iron stake. I watched them pile wood around his helpless body. I watched them pour gasoline on this wood. And I watched three men set this wood on fire.

"I stood in a crowd of 600 people as the flames gradually crept nearer and nearer to the helpless Negro. I watched the blaze climb higher and higher encircling him without mercy. I heard his cry of agony as the flames reached him and set his clothing on fire.

"'Oh, God; Oh, God!' he shouted. 'I didn't do it! Have mercy!' The blaze leaped higher. The Negro struggled. He kicked the chain loose from his ankles but it held his waist and neck against the iron post that was becoming red with intense heat.

"'Have mercy, I didn't do it! I didn't do it!' he shouted again.

. . . Nowhere was there a sign of mercy among the members of the mob, nor did they seem to regret the horrible thing they had done. The Negro had supposedly sinned against their race and he died a death of torture.

"Soon he became quiet. There was no doubt that he was dead. The flames jumped and leaped above his head. An odour of burning flesh reached my nostrils. Through the leaping blaze I could see the Negro sagging and supported by the chains. . . . .

. . . . The mob walked away. In the vanguard of the mob I noticed a woman. She seemed to be rather young yet it is hard to tell about women of her type; strong and healthy, apparently a woman of the country. She walked with a firm, even stride. She was beautiful in a way. . . .

"I'm hungry someone complained. "Le't get something to eat." . . .

"Governor Whitfield won't have a lick of luck with any investigation of the burning of Jim Ivy", declared William N. Bradshaw, of Union County, Mississippi, admittedly a member of the mob that for forty-eight hours sought its Negro victim and lynched him without establishing his identity with the crime.

However, it should not have been necessary for the Governor to investigate very far because I have personally seen "exclusive" pictures of the lynching, in which the faces of at least a hundred members of the moo are easily distinguishable. Yet the jury returned a verdict that Ivy had come to his death "at the hands of the members of a mob which are unknown." These photographs were published in the "News-Scimitar", of Memphis, Tenn.

And Oregon is asked to copy Mississippi!

But why limit ourselves to copying Mississippi? What's the matter with Florida for instance? Down there, not long ago, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president of a college, former president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and their representative to a meeting held at Geneva by the women's international alliance, was arrested while showing a party of friends the city of Miami, because she drove her car upon certain streets in that city where no Negro is permitted except in the capacity of a servant or a delivery boy. This excellent woman was hailed into court, fined and lectured for her "crime".

Not content with its laws to separate and segregate Negroes and to keep them utterly detached from white social institutions, Florida would prevent Negroes from establishing subdivisions of their own. Not long ago when some Negroes attempted to establish a sub-division for their own in Northwestern Tampa, a band of approximately fifty white men set fire to the sales office on the property and drove away four special policemen detailed to protect the property.

Georgia isn't so bad herself. She is ultra-modern in handling her prisoners for instance. Listen to this from John L. Spivak's book, "Georgia Nigger":

"Yeah," Twine (warden) said, and walked to the stunted concrete post to which the guard was already tying the convict.

"The unresisting nigger, with his back to the post, was laced to it from ankles to hips with a rope and one tied to the cuffs slipped about the second post. The guard pulled sharply. The convict's torso jerked forward, bending at right angles, his arms outstretched. His head dropped between his arms. The sweat on his back and arms glistened in the light.

"'Stretch'! the warden ordered harshly. The guard pulled the rope until it was as taut as a tuned violin string. 'Oh, Jesus-' the nigger screaked. 'Yo' pullin' my arms out!'

"The rope was wound around the post and tied, leaving the convict stretched so the slightest movement threatened to wrench his shoulders from their sockets.

"'One hour!' the warden said curtly and extinguished the torch."

The punishment just described is called "stretching" and is Georgia's variation of breaking victims on the wheel, which was used in the Spanish Inquisition three hundred years ago, and is a torture which no civilized country has used since.

Negroes are held in virtual slavery on the Georgia "death farms" and the condition is general. It was also in Georgia that Mary Turner, an expectant mother, was lynched by a mob because she protested the lynching of her innocent husband and made the mistake of saying she was going to have members of the mob, arrested. They hung Mary Turner to a tree by her feet and after shooting her, performed a Caesarian operation with a butcher knife, much after the fashion of slaughtering a cow. Her prematurely delivered babe, after making a feeble outcry had its litle life stamped out by the heel of a member of the mob. She was buried in a grave where the mob placed a whiskey bottle with a cigarette butt in it as a "head-piece".

Why doesn't Oregon emulate Georgia?

In many southern states, including Mississippi and Georgia, Negroes are not allowed to vote. The rule is general. Up to June 21, 1915, many Negroes were successfully disfranchised by the Grandfather Clause. On that date the United States Supreme Court declared the Grandfather Clause invalid on a case which came up from the state of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Grandfather Clause prohibited any one from voting unless on January 1, 1866, or at any time prior thereto, he was entitled to vote under any form of government, or who at that time resided in some foreign nation, and no lineal descendant of such person, shall be denied the right to register and vote because of his inability to read and write such constitution.

Many of the states, including Mississippi have what is known as "Understanding and Character" tests by which they effectively keep Negroes "in their place":

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, require the payment of poll taxes as a prerequisite to voting. In Georgia, all taxes legally required since 1877 must be paid six months before the election.

The property requirement in Alabama is forty acres of land in the state or real or personal property worth three hundred dollars on which the taxes for the preceding year have been paid. In Georgia, it is forty acres of land in the state or five hundred dollars worth of property in the state. The Louisiana requirement is three hundred dollars worth of property and payment of personal taxes. South Carolina prescribes three hundred dollars worth of property on which taxes for the preceding year have been paid.

Alabama requires that the applicant, unless physically disabled, must be able to read and write the Constitution of the United States in English. In Georgia, unless physical disabled, must read and write the Constitution of the United States in English; or if physically disabled from reading and writing, to understand and give a reasonable interpretation of the Constitution of the United States or of Georgia, when read to him. In Louisiana, applicant must be able to read and write and must make an application for registration in his own handwriting.

In Mississippi, he must be able to understand or reasonably interpret any part of the Constitution of the state. In North Carolina, applicant must read and write the state Constitution in English. In Oklahoma, applicant must be able to read and write any section of the Constitution of the state. South Carolina requires ability to read and write the Constitution and in Virginia, applicant must make out aplication in his own hand writing and prepare and deposit his own ballot without aid.

When legal methods fail to keep the Negro from the polls, other methods equally if not more effective are used. I quote from the September CRISIS of 1932:

"Albert White, editor of the Shreveport, La., AFRO AMERICAN newspaper, was last week driven from Shreveport by enraged state and city police, forced to hide in outlying hills, because of his activity in organizing a league of Negro voters. Unable to find White, the heavily armed constabulary stormed the large Lakeside Auditorium where a mass-meeting of the League of Negro Voters had been scheduled to be held, stood guard before all entrances, threatened with death any who dared enter. Shreveport's leading citizens declared that the streets of their fair city would be drenched with blood before Negroes would be allowed their right to vote."

Time nor space will permit me to cite any further reasons why Oregon should "copy" Mississippi or any of her sister states, but I sincerely believe those I have given ought to be sufficint for any sane thinking person to realize what a backward step Oregon takes should she choose to use Mississippi as a pattern for her sales tax.

Yours for Oregon setting the pace,
BEATRICE CANNADY-FRANKLIN,
Editor, THE ADVOCATE

KELLY MILLER

Kelly Miller noted author and educator who says Negro will be eliminated or flattened out at bottom of economic scale.

JANITRESS PAYS INSTALLMENTS FOR 20 YEARS TO PURCHASE SEALSKIN $1,000 COAT

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 12—An official of a local department store here relates the following story for a place in the "believe it or not" series of stories.

"A Negro woman who scrubbed floors and washed clothes for twenty years to make payments weekly on a sealskin coat costing $1,000 has paid the last installment and received the garment.

A score of years ago, according to the store managers, the woman, whose name they refused to devulge, selected the garment and had it placed in the lay-away department. When she paid off her bill recently, it was discovered the coat she had chosen in 1912 had been lost. She was satisfied, however, when the management replaced it with a 1932 style jacket-length sealskin.

EXTENSION OF AID TO NEGROES ADVOCATED

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 12—Extension of building and loan association activities to Negroes to enable them to obtain benefits of the home loan bank was advocated by Charles S. Duke, president of the National Technical Association.

Duke pointed out that while Negroes make up a twelfth of Chicago's population, only two of 430 building and loan associations have negro members and that it is difficult for them to get real estate loans. Since all Negro banks have been closed, foreclosures are numerous and property is becoming run down as the owners see the prospects of their losing their homes becoming almost a certainty.

"AS NOTED" by Ralph C. Clyde City Commissioner

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Readers of this column desiring any information on this subject are requested to write or phone to the author who will give replies in this column as soon as the data has been secured.

Leroy Crouchley asks if it is true that the Municipal Street Railway System of Seattle is supported by city taxes.

In answer to Crouchley's question, we wish to say that the Seattle Municipal Street Railway has never been supported by taxes in Seattle, in any way, manner, shape or form.

William A. Dalziel is interested in Knowing what city first established a municipal bus terminal service.

The City of Camden, New Jersey, first established city-owned bus terminal facilities about two years ago, and it has proven very successful.

Henry Spani inquires how long has Richmond, Va. owned its gas system, and if it pays.

Richmond, Va. has owned its municipal gas plant since1852—or 80 years. The city charges interest, depreciation and taxes against the plant and still maks more than $100,000.00 a year profit.

Mrs. Charlotte Simpson inquires," What city on the Pacific Coast has the most electric ranges in use?"

The answer to this question is that in Seattle nearly one-third of the city cooks with electricity.

E. R. Crump asks if it is true that the newer residences in Tacoma are built without chimneys.

In Tacoma a large proportion of the homes are heated by electricity, and new homes are being erected without chimneys. In spite of the low rates, Tacoma earned a million dollars profit on its municipal electric plant.

Frank A. Bergman asks if the publicly-owned electric plant, not in use, in the basement of the County House is in good running order.

The electric system in the basement of the Multnomah County Court House is capable of lighting and heating the entire building. Our authority for this statement is Ben B. Thomas engineer of standing in Portland. Mr. Thomas was engineer of a similar plant in the Multnomah Hotel for a number of years. This plant is still in operation. Mr. Thomas says there is nothing the matter with the electric plant in the basement and knows no reason why it cannot be used.

THE SAME

The following poem by the famous Negro writer, Langston Hughes, was written while Mr. Hughes was in Moscow, U. S. S. R., with the Negro film group. It first appeared in the magazine, "The Negro Worker", published at Hamburg, Germany, as the organ of the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers:

It is the same everywhere for me:
On the docks at Sierra Leone,
In the cotton fields of Alabama,
In the diamond mines of Kimberly,
On the coffee-hills of Haiti,
The banana land of Central America,
The streets of Harlem,
And the cities of Morocco & Tripoli.
Black:
Exploited, beaten and robbed,
Shot and killed,
Blood running into
Dollars
Pounds
Francs
Pesetas
Lire
For the wealth of the exploiters
Blood that never comes back to me again.
Better that my blood
Runs into the deep channels of Revolution.
Runs into the strong hands of Revolution,
Stains all flags red,
Drives away from
Sierra Leone
Kimberley
Alabama
Haiti
Central America
Morocco
Tripoli
And all the black lands everywhere
The force that kills
The power that robs
And the greed that does not care.

Better that my blood makes one with the blood
Of all the struggling workers of the world -
Till every land is free of
Dollar robbers
Pound robbers
Franc robbers
Peseta robbers
Lire robbers
Life robbers -
Until the Red Armies of the International proletariat
Their faces black, white, olive, yellow, brown,
Unite to raise the blood red flag that
Never will come down!

PRISONS and PRISONERS

(By CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL)

"Seize this very minute! What you can do, or think you can, begin it!"

—Von Goethe.

It might seem as quite a coincidence that the above quotation should be used as a theme just at the same time a new editor, Louis Kish, 29895 takes over the helm of SCHOOL NEWS? This article is intended to be inspirational and we are sure that Kish needs no inspiration, from this source, in order to continue what our friend McNabb has so well established.

If anything, McNabb is the one who will need all the inspiration he can receive, providing it is the kind of inspiration that forces a man onward to do the best that his talents will permit. McNabb goes out into the free world practically at the beginning of a winter that undoubtedly will bring hardships, poverty and misery to a great many.

The next few months will bring about changes many changes in governmental and civil life and amidst these conditions McNabb begins his life over. If he can successfully survive the first few months his ultimate success will be assured.

Two and a half years after all is a very brief time in which to become well acquainted with any man but knowing a man for that length of time in prison is sufficient to learn the real "stuff" that he is made of, but in this time McNabb has successfully demonstrated his ability to battle against all obstacles.

We know from what he has accomplished that McNabb is an opportunist and a good one. Amidst the rocks, thorns and briar he has proven that he can recognize an opportunity and regardless of any personal discomfiture, he is not afraid to brush up against the hardships while he begins what he thinks he can accomplish.

It is not necessary to go into the history of SCHOOL NEWS. We all know that until McNabb saw the opportunity for it there was no medium in which the Jackson prisoners could express themselves. It's present popularity and growing nation wide reputation speaks volumes for its originator.

We are almost sure that, in the free world, McNabb will recognize oportunities and we feel sure that he will ever feel inspired to fight onwards when he realizes that he leaves behind him thousands of his fallen brothers who will ever be wishing him the same success in the free world that he has made for himself in our twin "villages".

One thing certain that McNabb has done and that is to leave behind him a precedent for every other prisoner to shoot at. He believed that while in prison he could accomplish some good and believing it he simply began it. We all know what his first efforts were. In comparing his issue No. 1 with the present issue No. 124, there is about as much comparison as between a baby and a grown man but with a healthy spark of life dominating throughout.

With the liberal educational policy of this institution, which is said to surpass that of any other penal institution in the world, every prisoner who thinks he can do something constructive should not hesitate in making the start. That start might be in the form of many months, or years, of study in some special course but whatever form it might be in the thing to do is to make the start and like the quotation cited: "Seize this very minute! What you can do, or think you can, begin it!"

NEGRO HARDEST HIT BY MACHINE

AT BOTTOM OF ECONOMIC SCALE

(By KELLY MILLER)

I do not wish to strike a note of pessimism or despair but to arouse the race to a conscious sense of the seriousnes of the situation. Optimism is the philosophy of the fatalist and the fool. They were eating and drinking and making merry in the days of Noah while the waters of the devouring flood were gathering in the skies overhead.

Our civilization is being battered with the shocks of doom. The machine has won the first battle between man and mechanism. The creature has for the moment outmastered the creator. The Frankenstein has overmastered its maker. But the victory is only temporary. The evil is obviously medicable by human genius and enterprise. Our fields are yielding in over abundance, our factories have overstocked the market with goods. And yet we have starvation in the midst of plenty, a condition which can last only until the human mind adjusts itself seriously to the anomaly. Some look to Moscow, some to Rome, and some to New York and London to point out the way. But no serious minded students doubt that the way will be found. Man will sooner or later —rather sooner than later — dominate the machine and make it his obedient and docile servant. There will be work and wealth sufficient for all. The present depression will lift, but just how soon we dare not prophesy. President Hoover, with a fatal optimism, has been telling us for the past three years that prosperity is just around the corner. His intentions were good but his judgment bad. He misjudged the direction in which prosperity was moving. It was indeed around the corner; but instead of approaching us it was moving in the other direction. It has now turned two corners and is still receding. We are now concerned with immediate ills rather than ultimate prophecy.

Negro Victim Of Machine

What will happen to the city Negro while this readjustment betwen man and the machine is taking place and after it has been accomplished? The Negro is a victim of the machine. He has little or no function where machinery prevails. He can raise cotton by hand labor but must not manufacture it into cloth. He used to be in great request as a coachman, but never as an engineer. As a chauffeur he is entrusted to run a single automobile about the crowded streets without tracks, but must not be allowed as motorman to operate a street car with fixed tracks. He may "tote" bricks to the top of a building but must not lay them in their place on the wall by means of a trowel. The white man and his machine seem calculated to eliminate the Negro or to flatten him out at the bottom. When there is work enough for all the Negro may be called on as surplus man. He is, to use a much used and trite phrase, "the last to be hired and the first to be fired." In times of unemployment, he is made the chief sufferer. In all of our great cities today fully a third of the race is unemployed and another third under employed. The white workman will not combine with him and will not allow him to compete with himself on equal terms. He has very feeble capacity for self help. Large aggregations of wealth and capital are controlling whatever residue of work there may be. The Negro is always the left out or left over man. White competition is taking away the manual and menial work of which he once had a monopoly. The chain store and the merger curtail his chance as a small self proprietor. All attempts at organized and concerted big business seem destined to end in failure and humiliation. In all of our large cities the colored race has been loaded down with cast off homes by shrewd white realtors, whose cost and upkeep are impossible on the basis of their occupation and income. The economic fate of any group is easy to foretell who must pay half of their income for rent or under the guise of purchasing a home. The constable, auctioneer and the sheriff will be kept busy.

Today our great business and financial corporations are living on public dole. The Negro inevitably becomes the object of charity, but we cannot live on charity forever. The Goevrnment itself has but one source of revenue —and that is from the people. Our state governments and our proudest municipalities are now looking to Washington for help. Unless the depression lifts within a very short while the whole situation will become impossible, the lot of the Negro worst of all.

During the last two decades, lured on by the semblance of opportunity which a shortage of white labor afforded, the Negro has been rushing into the large cities in unprecedented numbers. But now the cityward tide has ceased to flow. The reflux tide has set in.

The city Negro will hardly increase in numbers in face of threatening conditions. The future of the urban Negro, to say the least, is not roseate.

The outlook of the rural Negro will be treated in my next release.