

AVIATION OFFERED NEGRO NATION EYES ALABAMA

FINAL STAND TO SAVE FIVES OF SCOTTSBORO BOYS BEGINS

Digesting . . .
The News
BY CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

THE FADING COLOR LINE

With England flying to Italy; France making overtures to America; Germany on her rocking horse; Japan and China playing see-saw; India gaining a measure of independence; quakes and tornadoes in our own country; the whirlwind actions of congress; banks starting to ferment; hundreds of banks opening—and hundreds more remaining closed. With all of these happenings, in spite of the protest organizations, the color line seems to have faded during the recent days.

And if we lost any recognition in Liberia and Haiti we, at least, gained attention at Washington. When the president will send a white house car to bring to him a retiring department employee, and that employee is colored, we need not ask whether the employee was efficient or not. And when the same president will have a colored clerk transferred from another department to the white house, again, we need not ask whether the employee is efficient. In both instances, efficiency accomplished results that protests never would accomplish. Why, we even read, during the week, of a colored journalist being admitted to the white house press conference.

Indeed, throughout the country, many appointments were made of purely local significance. It's true, but they were made, seemingly, without the usual fanfare of protests, supplications or demands that Negroes receive recognition. On the contrary, they seem to have been made as the result of cold reasoning, sense of fitness and right, along with a conscientious policy of giving the "forgotten" man a chance in the "new deal".

In West Virginia one race member succeeds another in a position that has been held by the race for nearly two decades. But in Detroit a race man succeeds a white banker on an institutional committee that is of much significance because of the unusual honors bestowed. Usually, the appointment of a person of color to such positions as messengers, clerks, stenographers, investigators and assistants is heralded far and wide, but when a colored person is placed on the committee that controls the policies, expenditures and personnel, then, we are inclined to think that the color line is beginning to fade.

An editorial in a leading national race paper, which is presumed to be the "mouthpiece" for the "new deal" party now in power, states that many might be surprised to learn that certain leaders are not so anxious for, or interested in, securing jobs for certain Negroes, as they are for securing rights, privileges and representation for all Negroes. And if this attitude is not merely a shield for an apparent lack of individual influence then we must heartily applaud their sentiments.

A few more catastrophes, making the whole world kin, and we will soon learn that by being ready, being efficient and being useful is of greater value and influence than being vociferous in protests.

AVIATION SCHOOL CHANGES POLICY

Indianapolis, Ind., April 1—The ban against Negro students at the Capital Airport here, was abolished recently by the directors of the institution and now Negro students will be afforded an opportunity to enter all classes. The air port is modernly equipped and government inspected, housing some twenty planes in its hangars.

Many prominent local business and professional men have inspected the airport, and urged Negroes to take advantage of the school of which only one other is open to Negroes.

COURTROOM BRISTLES WITH RIFLES, BOYS BEWILDERED BY CROWDS AND HIGH TENSION

(By John L. Spivak for the A. N. P.)
Decatur, Ala., March 27—The nine Scottsboro boys went on trial before Circuit Judge James E. Horton for their lives again today in a jammed courtroom bristling with rifles inside and surrounded by rifles and bayonets outside.

Their new trial ordered by the United States Supreme court, opened officially at 1:58 P. M. with Attorney General Knight of Alabama submitting to the court the order of transfer of the nine boys from the Birmingham jail to this court.

The Scottsboro boys, hand-cuffed together, left the Birmingham jail at 11:14 a. m. in the prison van and guarded by four deputies, armed with double barreled shot guns. They arrived at the Morgan county court house at 1:50.

Between the adjournment of court this morning and its re-opening this afternoon, the balance of curious spectators had changed from a majority of whites to an overwhelming majority of Negroes. The white spectators had retired to a small area near the court house while the court-house lawn and the empty lot across from the court house and jail were filled to overflowing with Negroes, men and women, many of whom watched sullenly the armed manifestations of the county officials, though no open comments were made.

When word circulated through the crowd that Prison van had arrived, both groups rushed to see the prisoners come out. Soldiers with fixed bayonets scattered the crowds. The prison guards, with fingers on the triggers of their rifles and shot guns, stepped a few feet away and the door was opened. The nine boys, dressed in blue denim overalls and handcuffed to each other, came out of the van looking wonderingly at the crowd and soldiers about them.

Twelve soldiers with guns on their shoulders immediately surrounded the boys and escorted them into the courtroom where the handcuffs were removed when the boys were placed back of the defense table.

With thirty national guardsmen surrounding the Morgan county courthouse with fixed bayonets, the world-famous Scottsboro case did not open at the scheduled hour because of a misunderstanding which resulted in failure to bring in the defendants at the proper time. Court was adjourned until 2:00 p. m. to await their arrival from the Birmingham jail where they were confined.

The Circuit court where the nine boys were to go on trial again for their lives was packed to its capacity of 425 seats when Judge James E. Horton of Athens, Ala., who is to preside, appeared. Attorneys for the defendants had not yet left Birmingham. Court was promptly adjourned to await their arrival.

This comparatively large town for this section of the south seemed to view the forth-coming trial more with curiosity as a good show than with any animosity or realization of the important problems affecting the lives of both Negroes and whites that hinge upon it.

The court house square began to fill shortly after eight o'clock this morning with the average types frequently seen in small southern towns. White men in baggy store clothes or overalls. Lean, sun-dried, and a few Negroes who gathered a distance away from the guardsmen resting on their arms in the lot facing the square and the county jail.

The soldiers had been ordered by Judge Horton to maintain order. As the morning wore on the courtroom became hazy with the smoke of the many men puffing away at cigarettes or pipes. Outside the crowds slowly increased until the whites numbered about 500 and the Negroes about 150. There were no demonstrations. Most of those outside were content to stand around in the warm spring sunshine and wait curiously for the appearance of the defendants. Occasionally, one heard comments, said more in jest, that "maybe they ain't here because they was picked up on the way and is hangin' by now."

Such remarks were usually greeted with good natured grins, though these were seemed to be a tenseness in the air, despite the apparent cheerfulness. A black man may pay taxes but he may not pass upon justice as it is handed out by the white men. The more advanced, culturally and intellectually, of the Southern white men, still feels that the black man belongs to him. The white will give the black man paternalistic "accommodations" as they express it down there, but he will not accept a man whose skin is black as an equal in dispensing justice. The whites want the control of the courts and the legal machinery and they will fight to the last for this control, for their entire supremacy hinges upon maintaining this control.

Affidavits from Chattanooga Negroes have been collected by Scottsboro defense showing a minimum of twenty-six Negroes from Jackson Co. where the boys were first tried, could have served on the grand jury that indicted them or on the trial jury that convicted them, but no Negro was called. To express the popular attitude of Alabama whites I might record the explanation of this problem made by a Scottsboro teacher with whom I rode in from Chattanooga. He would be classified normally as an educated, intelligent white.

"There ain't been no nigger on a jury in twenty-five years," he said earnestly. "It just ain't being done. You just ask any nigger who may be considered fit for jury duty if he wants to sit. You'll find he ain't so anxious. No, sir! He got more sense than that."

"But suppose you get a nigger or two to sit on the jury. Why, there ain't a white man that'll sit in the same box with them. Every last white man will walk out of that box and stay out. They ain't going to sit with no niggers."

"But suppose even you find men willing to sit with niggers on the jury. Suppose you get ten white men and two niggers and these ten whites say the Scottsboro niggers are guilty and the two nigger jurymen say they ain't. Why, you know what will happen. Them white men will say, 'Nigger, if you votes to let them niggers go when we say they is guilty, why, we got to hold you responsible because you vote to set them free.'"

"Mister, I'm telling you right now there ain't no nigger in Morgan County that's going to be willing to sit on a jury or vote against the white men's decision knowing all this—and, Mister, they know it!"

The statements made by this southern gentleman is the statement one hears wherever one goes in Decatur, wherever one travels in Alabama. The notion of a black man passing upon justice with the same power of a white man is unheard of and "unprecedented" in the language of the Southern white.

"A nigger gets just as much justice as a white man," they all assure the inquirer. "Matter of fact, niggers sometimes gets more accommodation than the white man just because they're niggers. But, man, you can't start letting niggers run the law. And no white lawyer is coming down from the north and telling us that we got to do it, too. Don't you forget it!"

It seems to me that it is not the Scottsboro boys who are on trial now but the whole south's operation of the legal machinery insofar as Negroes are concerned. Neither Decatur nor any other town or city in Alabama or

CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

(An Editorial)

The passing of the month of March, marks a period of three years that Mr. Clifford Mitchell, an inmate of Jackson prison in Michigan, has written for The Advocate. During this time his copy has never once been late.

Since the first release was published under the caption, "Digesting the News", it has been syndicated and is now being used by nearly an hundred Race newspapers. In addition to this column, Mr. Mitchell also releases a weekly book review of some current publication, principally by and about Negroes; another release on "Prison and Prisoners", both of which are used in The Advocate as well as in a large number of other papers.

With this issue of The Advocate, we introduce to our readers another of Mr. Mitchell's releases called, "This and That" which formerly appeared exclusively in The Chicago Bee. The Advocate uses this material because of its merit and because it enhances the tone and worth of The Advocate to its readers.

It has been a source of real joy to us to watch the other papers, one by one, accepted his productions. Mr. Mitchell is to be complimented and praised for the excellent manner in which he utilizes his time. We dare say that none of us on the outside is doing any more than he is doing under his handicap which would have killed some of us.

We have thought a great deal about Mr. Mitchell and want to help in some way to his freedom. Again we wonder if the handicap under which he labors and serves, after all, is not a blessing in disguise and a stimulus to greater achievement. Some of the greatest men who ever lived, passed much of their lives in prison, but prison walls did not break their spirit and did not deter them from being of great value and service to mankind.

We do not mean by this that we think Mr. Mitchell ought to remain in prison. On the contrary, we think he ought to have his freedom right NOW! Whatever debt he may have owed society for which he was placed behind prison walls, we feel certain he has paid in full. But we cannot help but feel that he is to be envied that even though it came through incarceration in prison, that he has found himself. How few people ever find themselves!

The Advocate takes just pride in the fact that it was the first paper, after having tried for eight months, according to Mr. Mitchell, which accepted his releases; that we led out as it were, or rather, set the pace which an hundred other papers have gradually followed in giving due recognition to a worthy journalist. We do not feel however, that Mr. Mitchell is in any way indebted to us for giving him this recognition, but rather, that we are indebted to him for giving us the opportunity to accept his help and cooperation which has done a great deal to promote the welfare and advancement of The Advocate.

We hope the end of the three year period is the beginning of a period in which Mr. Mitchell will continue to contribute to The Advocate columns as long as he and The Advocate lives. Across the distance and through the walls, Mr. Mitchell, The Advocate extends its hand to greet and thank you for your unselfish assistance and cooperation. May this new beginning mark a new period of achievement for both yourself, The Advocate and humanity!

RED CROSS SEEKS HALF MILLION FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Washington, D. C. April 1—(ANP) An appeal for a fund of \$500,000 for the victims of the recent earthquakes in California, in which one Negro was killed, was issued here last week by the American Red Cross. This action was taken immediately following the proclamation by Governor Rolph of California, designating the American Red Cross as the official relief and rehabilitation agency in the earthquake zone.

anywhere in the Black Belt will permit Negroes on juries, and even if the white jury trying these boys accept them as the defense expects, the question of whit control over the machinery of law will have to come up again until it is definitely settled that a Negro's Constitutional rights are as sacred as a white man's.

21st Convention Held Portland Churches Represented At Older Girl's Conference

WHO IS THEODORE JORDAN?

(Conclusion)
Lynch methods of suppressing a minority race such as the Negro people of America, while the most spectacular expression of ruling class and race hatred, are by no means, the most effective. Subtle means of discrimination—of preventing the Negro masses from either political or social self-expression—are far-reaching and more vicious in their operation. We have already dealt, in an earlier issue, with one of these subtle weapons of the white ruling class and its lackeys: political disfranchisement. But still more significant are the educational and social discrimination practiced on a large scale—so large that any achievement on the part of a Negro in the sphere of cultural progress in America must be, and is, looked upon with awe and admiration.

A basic element to be considered in the problem of race-suppression is the physical well-being of that race. A glance at a few statistics from typical urban centers in America disclose a ghastly picture. The Negro death rate in Baltimore ranges from 60 to 70 per cent higher than the white death rate! Infant mortalities tabulated in comparative arrangement show: Kansas City, 80 white deaths, 172 Negro per 1000; Norfolk, Va., 53 white, 144 Negro per 1000; Louisville, Ky., 64 white, 175 Negro per 1000; Washington, D. C., 44 white, 134 Negro deaths per 1000. Do not such figures serve as a stinging indictment of America's treatment of the Negro people?

I could recite here columns of figures as glaring in their meaning—indicating a condition of economic suppression and social discrimination shocking in its implications. But the facts are everywhere obvious—Negroes, striving for advancement, and forced into lines of unskilled work, deprived of the right to live where and how they please, "Jim-Crowded" socially, industrially, politically. It is such a background which produced Theodore Jordan—a background intensified by the enmity of a lackey of vested, white ruling class interest.

Theodore Jordan explained that he learned to read and write at formal educational institutions. The rest of his education, he managed to grub out of various sources, against great handicaps. One can well believe him—and can understand the meaning behind his struggle, after a glance at a few more figures—which are far more than cold, black and white marks on paper—but the tragic indictment of this "white man's country", America! Taking some typical states, we see a wide discrepancy between the annual average expenditure for the education of a white child and that of a Negro child. Alabama spends for a white child, \$26.57—for a Negro, \$3.51; Arkansas, for a white child, \$13.36—for a Negro, \$6.48; Florida, for a white child, \$42.01—for a Negro \$7.33; Tennessee for a white child, \$21.02—for a Negro \$11.88. Figures are similar all through the list of states of size

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ed to the society editor of the Advertiser after his birthday.

"Many happy birthdays! Why sub that's all I'm done gonna have—They ain't no use not being happy—it don't cost nothing," he brightly explained. Richardson lives near the old South-west rail site, North of the Milwaukee railroad offices and roundhouse.

Richard Lovelace, secretary of the committee, stated: "This is a fight in which all veterans, regardless of race color, or political beliefs should participate. We should all get together and talk things over. We are sure that many Negro veterans could add valuable assistance in laying our plans. This is not a jim-crowding proposition, and we believe that Negro war veterans should feel it their responsibility to take part in the conference."

WRITER PRAISES THE ADVOCATE
"I found The Advocate quite interesting and much better in quality and make-up than most of the Negro papers we see here.

"I am a great follower of track and football and we here know almost as much about the great Robinson as you folks. Guess you know he is the greatest pole-vaulter ever turned out in our group! It was interesting to find your climate exactly like ours."

The letter was written by R. W. Gardner of Philadelphia, Pa., painter and artist.

WAR VETERANS CALLED
A conference of all war veterans, called by the United Veterans Provisional Committee, will be held Sunday, April 2, at 2 p. m. in the Central Labor Temple Auditorium, 4th and Jefferson streets. Howard Hanes, chairman of the committee, urges all Negro veterans to make an effort to attend the conference and participate in the discussions. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans for protesting the economy legislation of the federal government, whereby \$400,000,000 are being discontinued from payment and benefits to war veterans.

Reprinted from a Raymond, Wn. paper "I sure enjoyed my first Thanksgiving dinner in Raymond and I was mighty contented at Christmas time but I ain't fooling no one, when I say that my sixtieth birthday was the event of my life". Such is the proud declaration of James Calvin Davis Richardson, industrious Raymond Negro who celebrated his anniversary Monday, March 20. To make his birthday a happy event, the management of the Raymond Cafe baked a nice big cake for him and presented it to him Monday when he arrived at the cafe for his odd-job work there.