

Our Only Hope — "Changes on the Racial Fronts"

The signs of the growing maturity of race-relations in America is encouraging. Twenty years have wrought remarkable changes in race-relations.

And all this did not just happen — but because of the relentless fight staged by the N.A.A.C.P. as well as other liberal-minded persons and groups — a change had to be.

We are still in a war — a war against prejudice and intolerance: — ^{racial} bigotry — ^{racial} discrimination — and against racial stereotypes (so-called: folk art)

In speaking of changes on the racial fronts: let us take the "Marc Connelly" play: "Green Pastures": — a record in 1930 — played 640 performances (The Biblical Fantasy) it won the Pulitzer Prize

20 years ago — "Green Pastures" was considered by many as a classic of the American Theater, it was looked upon as genuine folklore. White liberals & even Negro intellectuals praised it highly because they thought the dramatic fable was sympathetic to Negroes. But the pages have turned. There is a change on the racial front. The age of the stereotype is behind & those days when "Digger Heaven" was a best seller & the literary set in Harlem called themselves "Niggeratti" — those days when the switch-blade humor of "Shuffle-Along" and "Black-birds" was hailed by Negroes & Whites during their highly successful Broadway runs, days when "Stepin Fetchit" and "Millie Best" were in their hey-day — and had as many Negro fans as white followers.

But Today! — the Negro refuse to accept the phony tag-line of folk-love as a cover & camouflage for what really are racial stereotypes. — The old minstrel show techniques: — yokes & yaks & yassing, of crap-shooting, razor-wielding, watermelon eating, wenching stereotypes — is revolting to the Negro. But more important is the fact that many whites will not accept this sickening spectacle as either good humor or valid theater, and they have joined on our side in this war.

Some say we can afford to laugh at the stereotypes because we are way ahead now: — we have Ralph Bunche, Mary McLeod Bethune, Adam Clayton Powell, Walter White, Thurgood Marshall and others! — True! but we cannot

we have Bunche & etc & we are proud

2 afford the luxury of stereotypes until Bunche, Powell, Marshall, White & Mrs. Bethune) rather than the crap-shooter is accepted by whites as a symbol of all U.S. Negroes, not until then, will there be peace on this racial issue.

Even our very young school children of this new day resents the word "Nigger" - "Coon" - even "Little Black Sambo" (dancing about molasses pancakes in heaven & etc) - altho it is classed by white educators as good literature - (Huckleberry Finn's reference to Nigger is resented)

All negroes do not carry ^{some} rayos ^{down} guns

"Negro women are not wenches"

"Negroes do not eat watermelon" ^{Some do it even eat chicken}

"Negroes do not shoot craps," ^{Bridge & ~~craps~~ they play Canasta too}

As I stated heretofore, we are still in a war & we are fighting for recognition as first class citizens - a right we have rightfully earned. Intolerant mentality that once dominated the American scene is taking a back seat.

Some may say: Freedom of speech is a part of democracy - True in a sense - ^{if this is a person penalized for injury or evasion} but when that freedom is abused to ^{the extent that one} falsify - misconstrue facts and meaning - when that speech stirs up hatred and inconsideration of minority groups - such freedom becomes folly and gives aid as well as comfort to the bigoted enemy - (which we today term "communism") Communism is a seed & unless it is planted in fertile soil it cannot take root & thrive but will die - a heart filled with intolerance, prejudice, hate and ^{other} bigoted attitudes is just the proper soil for communism to thrive on - Prejudice is something that cannot be localized - it has no geographical boundaries - cannot be placed in a concentration camp - or imprisoned in a place of confinement - because it's not a tangible thing, like the wind: it can't be seen & handle physically as a visible object - but Oh! the effects & results can be so disastrous ^{like the wind} we can definitely feel it.

Another change on the racial front:

1952 - No lynching in the U.S. - First such record since Tuskegee Institute, famed negro school, in Alabama, began keeping record in 1882 - Over this period of 70 years: there were 4,726 known lynchings ^{out} of which this number

3/ 3, 431 were Negroes. 1, 295 other than Negroes - according to Mr. F. D. Patterson, Pres. of Tuskegee.

Altho lynchings have diminished to the vanishing point (we hope) - there are other similar forms of violence and lawlessness: unnecessary brutality & killings by officers of the law of persons suspected or guilty of crimes, and a resurgence of the mob spirit expressed in beatings, floggings, incendiarism, bombings & the like. Bombing is a new form of intimidation - used where negro communities are expanding & demanding new housing & against jews & catholics & other minority groups.

In some instances the victims have been "leaders who" were thought to be too active in improving the status of their people" - The Harry T. Moore atrocity in Minn Fla. - it took the F.B.I. one year to apprehend the perpetrators. This particular incident was suspected sounded around the world, we played right into the hands of our enemies and by such actions helped to strengthen communism in ~~some~~ many places.

Because America is looked upon as a world leader, is all the more reason why our race-relations should be the very best, it is a problem of much concern to our sympathizers abroad. This problem of race is an international problem which affects American influence more than any other - The good book states: "Together we stand, divided we fall" and "If we bite & devour one another, we shall be consumed one of the other."

After all our preaching of equality and missionary work abroad, our friends & enemies abroad "just can't see for looking" (a slang expression) we preach equal rights, brotherhood, ^{and so the} love but we practice intolerance, display hatred - discriminate against those of a darker hue, different religion, ^{nationality} birth ^{place} - therefore as some one has said "your actions speak so loud I can't hear what you say"

We are definitely on the spot before the whole world because of our in-ability to equate the ideals of Democracy with our practice, in the area of racial justice.

America has become the proving ground for the type of democracy that is provided for in the Declaration of Independence & in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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A proving ground, because (it is a melting pot) & herein dwell representatives from every known nation and country upon the globe - each having their own peculiarities yet able to dwell together (peaceably) under the terms of democracy. When one fails to comply with the rules of democracy, there is no place - instead: unrest, fear, suspicion and hate. - Thus it brings about disruption and division within our country - a country divided against its self - cannot stand we must have internal unity to be able to resist the ^{force} pressure from without. ^{Together we stand} or ^{divided we fall.}

The destiny of our American Democracy depends on whether or not there is full equality for all its citizens regardless of race creed or color!

Discrimination against minorities is a very serious problem - it tends to demoralize and thus prevents the individual from doing his best.

To be blind (to act blind) to every wrong - while achievement made by the Negro - yet can see & point out every wrong (regardless of how small) that he do and immediately apply such behaviour to all negroes - is a major injustice - Even our press too often identify the Negro in connection with crime in particular) yet fail to identify other races - in connection with the same crime - Why? - Too often only unpleasant incidents get international publicity while outstanding achievements made by the Negro goes unnoticed.

Does this add or subtract from the morale of the Negro?

It definitely subtracts. It takes something out of him.

America should dedicate herself anew to the proposition that "all men are created ^{free} and equal" and should be permitted to enjoy the liberties & rights endowed upon him as free men.

Free people are happy people - easy to get along with free to worship their ^{living} God according to the dictates of their own conscience & under their own vine & fig tree, without being molested or discriminated against because of their (Freedom from Fear - secular religious belief. Security means so much. It means equal protection under the law. Good goes with

5/ equal pay - sufficient income to adequately meet the cost - increasing cost of living (all dollars carrying the same value regardless of through whose hands it pass - white or black) the value should not deteriorate when it pass through a black man's hand.

Secure in that our children are privileged to attend non-segregated schools & receive the very best in education.

Secure from Communism because we find complete satisfaction in a workable democracy.

It is fear that drives men to distraction & causes hysteria - uncontrollable emotions thus one possessed with fear falls victim to any false idea for disguised false security

The destiny of our American democracy will depend on whether or not there is full equality for all its citizens regardless of race, creed or color.

May the "Creator of all mankind" hasten on the day when character, not color, will determine the worth of a man.

We, as a minority group must watch as well as pray & keep our hearts with all diligence - lest we become bitter & arrogant - ~~Instead~~ We must strive to take these frustrations & dis-appointments as a stimulus to go on & fight fair even tho the going is rough at times.

To win this war against intolerance & bigotry is our only hope in this complicated world of today - we must have respect for the dignity of man - because changes are taking place on the racial front.