

LIGHT

A Bulletin of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

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AFTER WORLD WAR III

BY LESLIE TABI

"A fantasy about the absolutely absolute weapon."

(Three shabbily dressed men are sitting in what used to be the main street of a ruined city.)

FIRST MAN: The trouble was that the front ran too close to our house. Toward the end, Brazilians were fighting in the bathroom while some Swedes were breaking into the parlor.

SECOND MAN: (angrily): I'm fed up with your stories. All you can talk about is the war!

THIRD MAN: He talks as if he were the sole survivor of World War III. (Somewhat irritated.) Look, sir, we all know they were difficult times but you weren't the only one who suffered!

SECOND MAN: (to First) You never stopped talking even after the Second World War.

THIRD MAN: Let's thank the Lord that at least we three survived this holocaust. Imagine, just three human survivors—out of more than two billion people! We really can't complain. (He knocks wood.)

SECOND MAN: I think we ought to discuss how we could best secure world peace in the future. The world cannot be inflamed again!

THIRD MAN: Right you are!

FIRST MAN: Incidentally, speaking of flames. (Pulls a box of matches from his pocket.) This is all we have left—eight matchsticks.

SECOND MAN: (anxiously): Did you make a thorough search?

FIRST MAN: Yes, through every major industrial area of the world. We have a cigarette supply to last for 20 million years. Scores of cigarette plants are left intact. But there is not a single match factory left. They were all blown up.

THIRD MAN: Is Madrid still burning?

SECOND MAN: And Ankara?

FIRST MAN: Yes, both are still burning.

SECOND MAN: Good, we can use them instead of matches.

THIRD MAN: They won't burn forever! New York burned for only two

years. We have to discuss this match problem. It's a long-range question.

SECOND MAN: I can imagine more important things to discuss. How about the question of territorial claims?

FIRST MAN: That's right. We'll have to make some arrangements. (To Third Man) We appoint you chairman of the conference.

THIRD MAN: I accept the difficult office and will do everything in my power to justify your confidence. The floor is now open for debate.

FIRST MAN: (standing up): Gentlemen! World War III devastated the whole world, but we three survived to emerge victoriously from it, vanquishing all the forces of reaction!

SECOND AND THIRD MAN: Long live the victorious Allies!

FIRST MAN: (continuing) We who

HELP WANTED

Will you assist us to gather material for *Light*? Send us brief factual accounts of the social action projects which your church has undertaken. These may be programs to improve race relations, to curb delinquency, to strengthen marriage and family relations or any one of many practical applications of Christian social action to areas of social need. Write us now!

were destined to survive this immeasurable cataclysm have a grave responsibility. We must secure peace and tranquility for mankind! (sits down while Second and Third Man applaud vigorously.)

THIRD MAN: Please come forward with your territorial claims. (To First Man) Which continents do you intend to annex?

FIRST MAN: The Southern Hemisphere—Africa, Australia, and South America.

THIRD MAN: (to Second Man): And you?

SECOND MAN: Europe and Asia.

THIRD MAN: (irritated): That would leave only North America for me.

FIRST MAN: Don't be funny. North America was the world's richest continent, what with the United States on it. There were 174 million people living in North America and now you seem to think that it isn't big enough for you alone.

SECOND MAN: All right, you may have Greenland, too.

THIRD MAN: You can keep such bargains!

SECOND MAN: Please, gentlemen, let's not deepen the crisis. (To Third Man) America is great and full of promises. It has two oceans to protect it. I simply must have Europe since that is the strategic approach to Asia. I must safeguard my boundaries.

THIRD MAN: (to First Man) Why don't you give me South America?

FIRST MAN: I'm not crazy. Please don't forget the contributions and sacrifices I made to our common victory.

SECOND MAN: Gentlemen! We must not permit this conflict to threaten another war.

THIRD MAN: You can't bully me! Do you think I'm afraid of you because you have the only revolver left in the world?

FIRST MAN: Gentlemen, gentlemen, please—Here we are, only three of us left. One would think the earth is big enough for three men.

SECOND MAN: If it's big enough for you, why don't you give up Australia?

FIRST MAN: Well . . . it isn't that big.

THIRD MAN: You see. And yet you expect me to accept just one continent.

SECOND MAN: I want to offer a motion. Since we can evidently reach no agreement on the question of our territorial claims, I move to postpone the decision pending further investigation and study.

FIRST MAN: Second the motion.

THIRD MAN: All agreed raise their hands. Motion accepted. I now move to return the question of distribution of matches to the agenda.

(Continued on Page 4)

Race Relations

A Southern Editor Speaks:

OUR DISGRACEFUL NEGRO SCHOOLS

(An Editorial from the Jackson, Miss. Daily News.)

Whether we like it or not, the Supreme Court of the United States has declared that Mississippi, in common with other Southern States, must provide equal educational opportunities for Negroes. No use fussing, cussing, or fuming about it.

That decision is the law of the land and we have no alternative save to obey.

It is far better to obey promptly, cheerfully, and in our own way, than to be forced to do so.

In the matter of education we have for many years been treating Negroes most outrageously. The type of education we have been providing for them is nothing short of a disgrace. It might well be called a public scandal.

SOME UGLY FACTS

Let's face a few of the ugly facts—not all of the ugly facts, for it would take too long to tell the whole story. Statements that follow are based on official reports in our state department of education.

The estimated value today of all school property in Mississippi being used for white children is \$57,000,000.

The estimated value today of all school property being used for colored children is only \$11,000,000.

According to the latest survey there are in our State 3,700 Negro school-houses, but not all of them are school property. About 2,300 of these buildings are owned by counties and communities, and many of them are the old Julius Rosenwald school buildings constructed at the time when that great philanthropist was spending money freely in Mississippi.

Over 1,400 of the buildings now being used to house Negro schools belong to churches and Negro fraternal bodies. Some of them are tenant cabins used where no other structures are available. As a matter of fact, Negro churches and fraternal organizations in our State are furnishing nearly one-half of what little Negro children get in the way of educational facilities. It is a shame and a disgrace that such should be the case.

Our white rural schools, as a rule, are fairly well maintained, but Negro schools are poorly equipped, shabby, dilapidated, and unsightly. Go into any rural school building for Negroes and see for yourself how things are. Almost without exception they are one-room structures, rickety stoves are propped up on brickbats, blackboards are absent or worn to the point of uselessness, sanitation is sadly lacking, and the common drinking cup is still in use.

In many hundreds of instances it will be found that one Negro teacher is struggling along trying to teach children in all the grammar school grades.

Here in the county of Hinds, wealthiest in the commonwealth, our school facilities for Negroes are so poor and shabby that churches and lodges are furnishing 18 of the buildings in which Negro schools are housed.

OFFICIAL HONESTY LACKING

Moreover, in recent years we have not had official honesty in the matter of providing for Negro schools. During the administration of Gov. Thomas L. Bailey a legislative survey committee, headed by Senator John Kyle, studied our public school system and submitted a report to the lawmaking body—a report that should have made our people blush for shame. It fully revealed the appalling conditions in our Negro schools and gave the legislature such a shock that it was decided to vote an appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the purpose of aiding communities in the construction of new school buildings.

It was a sort of gentleman's agreement, fully understood among lawmakers who voted for the appropriation, that this money would be used for the improvement of Negro schools. But it didn't happen that way. The fund was administered by the State Building Commission. Due to political pressure, and other causes, most of that \$3,000,000 was spent on white schools. It was explained by the commission that in most rural areas the Negro schools had no way of raising funds to supplement state allowances and they received practically no help from boards of supervisors.

In other words, that \$3,000,000 appropriation—a sum wholly inadequate for the purpose—was a good gesture, a "noble experiment," and all that sort of thing, but the Negro schools for which it was intended didn't get the benefit.

OUTMODERN THEORY

And it has been that way for so long that the mind of man runneth not to the contrary. It has been that way quite too long and it must quit being that way. Our educational theory of "all for the white folks and nothing for the Negro" must be abandoned.

The Daily News here and now serves notice that when the next legislative session is convened this newspaper, aided and supported by a large majority of the newspapers in Mississippi, is going to wage a fight to see to it that a good portion of that treasury surplus, about which there has been so much boasting, and on which so many avaricious eyes have been cast, is used to provide a decent educational system for Negroes.

It is well nigh unbelievable, but it happens to be a fact that in an area nearly two miles square in great and growing Jackson, Mississippi's biggest, best and most progressive city, there is not a single Negro school building.

It happens to be a fact throughout the State that in some Negro school buildings there is not even standing room for pupils. In many cases hardworking teachers are trying to do the best possible with a deplorable condition by teaching Negro children in two or three shifts each day. Under such conditions the children get little or nothing in the way of education.

LAW OF THE LAND

The United States Supreme Court has decreed equal educational opportunity for the races. That's the law of the land. It must be obeyed.

It is up to our lawmaking body to handle this question intelligently, to meet all phases fairly and squarely. Whatever may exist in the way of race prejudice must be thrust aside and a program prepared that will deal justly with the Negro race.

An Educator Speaks:

DR. HOWARD W. ODUM'S 21 POINT GOAL FOR THE SOUTH AND THE NATION

(Dr. H. W. Odum, a native of Georgia is recognized as one of the country's leading sociologists. Years of careful analysis and specialized study stand behind the following points.)

1. "First, to abide by the decisions of the United States Supreme Court on these matters as on all others.

2. To adjust our culture and economy to national "civil-rights" legislation for which apparently a clear majority of the people of the United States have voted and to do it in such ways as to reduce outside interference to the minimum. This is a democratic America, governed by majorities through geographic representation to safeguard against the tyranny both of majorities and minorities. The democratic way is to "try it."

3. To stop, at all costs, prevailing lawlessness by violence and by evasion. This means in every community and in every state, sharp warnings, strict law enforcement, severe penalties within the law.

4. To continue the sure and steady progress which the South has made toward increasingly greater opportunity for all people to have access to resources and work in the South or to migrate to other regions where nearer equal opportunities may be guaranteed.

5. To accelerate the prevailing Southern processes of improving race relations and of increasing and equalizing educational facilities for all the people.

6. To provide professional and higher graduate instruction for qualified individuals of both races in the same institutions.

7. To continue progress in agricultural, economic, and industrial development and in the conservation and use of resources.

8. To continue progress in public services, as in public education, public welfare, highways, conservation.

9. To help all southerners see the justice of today's normal wants of Negro people.

10. To help the whole nation understand the problems—human, political, and economic—in changing a bi-racial civilization rooted in two centuries of growth.

11. More specifically, to convert from segregation to non-segregation in many practicable areas such as transportation and other public services.

12. To guarantee opportunity for all citizens to vote without hindrance, and to eliminate the poll tax.

13. To work for effective legislation toward the sure elimination of lynching.

14. And to do all of these calmly in the climate of what the Alsop brothers and others accurately describe as "The hatred of southern influence in Congress" and of the accelerated propaganda, inter-regional conflict, regional libel and name calling currently prevailing.

15. Again, to undertake a comprehensive and a scientific inventory of the South and the nation so as to provide specifications for the future, in which the promise and costs of conversion from general segregation to attainable programs of non-segregation may be examined, revised, and adopted.

16. And finally, this calls for a greater degree of cultural and political maturity than the South now has, and by the same token a striving for that maturity which is the goal of the good society.

17. Still more, willingness to re-examine the basis of the southern credo as a substitute for protest, bitterness, and secession-mindedness.

18. In the face of bitter attack and vested frustration by many irresponsibles, isolated from the reality of living democracy, to protect the great mass of Negroes from outsiders who would weaken or destroy their extraordinary systems of schools, churches, industry, and self developed programs which have amazed the world by their mastery and by the effectiveness of their training grounds for progress and leadership.

19. In this traditional era to stop, through wholesome methods, the almost universal trend toward frustration of Negro youth growing from ideologies of despair, bitterness, hate, and aggression; and through interracial co-operation to substitute hope based on both promise and actuality.

20. To stop being afraid of democracy. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of southerners are saying in substance, "Let's try some of these things out; maybe they will work, but if not we will keep on trying."

21. And finally, somehow to stop this intersectional bitterness and to do the job before us in spite of all the complexities and cultural immaturity of

many groups to take the controls away from partisan extremists; to guard against those ideas and acts which seek to inflame and divide the people through irresponsible agitation and violence."

NOTES ON KKK

Governor Fuller Warren of Florida is determined to smash the KKK. He has asked the 1949 legislature to outlaw it and "any other terrorist organization" in Florida.

The Klan reckoned without its host when recently its motorcade of 43 cars entered Tallahassee, the State Capitol, and staged a parade through the streets. Some of the Klansmen were from other states and some of the cars they rode in did not display proper license tags. Tallahassee's Sheriff considered that driving a car with covered license plates was a violation of the law and promptly rounded up six of the automobiles. He later explained, "I just thought that if they were going to take over, they ought to do it according to law."

Governor Warren was even more direct. He called the Klansmen "hooded hoodlums" and "sheeted jerks." He said that their parade in Tallahassee was a "disgusting and alarming spectacle." Then came this blast, "Those covered cowards who call themselves Klansmen quite obviously have set out to terrorize minority groups in Florida as they have

ADMISSION OF NEGROES FAVORED IN A & M POLL

Stillwater, Feb. 25.—Most of Oklahoma A & M students think Negroes should be allowed to take courses here not offered at Langston Negro University.

Their sentiments were shown in a poll conducted by the Daily O'Collegian, college newspaper.

Two Negroes have applied for admission. Their applications are being considered.

34TH SPINGARN MEDAL TO DR. RALPH BUNCHE

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting United Nations mediator in the Middle East, has been awarded the 34th Spingarn Medal, it was announced recently by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The medal, established in 1914 by the late J. E. Spingarn, longtime official of NAACP, is given annually to the American Negro deemed to have made "the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor." It is awarded by vote of a committee of nine.

Formal presentation to Dr. Bunche will be on July 17 at the NAACP 40th annual conference in Los Angeles, Calif.

Christianity is essentially a social religion, and to turn it into a solitary one is to destroy it.—John Wesley.

Comic Books And Juvenile Delinquency

J. E. Schmidt

Reputable publications like The Saturday Review of Literature, The Reader's Digest, The Saturday Evening Post and The Pathfinder have recently called attention to comic books as the outstanding cause of crimes being committed by juveniles.

The printing and distributing of these so-called comic books has become big business. It is estimated that 60,000,000 comic books are put on sale each month. The customary price is 10 cents per copy. The money spent for these books would be sufficient to start a new university each year, provide yearly scholarships of \$1,000 to 52,000 college students and build settlement houses in hundreds of slum districts.

My attention was first called to the danger lurking in these comic books by an article, "The Case That Rocked New Jersey," that appeared in The Saturday Evening Post of August 7, 1948. The article told of the shooting of a highly respected citizen of West Orange by three boys about 11 and 12 years of age, the shooting being the culmination of a series of robberies staged by these boys.

"The boys had no practical use for large sums of money. They either received allowances from their parents or earned enough at odd jobs—not to mention the cash they had stolen—to keep them in candy, movies and toys. But money was the motive of most big-shot criminals they had read about, and money was what they had to have. Accordingly, when they found that they could not convert the stolen goods to cash, they decided to get more by robbing a man at gun's point."

Dr. Wertham believes 75 per cent of parents are against the worst type of comic books. He suggests they protest granting second-class mailing privileges to the companies publishing them. He further states: "The mass production of comic books is a serious danger to the production of good inexpensive children's books."

Since these revelations were published many cities have taken steps to ban the sale of crime books. Among the first to act were Detroit, Minneapolis and Indianapolis. Reports indicate that the movement to clean up newsstands has now spread to more than 50 cities over the country.

Several druggists associations have taken a firm stand against their members selling some comic and all crime books. Automatically a large number of newsstands are thus cleaned up, because nearly all drug stores have newsstands.—Civic Bulletin.

(Editor's note: Have you checked the newsstands in your community to see what children can buy?)

CALIFORNIA WETS LIED ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Editorial in "The Liberator," Feb. 1949
Glendale, California

Before the recent election there was a great campaign in California, which State has no local option law, in favor of an amendment to their State Constitution making a local option law possible. In that campaign the wets shamefully vilified Abraham Lincoln, a lifelong total abstainer and prohibitionist, by quoting statements as from him which he never made.

The following editorial from the February issue of "The Liberator," published at Glendale, California, gives some true statements of Abraham Lincoln on the liquor question:

"Californians were shocked by the blatant, scurrilous attacks made upon the memory of Abraham Lincoln during the Campaign for Local Liquor Control last Fall. Hundreds of billboards carrying the picture of the Great Emancipator tried to convince the voters that Lincoln was against Local Control in California by putting these words into his mouth:

"A Prohibition law strikes at the foundation of good government." A telephone call to the office of the Southern California Business Men's Association (sponsors of the billboards) informs us that they will not make public the source of this quotation. No reason for the refusal was offered. It just cannot be released. Of course it cannot be released. . . it does not exist!

WHAT DID LINCOLN REALLY SAY?

"We have cleaned up a colossal job. Slavery is abolished. The next question will be the overthrow and the abolition of the liquor traffic, and my head, and heart and hand and purse will go into that work."

"The liquor traffic has defenders, but no defense."

"The legalized liquor traffic is the tragedy of civilization . . . a cancer in society. It must be eradicated. Not a root must be left behind."

After World War III

(Continued from Page 1)

SECOND MAN: The match should be the common property of mankind. I suggest that we distribute the matchsticks equally among all three.

FIRST MAN: I think that is a preposterous idea. First of all, why should the matches be common property of mankind when I found them? Second, you cannot divide eight by three.

SECOND MAN: What do you propose?

FIRST MAN: I propose to give you each two matchsticks while retaining four together with the box.

THIRD MAN: You can't get away with such a proposal. I'll veto it!

SECOND MAN: Please, control yourself.

FIRST MAN: It's a shame, spending our precious time on fruitless debate instead of starting on the reconstruction of the world.

THIRD MAN: How do you like that? He has the matches and condemns the debate. Give us the matches and we'll start reconstructing, don't worry. (There is a pause.)

FIRST MAN: Pardon me, gentlemen. . . I move a short recess. (He goes out. Second Man watches him leave, then starts whispering excitedly into Third Man's ear.)

THIRD MAN: It's an idea. (He seizes a club.) Let's go!

SECOND MAN: Don't you think we ought to send him a fairly worded note first?

THIRD MAN: We can send it afterward. We cannot sacrifice the element of surprise. (Exit both. In a moment there are sounds of blows, angry cries, then the death rattle of the First Man. Second and Third Man return.)

THIRD MAN: I think we deserve mankind's gratitude for routing the common enemy. O. K. now give me four matchsticks.

SECOND MAN: Four? Why four?

THIRD MAN: Half of the booty.

SECOND MAN: You have no sense

of justice. Whose idea was the whole expedition?

THIRD MAN: Yes, but I delivered the first blow.

SECOND MAN: That's immaterial. You may have three matchsticks if you like. (Third Man lifts the club in fury. Second Man draws the revolver and fires at him. Third Man collapses. Second Man sits down quietly and lights a cigarette with one of the matches.)

THIRD MAN (dying): For heaven's sake. . . What have you done!

SECOND MAN: I have finally secured eternal peace for mankind.

—United Nations World, Nov. 1947.

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COSTLIEST INITIATION

Dr. Howard W. Haggard of Yale University, noted worker on the problems of alcoholism, refers to Alcoholics Anonymous as "the club with the highest initiation fees ever charged by any club in the history of the world."

Entrants to Alcoholics Anonymous pay no cash fee. Instead, the only qualification they need for membership is that they must be alcoholics who have found out by bitter experience that they cannot free themselves from alcohol without the aid of others. That's the high fee they pay.

NAM PRESIDENT CITES NEED FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Wallace F. Bennett, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, at three regional meetings in the South, said recently, "Industrial management has the responsibility to prove that freedom of enterprise exists as much for employees as for employers by demonstrating it in action in our plants."

Re-emphasizing the need for spiritual leadership, Mr. Bennett continued, "If free enterprise is to be saved, it must be shared. If it stops at the front office it is doomed, but if it floods the plant and fills the lives of everyone there, no one can destroy it."

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