

LIGHT

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Number 8

CHRISTIAN COLLEGES AND COLOR

By Dr. DeWitt Matthews, Pastor
Vineville Baptist Church, Macon

One trend has become as clear as sunlight in recent years. It is the development of a social conscience concerning opportunities for advancement among minority groups of our citizens.

No intelligent American can continue to ignore this trend. It is discussed wherever one goes. More often than formerly the discussions are marked by objectivity and reason. Some people still refuse to talk about it. Others cannot do it without their reason abdicating in favor of their emotions.

Nevertheless, the subject is out in the clear now. It is no longer given the hush-hush treatment. It is a problem that must be faced not only to give the lie to totalitarian propagandists that our democracy is a farce, but also to retain our self-respect. The fact that many citizens, because of race, religion and color are victims of discrimination is giving many Americans an uneasy conscience.

Equal Treatment

There is increasing evidence that minority groups who, because of race, religion and color, have been forced into a second rate status will yet get their best chance to be on a par with other citizens.

The clamor for equal educational opportunities is winning a hearing. Only the most unthinking person can still avoid this demand. The south is trying to provide better school facilities for Negroes under the slogan "equal but separate," but progress is held up because of the enormous cost involved.

Graduate schools in Arkansas, Kentucky, Texas and Oklahoma are admitting a few qualified Negro students. Catholics are trying to meet the problem by opening some of their schools to Negroes. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's trustees are considering an insistent plea by 84.7 of the student body that Negro ministers be admitted to its classrooms.

Removing Inequalities

The trend is definitely toward removing inequalities in educational opportunities for Negroes, but there is wide disagreement as to procedure.

Mr. Truman's committee on discrimination in the armed services reports a

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THE REPEAL ERA

Official data released by the Bureau of the Census and the Department of Commerce reveal the following facts:

1. Alcoholic beverage consumption increase 154%—from 8.37 gallons per capita in 1934, to 21.25 in 1949 (fiscal years).

2. Expenditures for alcoholic beverages increased 323%—from \$2,080,000, in 1934 to \$8,550,000,000 in the calendar year 1949.

3. From 1932 to 1947, there was a 266% increase of dependent families.

4. There was a 32% increase in the violent crime rate, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports.

5. The same period shows a 52% increase in the number of women sentenced to federal prisons.

6. There has been a 73% increase in hospital admissions of alcoholics without psychosis.

7. Now, hear this—This period during which we have been "relieved" of the incubus of prohibition, registered a

272% increase in the number of dependent children, from 270,000 in 1933, to 1,006,000 in 1947.

—These facts are turned up by Operation Digger, of the American Business Men's Research Foundation.

MEN OF DISTINCTION

The Editor of *Listen*, Journal of the American Temperance Society, reports results of interviews with 200 inmates recently admitted to the Washington State Penitentiary. The men were interviewed simply in order of their commitments. There was no selection of "cases". The questions covered quite a range of personal and social histories. And, says the *Listen* Editor further, the responses were checked against prison records.

It looks like a fair "scientific" sampling, leaving only the framing of the questions and the skill of the interviewer as the unknown elements. Making al-

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OUR LEADERS SHOULD FACE ALCOHOL FACTS

CORRESPONDENCE ON THE A&P ARTICLE

In the September issue of *LIGHT* we had an item on the A&P grocery chain. There were 10,000 copies of *LIGHT* that were mailed last month. We received only one letter from a reader in South Carolina objecting to our "revelation" of facts on the other side of the story, and, especially for quoting from the *CIO News* which he doubts has "ever printed the truth."

There are some more facts that might have been printed. These are from the *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD* for March 20, 1950. On pages 3,744 and following, the reader will find that the A&P chain was found guilty of short-weighting customers 41 times in the District of Columbia. On three occasions it has been fined for Sherman anti-trust violations; on four other occasions it has consented without contest to court orders forbidding it further price fixing or coercive tactics against competitors. It is also pointed out that while the A&P cuts prices in a newly invaded community to eliminate the small grocer's competition, they raise prices in other places where they have become established and thus balance the loss sustained while removing the competition.

It should be pointed out again that you do not get these facts for several reasons. It would not be "good business" for newspapers to share in the millions of dollars that the A&P spends to tell the public that they are "honest" and have the welfare of mankind uppermost in their minds, while at the same time printing facts like these. Again the Justice Department which is prosecuting the case does not have money to spend to buy advertising space in which to print the facts.—H.A.B.

CHRISTIAN COLLEGES AND COLOR (Continued from Page 1)

surprising amount of progress toward "equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons," even as the president ordered in July, 1948. After 22 months of the committee's prodding, Negroes are being given equal consideration in all three branches of the military service. The change over is not complete, for such an innovation will take time.

This age is conscious of its social responsibility, and injustices long permitted are now being publicized. The fact that the armed services, labor unions, and an increasing number of state and Catholic colleges are eliminating discrimination against Negroes is piling up the pressure upon denominational colleges.

What of Baptists?

What will be the outcome? What will Southern Baptists do? Will they make greater financial concessions to Negro Baptist colleges, and thus make them equal to those that white Baptists attend, or will they consent for a limited

number of qualified Negro students enroll in their colleges? Repeated Supreme Court rulings against discrimination in state colleges indicate that when and if educational facilities are equalized, state schools will make this change before denominational schools do.

Church sponsored colleges are being placed in the position of admitting that what Christ could not lead them to do, legal action is forcing state colleges to perform. Enormous tax monies will enable states to provide colleges for Negroes on a par with those that white students attend long before denominational colleges can.

Can Christian colleges cope with this growing color consciousness?

—Christian Index

A TOUGH QUESTION

"This morning we had the pleasure, along with others, of meeting with 17 French trade union officials studying American labor education methods. They are one of the groups brought over for the purpose by ECA. Here in Chicago their host is Frank McCallister, labor education director of Roosevelt College. During the four days they have been here, Frank has introduced them to community and labor leaders, toured them through slums and plants, and shown them everything they wanted to see. But throughout their stay they've been hammering away on one question: Why do you tolerate racial discrimination and segregation? As non-Communist leaders, this is the hardest question they have to answer at home. The Communists really work us over on this score. The French unionists got honest answers, with no punches pulled. But the only answer the United States can ever make is to whip racism, and do it fast" . . . —Francis McPeck.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

—Edmund Burke

SEPARATE BUT "EQUAL"

Old Jim Crow has many friends in the South who have been grossly misled by the "bird." The theory of segregation, still held by many, is defended on the grounds that separate but equal facilities are provided for those who are to be segregated.

From the United States Office of Education the following figures come to show that someone has misinformed us about the "separate but equal" idea:

Ten southern states in 1945-48 had schools for white children valued at \$250 per pupil; the same states had schools for Negro children valued at \$48 per pupil. In 1947-48 the figures were \$271 per white pupil and \$67 per Negro pupil.

To provide equal school facilities today would require an expenditure of \$400,000,000 on Negro schools.

—Copied.

ATLANTA SCHOOLS UNDER NAAACP LEGAL ATTACK

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, accepting Governor Herman Talmadge's challenge, recently filed a suit to open Atlanta's elementary and high schools to Negro pupils. Following the Supreme Court decisions in the Sweatt and McLaurin cases, Talmadge announced that as long as he was governor Negroes and whites would not be permitted to attend the same schools in Georgia.

The suit, filed in the United States District Court here on September 18, asks the court to issue a permanent injunction "forever restraining" the Atlanta Board of Education from denying colored elementary and high school students, "the rights and privileges of attending public schools where they may receive educational opportunities, advantages and facilities equal to those afforded to white children."

Instituted in the name of 213 elementary and high school students, this suit is the second of its kind to be filed attacking segregation in the South in schools below the college level. The other suit is now ready for trial in Clarendon County, South Carolina.

Simultaneously with the filing of the Atlanta suit, a petition on behalf of 30 additional school children was submitted to the Georgia State Board of Education, appealing from the refusal of the local board to provide equal educational facilities for Negroes.

Listing public elementary and secondary schools in Atlanta to which Negro children are denied admission the District Court complaint points out that these "white schools" are far superior to the schools attended by Negro children in buildings, sites, heating, sanitary facilities, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, study halls, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, offices, rest rooms, clinics, infirmaries, stadia and other equipment.

It also charges that Negro children are denied "curricula and programs of instruction, programs for academic, scientific, commercial, cultural, artistic, physical and recreational development, with guidance and counseling of pupils and organized extra-curricula activities; equal in terms of quantity, quality, efficiency, diversity and value" to those offered white students. Inequalities in teaching staff are also cited.

In Little Rock a non-discriminatory hiring program set up by Ottenheimer Brothers Garment Manufacturing Company has entered its seventh year with results the manufacturer terms "grand."

The company started the policy because of a war-time shortage of help, but now has made the program permanent, hiring approximately 145 Negroes in the past two-and-one-half years.

Negroes and whites work side by side, receiving the same pay and benefits.

MEN OF DISTINCTION

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lowing for these, and also for the known tendency of all convicted criminals to rationalize their behavior, the findings on one subject—drink—are too definite to be explained away. Of the 200, 189 acknowledged they drank alcoholic beverages; 95 claimed to have been "under the influence" when they committed their offenses; 41 definitely blamed drink for their troubles, and 120 admitted that alcohol was somehow involved in the crimes for which they had been convicted. And what were the offenses? There were 30 committed for sex crimes, 16 for assault, 7 for murder, 4 for manslaughter, 52 for theft and robbery, 48 for grand larceny, and 40 for forgery.

Here are 189 men whose presence behind bars is intertwined in various ways with the use of liquor. We pity them as much as we blame them. For the same product pictured so glamorously in the hands of men whom the distillers call "distinguished" played a part in putting these unfortunates where they are.

"THE FEW"

Licensed Beverage Industries, Inc., opened its 1948-50 publicity campaign with a very interesting advertisement:

This industry does not want the patronage of the few who abuse the right to drink in moderation.

This advertisement has been highly praised by some state liquor administrators. We appreciate the industry's announced desire to encourage moderation—or, more exactly, to encourage drinking and moderation at the same time—but we suggest to them a possible improvement in their advertisement:

This industry does not want the patronage of the few—some 800,000 alcoholics and 6,000,000 excessive drinkers in the United States, to be specific—who abuse the right to drink in moderation.

As a clincher to their campaign against excessive drinking, we suggest they might add a question to their advertisement, directing it to potential new drinkers: "Are you sure that YOU can take it better than the 6,000,000 who couldn't, once they got started?"

—Copied

"SOCIALIZED MEDICINE"

vs.

HEALTH INSURANCE

An intensive campaign to "educate the American public" has been undertaken by the American Medical Association. It is estimated that some \$20,000,000 will be spent by the AMA, drug firms and other interests to counteract President Truman's proposal that the United States government make health insurance available for every American.

During the month of October alone, the AMA allocated \$1,110,000 for this

advertising drive. It boasts that a five-column, 14-inch deep ad headed "Who Runs America?" ran in 10,333 newspapers during the week of October 8.

Every bona fide daily and weekly paper in the U. S. as well as Hawaii and Alaska carried the ad, says the AMA. These ads appeared in daily papers on Oct. 11, and in Sunday newspaper supplements on Oct. 15, including the *American Weekly, This Week, Parade*, and 28 independent Sunday magazine sections, with an estimated total circulation of more than 38 million reports the weekly "Editor and Publisher."

In addition, the AMA has a series of "tie-in" ads which it has offered to 25,000 big firms, to local business firms of all kinds, and to 7000 members of the National Retail Dry Goods Association.

Mentioning the \$20 million which it has been estimated will be spent altogether in the campaign against the health program, Sen. James E. Murray (D. Mont.), one of the sponsors of the bill to set up a National Health Program for the benefit of the American people, called it "a tragic waste when you consider what it could buy in the way of better health for more citizens."

The Senator said he hoped "that this lavish expenditure of funds to work against the welfare of millions of Americans will backfire by calling attention to the present lack in the national health picture and making millions of Americans want to learn the facts about the Administration's health program."

"I hope every American who reads or hears this anti-health propaganda will realize what the \$20 million it will cost could have brought in the way of medical care."

Here are some of the things it could do, Sen. Murray said:

1. Pay for more than one year's average medical care for more than 160,000 families in the \$3,000-a-year bracket; or
2. Pay medical school tuition for four years for 9,000 students who could care for six million patients after they become doctors; or
3. Pay for the training of 5,500 heart specialists to combat the annual death tolls of heart disease of more than 600,000.

Rep. John D. Dingell (D. Mich.) another sponsor of the National Health Program bill, in a blistering attack on the AMA's so-called "educational campaign," said that it "is designed to spread by massive injections of untruths, lies, distortions, and innuendoes, a contagious infection among our people so that they will fall victims to the big-lie technique of the medical lobby's propagandists. (Dingell was referring to the AMA's husband-and-wife high-paid publicists, Clem Whitaker and Leone Baxter, who are directing the anti-National Health

THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF

(The Co-operative Movement)

"For, brethren, ye have been called into liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." (Galatians 5:13-15).

A little over one hundred years ago, 28 Rochdale weavers organized a Co-op. Today, in 40 nations, Co-ops for production, credit, marketing and purchasing have over 150,000,000 members.

Still many people ask: What are Co-ops? The answers alternate between: **Charges:**

A treat to free enterprise,
A competitive menace to the small business man,
Socialistic, communistic,
A sector of business that doesn't pay taxes,
A foreign system that threatens to take over our whole economy,
A selfish scheme to save a few pennies at the expense of honest merchants and business men,
and Counter-claims:

A legitimate form of free enterprise,
A help to the small business man by challenging big business and by spreading purchasing power,
The application of true democracy to our economic system,
All Co-ops pay most taxes;
Most Co-ops pay all taxes,
An American system which actually handles only a minor fraction of total American business,
A legitimate form of self-help and self-service operated on a non-profit basis. Which of these claims are true???

(Watch next month's issue for more discussion on Co-ops.)

Program drive.) They receive \$100,000 a year for their services.

"These doctors of public opinion are seeking to doctor, drug and slug the American people into believing the crude big lie that sickness is health; that insurance is socialism and communism; that the President's plan for National Health Insurance is socialized medicine."

**FAIR EMPLOYMENT
SOUTHERN SCENE**

An outbreak of racial violence occurred at the Memphis International Harvester Company plant when several Negroes were attacked by white workers in protest over the upgrading of a 38-year-old Negro employee to a job as crane operator.

The company, despite the interruption in production, stood firm behind a statement that "International Harvester promotes employees on merit and seniority" and the promotion stuck and peace returned.

A TALE OF TWO STORIES

By Allan L. Swinn

About a dozen years ago, while working as a labor reporter, I was assigned to cover a river-front warehouse strike.

I wrote two stories. One told about the failure of negotiations and the walkout and picketing that followed. It was printed. The other told about the warehouse at which there was no strike. It wasn't printed.

Looking back at the incident, I am convinced that the story was filed in the wastebasket was more important than the one that appeared on page one. It explained how a business firm and its employees had been able to work out mutual problems without conflict or any discord.

A strike makes news. Amicable settlement of problems doesn't. That's the reason most people who are not familiar with management-labor relations have the idea that industry and union are constantly at each other's throats. Each year, some 100,000 contracts between management and labor groups are signed—and from 97,000 to 98,000 of them are agreed to without strikes.

Department of Labor figures give a fairly good idea of the magnitude of strikes. In 1948, for example, the total time lost because of strikes amounted to only thirty-seven one hundredths of one percent of all time worked. Last year, the figure rose to fifty-nine one hundredths of one per cent.

Usually good management-labor relations result from the simple fact that management and labor groups learn to understand and appreciate the problems of each other. Both groups, however, have to work at the job. There are quite a few examples of groups that instituted new schemes and techniques in successful attempts to create and maintain good relations.

One of the most outstanding of these can be found at George A. Hormel and Company, at Austin, Minnesota, where a strong company deals with a strong

union. The Hormel packing firm had the usual high turnover of employees between the peak and slack seasons which is characteristic of the industry. The lack of job security was appalling both to the workers and to the head of the firm. So, a number of years ago Hormel instituted the full guaranteed annual wage. This provided a plan under which packing workers would be paid by the year instead of the hour, with the pay being distributed in fifty-two equal weekly installments.

After the program had been in effect for some time, it was learned that workers could often complete their yearly quota of production in less than a year—so production bonuses were instituted. Then, a profit-sharing plan was put into effect.

Many persons familiar with management-relations problems predicted that the plan would fail and the Hormel firm would go broke. But the plan didn't fail and the company actually profited from its operation. It stabilized employment and gave employees a real guarantee of security.

There have been a number of strikes in the packing industry since the Hormel plan went into full effect, but none of them has involved George A. Hormel and Company. The last walkout at the Hormel plant was in 1933 and it resulted partly from workers' suspicion of the guaranteed annual wage program that had been proposed just a short time before.

The Hormel story is one of a great many that can be told illustrating good relations between management and labor. These are the stories about which the public needs to know. They are more important than news of labor trouble and strikes.

—Social Progress by permission

SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS
CONDEMN KKK

The Central Baptist Ministers' Association, comprising the Baptist churches

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIANS
LEAD OUT IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Significant progress in the field of human relations has been noted recently in the activities of the Southern Presbyterian Church at the General Assembly this year. The meeting was held at Montreat, N. C., just east of Asheville. Negro commissioners were on an equal footing with other commissioners. There was no segregation in the living quarters or in the dining room.

According to *Presbyterian Outlook* "new commissioners evidently thought it had always been done that way and older commissioners must have thought it was time the church was setting the example."

Other facts to be noted are that two of the denominations schools, Union Seminary at Richmond, Virginia and Columbia Seminary at Decatur, Georgia have both been admitting Negro graduate students for a number of years.

Another innovation in "southern" practice came this summer with the announcement that all groups except young people's conferences will be entertained without segregation at Montreat, North Carolina. Montreat is one of several church summer assemblies in the region of Ridgecrest the summer assembly of Southern Baptists.

of central South Carolina, wishes to go on record as opposing the activities of the Ku Klux Klan. We are shocked at what recently took place at Myrtle Beach and we do not believe there is any place in our American life, and certainly in our Christian life, for the program of the Ku Klux Klan. We have had enough experiences of the peril which follows disguised men taking the administration of what they conceive to be law and justice into their own hands. We believe that no true America, and certainly no Christian, should be affiliated with this organization. Committee: F. Clyde Helms, R. O. Barker.

—Baptist Courier

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