

# EDITORIAL



**Africa In Today's World**  
By C. I. West, M.D.

## MAURICE ADOUM, CHAD:

But what is socialism? I must admit ... that I at first was tempted to conclude that the term "African socialism" was unsuitable, since socialism, being a science, could no more be African than it is Chinese or Russian. On the other hand, African socialism, by its very name, posits the problem of the inevitable adaptation of scientific socialism to African realities .... The study and assimilation of Marxist theory by our youth will not stand a chance of being applied successfully on the plane of reality as long as this very youth has not taken the trouble, as of now, to acquaint itself more fully with the political, economic, and human realities of Africa. While waiting for the complete Africanization of our secondary and university school programs, it is the responsibility of our school youth of today not to kill tomorrow's Africa by making, due to intellectual sluggishness, a mere copy of the Russian, Chinese, or Polish experiences ..

The great master of revolutionary practice, Lenin, Mao Tse Tung, Tito, Sekou Toure, Fidel Castro, to mention only a few examples, have very well shown us by their concrete experiences that there are many ways to socialism. One fact seems certain, and that is the absence over most of the African continent of the notion of class struggle in the Western sense of the term. This means, then, that the scientific socialization of our institutions will inevitably be progressive and peaceful; the now classical notion of "dictatorship of the proletariat" must be interpreted in Africa with a great deal of flexibility. It also means that, in the perspective of a socialist evolution, Africa is undoubtedly the continent called to reach more rapidly than others the supreme stage of a classless society where the simple administration of things will substitute for the government of men.

..... And if our option for socialism means, in the least, an appeal for a common effort (A sine qua non condition of its success) I say that the African leaders should from now on mobilize, with vigor, all the modern technical means of information for the political, economic, and cultural education of our peasant masses, in honest, unreserved, and sincere collaboration with all youth.

The quotations from these three African leaders gives the broad aspect of how other exponents of African Socialism hold their from of this political ideology to be distinctly different from the Communist brand of Socialism.

The Western Allies could widen the gap between African and Sino-Russian political directions by capitalizing on the recent Iron Curtain racial incidents, by expedient dissolution of racial frictions within their own countries. The United States Congress would gain a giant step for the West, in the Cold War, by enactment of the Kennedy-Johnson Civil Rights measures. Such action, if taken quickly, while African tempers are running high, would weigh heavily in swinging the African bloc toward Western sympathies in their balloting at the United Nations General Assembly. Our basic strategy in the Cold War is to lean African - Asian voting in the UN toward the West. The Western Allies, particularly our own nation, the United States, should not let this psychological weapon escape our armentarium in the conflict of political ideologies. We can win the balance of power in the UN by acting now.

## POLITICAL FORECAST

The total political scene will present three major changes in 1964, from where we stand. Hubert Humphrey will be the Vice President of the United States. Donal "Mike" O'Callaghan will be Nevada's Congressman at Large, and, Jimmy Gay will be elected to the Nevada Assembly.

Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States, will become the nation's 37th

President by a landslide vote. LBJ will be nominated on the first ballot in Atlantic City. The former Wisconsin neighborhood druggist, US Senator Hubert Humphrey, will be nominated as President Johnson's running mate. Again, as in 1960, the Negro vote in the large urban areas will play an important part in the landslide victory. This team will win Nevada, hands down.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Dr. West:  
(Att. Phillip Waddell, Editor)

I have just received, and read the January 2, 1964 issue of the "Voice," and again the question comes to my mind; Why do you exclusively use the language of the hipster in your editorials, when simple, direct prose would be more effective, and better suited to most of your topics?

I am not a language purist, and the style you use has its rightful place in any Negro publication, but you wide and indiscriminate use of this language needs to be re-evaluated. This is particularly true in light of the "Voice's" status, as the only Negro newspaper of importance in the State.

A newspaper should mirror the ideas and emotions of the community in which it is published. True, there are many hipsters on the Westside, but the majority of us are not, for if we were, what would be the purpose of the "Voice"?

I am not writing only to be critical, but because I am interested in your paper, and the image it projects of our community. May that image, above all, be intelligent and honest.

Very sincerely, Nancy Williams.

*(Publisher's comment Thanks, Nancy you are a jewel. Eventually we will have a paper that you, and all of us can be proud of. You will see no more of that which you dislike in the Voice.)*

**PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS**

## The Man Who Thinks He Can 'Go It Alone'

The man who thinks he can 'go it alone' is worse off than a sheep without a shepherd. At least the sheep knows he is lost.

Men need each other. That it is God's will for men to be together as one flock of sheep instead of being scattered, having a separate spiritual existence, is clear from the words of God's Son, who said: "I am the fine shepherd; the fine shepherd surrenders his soul in behalf of the sheep." Then he added: "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those also I must bring, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd." Sheep that flock together feed together.

**LET YOUR OPINIONS BE HEARD THROUGH THE 'VOICE'**



## THE \$50,000 POEM To My Father Image in a Looking Glass

As I stood before a looking glass,  
I saw the image  
of a man from the past.  
His voice was still and his lips unmoving,  
and yet, this image  
was so revealing.  
Although you are young and quite carefree,  
this is the image  
I beg you to see.  
Look, my son, listen well,  
and you might help  
alter my tale. For,  
I have built the great pyramids for old Pharaoh,  
and rowed his vessels along the Nile.  
That's why my back is hunched and broken.  
I have built the great forums for the Greek,  
And on the Aegean, was the energy of his fleet.  
That's why my back is hunched and broken.  
I have built the great Applan Way for mighty Rome,  
and sailed her ships safely home.  
That's why my back is hunched and broken.  
I have built the great halls of Montezuma,  
and mined his treasures of fortunes in gold.  
That's why my eyes are deep and swollen.  
I have built the great plantations of America,  
and felt the lash strike violently.  
That's why my eyes are deep and swollen.  
I have built great wonders on all terrain,  
and yet I pray my destiny be changed.  
That's why my eyes are deep and swollen.  
So, my son, remember my back  
so hunched and broken,  
for it is the evidence of my burden.  
And remember my eyes  
so deep and swollen,  
for they are the witnesses of my despair.  
And forever remember my voice  
so still and lips unmoving,  
for they are the antecedents of my history.  
Yes, my son, remember this image of me,  
and one day  
you may truly be free.

By John P. West

I have dubbed this poem as "The \$50,000.00 Poem," because it was written by my son John, of whom I am so paternalistically proud. The price tag reflects, in round conservative figures, the money I have spent for his education at the Williston Junior School, in Easthampton, Mass., and at the University of Colorado, at Boulder. This poem is my payment, with interest, on the cost of his education to date. If nothing else ever comes from his education, I shall always feel that this poem alone was worth every penny spent, and every sacrifice that his mother and I made to finance his educational development.

This piece of poetic philosophy carries a vital message to our Negro youth. It tells of the laborious toiling of the Black man in history, and of some of his great contributions. It gives our Negro youth a sense of pride in his African heritage. It also furnishes a motivation to our youth to strive for a better status today, and an even better status on the morrow.

I hope that, in every household, this message will be read, and reread. I hope that each family will clip this poem, and refer to it daily. It can provide impetus to strive for equitable status of American citizenship.

I hope that every young Negro American will work diligently, and continuously to improve "The Image in A Looking Glass" and strive indefatigably for full acceptability and total freedoms in America. Should this hope of mine come to be, the price tag of Johnny's \$50,000.00 poem would multiply a thousand fold to fifty million, rather than fifty thousand.  
Charles I. West, Publisher

## STAFF

- Charles I. West, M.D. .... Editor & Publisher
- Sondra Reid ..... Society Editor
- Robert Johnson ..... Advertising Manager
- Robert Reid ..... Business Secretary
- Charles Lofton ..... Distributor Director
- Clarence Ray ..... Advertising Sales
- Willie Gibson ..... Advertising Sales
- Clinton Wright ..... Photographer
- W.S.D. Public Relations Firm ..... Publication Representatives

Editorial & Advertising Offices at 812 West Bonanza Rd., Las Vegas, Nev. — Distributed Every Wednesday (Weekly Publication).

Advertising Rates Available upon request  
Subscription Rates ..... 10c weekly  
Telephone Numbers — DU 4-1276 — 642-5308

## THE VOICE STEPS OUT...

**NOW: Distributed each week in Reno, Nevada**

**SHORTLY: To Negro Travel Agencies in Los Angeles and New York.**

**Read The VOICE Each Week— The Only Newspaper In The State of Nevada That Can Project The Voice of The Negro**