

EDITORIAL



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

To reemphasize the strategic advantage of the United States Congress to enact realistic Civil Rights laws with all deliberate speed, we reprint excerpts from recent editorial reports from Nigeria, Ghana, Moscow, and French speaking Africa, as reported in the New York Times. The West can ill afford to lose this golden opportunity to win a lion's share in the Cold War with the East. The image of the Russian Bear will never be as horrible in the eyes of Africans, as it is at this time. Although the controlled news media of Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana supported the warped Moscow version, all the rest of Black Africa voiced its rejection of the Soviet treatment of African students behind the Iron Curtain. These African nations represent votes in the United Nations which is the major battle field in the war of conflicting political ideologies. The U.S. can win nearly all of these African votes, even Ghana's eventually, by quick passage of Rights legislation. The West must win the Cold War to prevent real war. We have within our grasp the opportunity to endow the world with eternal peace. The following quotes from the New York Times give powerful support to this writer's views.

"The death of a Ghanaian Student in Moscow has been given prominent play throughout most of West Africa. . . . in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, two of the national dailies have sharply criticized the Soviets for preaching tolerance but practicing racial prejudice."

"Africans go to the United States expecting to be pushed off the sidewalks, and are pleasantly surprised when they find they can walk the streets without being molested. They come to the Soviet Union expecting to be greeted as heroes, and national liberators and are deeply disillusioned when nothing of the sort happens."

"Although . . . their government avows strong opposition to all forms of racial discrimination, Soviet citizens regard Africans as profoundly alien people, compared with Asians, who are widely represented in the Soviet Union."

"Western observers, and many Nigerians, believe that the Moscow incident has gone a long way to dispel the Soviet image of a society where all races live in harmony."

" . . . while Africans have been critical of the US for its racial abuses, at least it has admitted that it has a problem, and its government is earnestly trying to correct it . . . in contrast the Soviets are trying to cover up."

" . . . behind the whitewash of the Iron Curtain there is need to clean up the cobwebs of intolerance, just as in America's deep South."

"Former French African Territories printed Western news versions of the death (of the Ghanaian student) and the African student protest demonstration in Red Square. Many papers were critical of the Soviet handling of the affair."

" . . . The demonstrations by Africans in Red Square . . . reflects a malaise that has marred relations between Russians and African students in recent years."

The attack of Soviet intolerance by African newspapers points up the strained relations of African-Soviet feelings. Our nation, the dominating force of the free world, can widen this gap, and align the African nations with the West, if our Congress demonstrates to Africa that democracy is blind to color.

THE PUBLISHER'S TEN POINT POLICY

- 1) The Las Vegas Voice shall be dedicated to perform an honest public service.
- 2) The Voice shall never fear to print "the truth."
- 3) The Voice will protect its readers from exploitation.
- 4) The Voice shall be dedicated to improving the image of both our city and our State.
- 5) The Voice will plan a reader education program designed to elevate the position of its readers in every facet of life.
- 6) The Voice will inform its readers of trends and changes in the political climate to encourage realistic use of the vote.

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NAACP Retains Mendoza, Foley

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Bennett charged that under Chief Kuykendall's administration, Negroes are subjected to brutal and unreasonable treatment. Dr. Bennett also stated that the Chief was not responsive to attempts of community leaders to correct what has been widely reprinted as abuse of Negro citizens. Bennett stated that there was a need for police orientation which would insure equal treatment for all citizens. Charles Kellar, Chairman of the Legal Redress Committee of the NAACP, is currently preparing a citizen's complaint to be presented to the Civil Service Commission to be presented against officer Robinson. The City Charter provides that the Civil Service Commission may conduct an investigation for misconduct of any City Civil Service employee when a Bona Fide citizen complaint is filed.

Mr. Kellar stated that the local NAACP had a responsibility to establish a climate where all citizens of this City could feel confident in the proper administration of the Las Vegas City Police Department.

GOVERNOR SAWYER REJOINS TEAM

On Jan. 15, 1964, Gov. Grant Sawyer wrote the following letter to the "Horror of Hawthorne".

Lindsay Smith, Woodrow Loftin, Gordon Smith
El Capitan Enterprises, Inc.
541 "F" Street
Hawthorne, Nevada

Gentlemen:

I have received notice of alleged discrimination on the part of El Capitan Restaurant on November 17, 1963, when a Negro member of the Western High School Band reportedly was refused service.

While reports of the incident are conflicting, this is not the first complaint of racial discrimination against your operation which has reached my office, and I am becoming increasingly concerned by El Capitan's apparent flaunting of the state's official policy against racial intolerance.

NRS 233.010 declares: "It is hereby declared to be the public policy of the State of Nevada to protect the welfare, prosperity, health and peace of all the people of the state, and to foster the right of all persons reasonably to seek, obtain and hold employment and housing accommodations, and reasonably to seek and be granted services in places of public accommodation without discrimination, distinction or restriction because of race, religious creed, color, national origin or ancestry."

I support the privilege of El Capitan as a private business to select its customers, but not when that selection is based on race alone. El Capitan is not an island, independent of public control. You operate under various licenses granted in the name of the people. If you discriminate, you discriminate against some of the very people by whose permission you exist.

Nevada, because of some unique aspects, offers a mixed image to the rest of the nation. One story such as resulted from the incident mentioned above can quickly erase much hard work on the part of progressive business leaders across the state. A state in which a Negro child is turned away from a lunch counter cannot reasonably call itself enlightened and progressive. Thousands of outstanding men and women are dedicated to improving this state. Action such as yours tend to nullify their persistent

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Reprint From The Washington Post
December 30, 1963

'REGISTER AND VOTE' HELD NEGRO'S BEST STEPS

By Robert E. Baker
Staff Reporter

The greatest contribution that Negro Southerners can make to the Nation's welfare as their won is to register and vote, in the opinion of the Southern Regional Council.

Negro voters, together with white Southerners, should aim toward establishing a truly representative government in the South, thus strengthening the leadership of that area, the Council says.

The Council's advice was in a year-end assessment of the racial situation being issued today by its Executive Committee.

The Southern Regional Council, with headquarters in Atlanta, is a venerable biracial organization working for equal opportunity for all Southerners, regardless of race.

The Council statement characterized the racial situation today as one of "turmoil, but also of hope."

Negro Southerners, it said, have held to their faith in American institutions and fair play rather than being tempted by black supremacists, violent reprisal or the Communist conspiracy.

White Southerners do not have such an admir-

able record, the Council said. But it added:

"Today, however, white Southerners are manifesting a new and quickened understanding of the political and economic dependence of the South's peoples on one another, and, above all, of their moral interdependence."

The present two issues of greatest urgency to domestic strength and tranquility, the Council said, are the uses of law and public policy to undo past wrongs, and the right and propriety of protest demonstrations to speed the process.

Voluntary solutions to race problems should always be sought, the Council said, but it added that the failure of local and state governments to take action to solve the problems makes strong Federal action necessary.

It said that Federal leadership to curtail unemployment and equalize educational opportunities is necessary.

"Job scarcity has become an omnipresent motive for demonstrations," the Council said, "and may predictably engender more and bitter protest."

The Council commended Americans who have used orderly protest

demonstrations to advance human rights, adding:

"A wise society would encourage and applaud this discontent with inferior status, especially as its end result is to make more secure the rights of all."

The Council said demonstrations are a direct reaction of failure of white leadership, that Southern leaders could stop the demonstrations anytime by satisfying "the demands of the Federal Constitution, of justice and of religion."

The Council said it was not impressed by public opinion polls showing that whites are prejudiced and Negroes are bitter.

"No informed and intelligent observer has ever doubted the existence of either," the Council said.

"Bitterness and prejudice are now, as they have always been, the conditions against which the responsible institutions of American society - governments, churches, press, educational and professional institutions, business corporations - must contend and which they must rectify."

INVITATION TO GUEST WRITERS

Dear Friends:

The "Voice" extends an open invitation to each interested reader to write a guest editorial on the subject of enthusiasm and unity in the Civil Rights struggle or on any subject which you feel is important in the cause.

The Guest Editorial will become a regular, front page feature of your paper.

We would like to publish a recent photo of each guest writer. The photo should be 2" X 3".

Please type your editorial double-spaced, and limit it to a maximum of 3 double spaced pages of not less than 600 nor more than 800 words.

We will publish in the exact order that we receive completed copy, with photo. Please get yours in early, so that it may be among the first to be published.

We wish to establish enthusiasm among the readers, and identity of the leadership in the Civil Rights program.

The "Voice" also extends an open invitation, to each of its readers, to write a "Letter to the Editor" on any subject. These letters must be limited to not more than 200 words. We invite public comment, and suggestions on the future course of your paper, "The Las Vegas Voice."

All persons in the Reno-Sparks area should contact our Reno Representative, Earl Perkins, 3275 Clear Acre Lane, FA 2-2354.

Sincerely,
Charles I. West, Publisher

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