

AFRICA in Today's World By C. I. West, M.D.

An endless stream of ideas and an ocean of courage has made Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, president of Ghana, a permanent part of history. His people call him "OSAGYEFO".

The name Kwame, in Akan tribal tongue, means 'born on Saturday.' One Saturday in September of 1909, a 'GIANT'' was born in western Gold Coast (now known as Ghana) near the Ivory Coast border. His father was a goldsmith. His mother was a devout Roman Catholic.

Kwame received all of his early education in Catholic Mission schools. He later earned his teaching certificate, graduating from the Colonial Government School in 1939.

Nkrumah was inspired by the writings of Nnamdi Azikiwe, editor of the African Morning Post, Azikiwe, exiled from his native Nigeria, was to become one of the FOUR GIANTS OF AFRICAN NATIONALISM. Kwame Nkrumah came under the spell of Zik during the years between 1934 and 1937.

In 1935 Nkrumah left Africa to further his education, at Azikiwe's alma mater, Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1939 with a degree in Economics and Sociology. He stayed at Lincoln and earned a degree in Theology in 1942. The following year he received a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, in two separate fields, Education and Philosophy.

While studying for his degrees he was brought into contact with the works of Marcus Garvey, a Jamaica Negro, who had pioneered the idea of African emancipation in the United States. Garvey's influence reinspired Nkrumah to continue his plan to free his homeland from British rule. He remained active as a strong influence on African students in America and Canada, and was elected President of the African Students Organization of the two countries.

Osagyefo left the US in 1945 to study law and to complete his thesis for his PhD in England. He was active in his pet political aims while studying in England, and became Vice President of the West African Students Union, which turned out to be the spawning grounds for future African leaders.

In Paris he met and conspired with two African members of the French National Assembly - Leopold Senghor, who is now President of Senegal, and, Dr. Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who was to become President of the Ivory Coast. These three men were to play major roles in the liberation of Africa from European domination.

Kwame returned/to his home in 1947, and within two years organized his people into a cohesive political unit, The Convention People's Party, which controls the destiny of Ghana today. He withstood the deceit and criticism of his former intimates who had become his adversaries in a power grab. He defied Colonial law. He openly expressed his ambition to take the Gold Coast away from the British Crown, and to deliver it to its rightful heirs. Despite being jailed as a subversive by the Crown, Kwame Nkrumah remained releatless.

When released from detention he founded the Accra

THE FUTURE OF TOGETHERNESS

LAS VEGAS VOICE

By C. I. West, M.D.

A united Negro vote could be the most potent single political power in the state of Nevada.

The Las Vegas Negro Community alone, has an eight thousand (8000) vote potential. Unified application of this ballot would be the balance of decision in nine of every 10 voting issues.

We have in round numbers more than-4000 families in the Las Vegas area. The average annual income of these families is more than \$6000.00. This represents a \$25,000,000 market. The purchasing power of the Negro in Las Vegas is estimated to grow at the rate of more than a million dollars per year based upon a projection of the population growth, improved job opportunities, and reduction of income taxes.

When speculated growth factors are projected, the ballot potential should double by the 1968 Presidential election, and the Negro market should approach a 35 million dollar figure. Based upon these figures the Negro community would be spending \$8-1/2 million in super markets \$5 million in the auto industry, \$2-1/2 million in clothing, \$7-1/2 million in housing, \$2-1/2 million in home furnishings, \$1-1/2 million in recreation, and should be depositing over a million dollars a year in savings. Approximately \$7 million more will be piped into the local economy in miscellaneous speanding.

A program of "togetherness" in the intelligent use of our vote, and in selective purchasing will be the implements for total victory in the struggle for full citizenship. The advent of a West Las Vegas bank, controlled by Negroes, will fill a tremendous void in this programming.

The Citizens State, Bank, which will be located at Owens and Highland, represents a giant stride along the road to equality. The people of our community will control this financial institution. This will mean resources for financing Negro enterprise which will add another giant step along the road to victory.

"Togetherness" is the theme for progress.

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cising the right to vote. Mrs. Rome received resounding applause at the close of her strong appeal to every citizen to register and to vote.

"Everyone is as big as any other one when the votes are counted", said Mrs. Rome. "There are no little votes. All votes are big votes and every vote is important."

"Togetherness", said James Anderson, Chairman of the NAACP Labor and Industry Committee, "can salvage the image of the democratic principle across the face of the earth. By removing the stigma of racism", Anderson added, "America will be falling into line with the world movement of recognizing the dignity of the individual and right of people to determine their own destiny".

Anderson received a standing ovation with the remark, "Every facet of government must have Negro representation before there will ever be good government".

Dr. Charles I. West, Publisher of the Voice, talked on the necessity for united use of our ballot and of our dollars. Dr. West stated "Money is the only power that all men respect. We must spend our money in only those places that return dividends in their expression of respect, and in their demonstration of job opportunity."

Dr. West closed his well chosen remarks with a biblical parable pointing up the strength of unity.

"Individually we are easy to break, but together we can not be bent,' Dr. West said. "We will all go up together, or we will all stay down together.' The Voice publisher added, "If we wish to go up we must get together, for only through unity will we have the implements for victory."

Richard 'Dick' Sauer, Las Vegas Director of Public Works, talked on the Municipal Bond Issue which comes up for public vote on April 7.

The audience response toward the bond issue was one of tongue-in-cheek approval. There was considerable discussion about the bond issue not offering enough to the Negro community. Gloria Rome was insistant that the need for detailed traffic analysis at certain Westside intersections, with solutions for control be given top priority. Sauer assured the audience that he would comply with Mrs. Rome's request.

The highly successful mass meeting was

Evening News, as an instrument to insure the success of his operation. This was in 1948. The paper declared a pledge of 'Positive Action', and it inspired the people to join in enthusiastic unity. This state of cohesive unity led to mass demonstrations on the part of the

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Civic minded community residents numbering 68 assembled at the Elks Lodge on West Bonanza last Thursday night to discuss programming of ways to first class citizenship. Although the gathering was smaller than anticipated, the enthusiasm of those attending was high.

Bob Bailey, Chairman of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, was the Master of Ceremony. Bailey stressed that "--only through a united effort on the part of the total Negro community will progress in Civil Rights be made." Bailey also pointed up the difficulties ahead in enactment of realistic Rights legislation.

Gloria Rome, Chairman of the Voter Registration program of the Women's Democratic Club West, laid great emphasis on the importance of every individual exerclosed with a benediction by the Rev. Donald Clark.

EDITOR'S COMMENT. Today's Negro is a demanding one. The guilible, submissive Negro of yesterday is something of the past, never to return again. The local Negro community realizes that the fate of the bond issue may very well lie in its hands. The general feeling of the New Negro is that since there is so little offered for specific Negro benefits, we will continue to live as we now live, unless we are given more consideration for our voting efforts. The Westside can pass the bond issue if we are offered better traffic control and more equitable consideration as an integral part of the City of Las Vegas. If these small considerations are not offered, the westside voters will defeat the entire proposal.