



AFRICA in Today's World

By C. I. West, M.D.

A CHRONOLOGICAL SYNOPSIS OF MAJOR AFRICAN HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 332 B. C. Alexander the Great conquered Egypt and built the city of Alexandria.
- 100 A. D. Christianity moved into Africa.
- 300 - The Sudanese founded the kingdom of Ghana in West Africa, at a time when most of Europe was barbaric.
- 700 - Moslems had taken over North Africa and had started colonizing East Africa. The slave trade with Asia began.
- 1415 - The Portuguese under Henry the Navigator began trade with West Africa.
- 1441 - First slaves from West Africa taken to Portugal.
- 1471 - Portuguese began gold prospecting in area now known as Ghana.
- 1486 - Portuguese settled the Cape of Good Hope.
- 1491 - Catholics set up missions in the Congo.
- 1502 - First slaves taken to the Western Hemisphere were landed at Haiti.
- 1562 - British established slave trade with the Americas.
- 1600 - Portuguese and Spanish empires of Africa began decline, and the rise of Dutch, French, British and Arab empires emerged.
- 1619 - Dutch landed slaves in Virginia.
- 1652 - Dutch settled the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.
- 680-1700 - Slave traffic between West Africa and the West Indies was stepped up because of the great demands.
- 1787 - Sierra Leone established for the resettlement of freed slaves.
- 1795 - British occupy South Africa.
- 1803 - Dutch take over the Cape again.
- 1806 - British reoccupy the Cape.

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL

TRUANCY DRAWBACK TO FUTURE SUCCESS

It's about time we faced the facts! School truancy among Negro students in the Las Vegas area and the apparent indifference of Negro parents to the seriousness of this condition recently were cited by a government official as serious obstacles in efforts to open new employment opportunities here.

In conversations with James Anderson, chairman of the local NAACP Labor and Industry Committee, B. H. Bennett, chief of the personnel branch of the Internal Revenue Service in Reno, pulled no punches in discussing these problems.

Bennett visited Western, Rancho and Las Vegas high schools last month for the purpose of discussing equal employment opportunities in the IRS as well as the Federal Service as a whole. He was "particularly gratified" to see 47 Negroes among about 50 students who attended an adult group meeting at Rancho High under the Manpower Development Training Act, where his talk centered on mechanics of the Federal merit system, Civil Service announcements and Civil Service examinations.

But in later conversations and correspondence with Anderson, Bennett was quite candid in expressing his views on the problems that present themselves in this area.

"IT WOULD APPEAR that one of the problems regarding Negro students is that of attendance at school," Bennett told Anderson. "The truancy incidence is greater among Negro students than among non-Negroes. The counselors indicated that even when they contact a truant student's parents about attendance, the parents DO NOT SEEM TO CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER WHETHER THEIR CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL. It would seem to me that here is a problem that someone, whether it is an organization such as yours or

some other group, should look into. By this, I mean some means of motivation for the parents should be attempted. . . ."

Now we fully realize that ALL parents of truant children do not view the unfortunate actions of their offspring with indifference. We are personally acquainted with several who were shocked to learn that their kids were skipping school and who took stern measures to correct the situation. But taken on the whole, Bennett's observations constitute a serious indictment and cannot be ignored. It is a challenge that must be accepted if our Negro community is to earn and maintain the respect and consideration of the community at large.

There is no sense in beating our gums about discrimination in employment opportunity when we fail to see that our children are properly prepared to accept such opportunities when they are offered.

ANOTHER POINT MADE by Bennett that should be carefully considered by Negro parents of school students is that few Negro students take the type of courses that will be useful to them if they find it economically impossible to attend college. He cited courses designed to develop clerical skills such as typing, shorthand, book-keeping, etc.

There are many attractive openings in Federal and general business employment that require no more than basic knowledge in these skills. And the opportunity of advancement to well-paying jobs in fields based on these skills are manifold.

So let's get on the ball and see that our kids attend school regularly and take courses that will do them some good when they graduate from high school—courses that will enable them to pass examinations for Federal Service and similar openings in the world of private business.

A new day is dawning! See that your child is ready to take his rightful place in the sun when the opportunity presents itself.

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