

MULLEN REPORTS ON CAPITAL MEET

(Continued from page 1)

or seminar that is being planned by the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission. Mr. Wilkins indicated that he would be on the West Coast at that time, and he felt that it might be possible for him to be in Las Vegas for this one day. However, he indicated that it would be necessary for our organization to submit to the NAACP National Headquarters a 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, New York, a written request or invitation for him to be in Las Vegas on the 10th of October. He further suggested that we get the written request into National Headquarters as soon as possible.

It should be noted that it is my opinion that Mr. Wilkins would accept an invitation for a luncheon. Mr. Wilkins, and I discussed various sectional human relations problems for approximately fifteen minutes.

On Wednesday, June 25, inasmuch as there were no meetings of any great importance scheduled, I spent the day at Senators Howard Cannon's and Alan Bible's offices. During the course of a discussion with Senator Cannon, I mentioned the proposed seminar in October, and the Senator indicated that he would be deeply honored if he could be included in some way in our program. I indicated that I felt that this could be some way in our program. I indicated that I felt that this could be worked out. During the course of discussing the various national figures that I had hoped to contact in Washington, I discussed with the Senator his thoughts on approaching Attorney General Robert Kennedy, inasmuch as the Attorney General had indicated he was not going to run for the United States Senator in New York and would, in all probability, still be the United States Attorney General. The Senator suggested inasmuch as Mr. Kennedy was not in Washington at this time, that we write a letter requesting Mr. Kennedy to participate in the seminar and that if we would send the letter to him (Senator Cannon) with a letter of explanation, he would be more than happy to hand-deliver the letter to the Attorney General and use any influence that he, as the Senator from Nevada, and Senator Bible might have in persuading Mr. Kennedy to participate in our Human Relations Seminar. He suggested that we get the letter to him as soon as possible.

On Thursday evening at the Youth Banquet, I had occasion to contact Mr. Jackie Robinson and indicated to him the plans of our proposed seminar. While Mr. Robinson was very enthusiastic about the offer of his participating in the seminar, he indicated that at this time he did not believe, due to pressing business commitments, that he would be able to be in Las Vegas at that time. However, he did indicate that if there were any changes in his plans he would contact me at the earliest possible moment and advise me of his availability for that date and he would be more than happy to participate.

On Monday, June 22, at about 10 a.m. the NAACP Convention was picketed by the George Lincoln Rockwell American Nazi Party. This picketing started at approximately 10 a.m. and lasted throughout the day and early evening with approximately fifteen members of the Nazi Party carrying various types of cards. At the Youth Banquet, a member of the Nazi Party slipped into the hall, got hold of the microphone and indicated to the youngsters gathered at the banquet that he had free tickets available to send all of the youngsters back to Africa where they belonged. He was immediately ejected from the premises by Washington police officers without further incident. At the same time two or three of the other members of the Nazi Party turned loose several white mice in the dining hall. The mice were quickly recaptured and the persons turning the mice loose were quickly apprehended. It should also be noted that during the entire episode the youngsters attending the banquet conducted themselves far better, I believe, than had the group been adults. With the exception of those two incidents, the convention as a whole was completely successful.

I requested that the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission be sent copies of all of the resolutions and any other information that was to be documented from the convention. All of the convention material that was available at the time of the convention will be submitted to the Chairman of the Human Relations Commission and the undersigned is available for any other questions or comments.

18 Authors Attempt to Define Revolution All Around Them

(From the Washington Post)

THE LIST OF questions an American can ask about the effects on his society of racial events during the last ten years is almost endless.

What really happened? Do our memories deceive us when we think of Clinton, Little Rock, Birmingham, Oxford? What has it all meant? Is our society more viable now or is it on the verge of collapse? Has the strain of these years permanently damaged our legal system?

Where do we stand now? Where does the Nation go in the future? Why is there a crisis in civil rights?

No one article or one book, no one author, can deal with all these questions. The answers demand the expertise of the historian and the lawyer; the perception of the philosopher and the sociologist. But even with that expertise and that perception, the answers to most questions are not yet clear. Those who live in the midst of a revolution, social or political, can rarely glimpse its full outlines.

Answers Attempted

YET THERE is much to think about in the answers various authors are now trying to provide. In the last few weeks, 18 books that relate to the Nation's racial crisis have accumulated on my desk.

A word of warning is struck by Oscar Handlin in what is perhaps the best of the 18. In "Fire-Bell in the Night" (Atlantic, Little-Brown), he writes, "But one thing is certain: the situation will not remain stable; it will change for the worse or the better."

The worst, as he sees it, is the development of racism—white supremacy on one side and black supremacy on the other—that could destroy national unity, and even the Nation.

Hadlin calls for equality but not necessarily integration.

"We can be equal and different—in color as in creed or national origin," he writes. "It has not been necessary in the past to wipe out all group distinctions in order to afford each individual equality of opportunity."

But Handlin, as do many other authors, points out that the pace of economic and social development is so rapid that a group which starts behind must run to catch up.

Is There Time?

TO CHARLES E. SILBERMAN, the best hope of the Nation is in the growing political and economic power of Negroes. In his "Crisis in Black and White" (Random House), Silberman argues that the problem is not just the disappearance of prejudice; it is the restoration to Negroes of dignity and initiative and a good life.

But Silberman, like Handlin, wonders if there is time enough. Both seem to agree with the words of Thomas Jefferson that provided the name of Handlin's book. Writing in 1820 about the question of slavery in the new states, Jefferson said:

"This momentous question, like a fire-bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union. It is hushed, indeed, for the moment. But this is a reprieve only . . . We have the

wolf by the ears, and we can neither hold him nor safely let him go."

Picking up one line of thought, Milton M. Gordon argues that the old "melting pot" concept of American life is not all it seems. In "Assimilation in American Life" (Oxford), Gordon says other racial and religious groups have been assimilated into American society without losing their sense of separate-ness.

His account of the way in which various ethnic groups have retained their internal cohesion while obtaining equal rights may allay some fears of desegregation that are based on the prospect of intermarriage between Negroes and whites.

From Then to Now

WHILE THESE three books deal with current problems in theoretical ways, here are others that recall recent events.

Benjamin Muse's "Ten Years of Prelude" (Viking) is the best history of the decade that has been written. From the Supreme Court's decision in 1954 to the events of last fall, it tells the story of racial strife with considerable detail and objectivity.

Names that one had almost forgotten, like George Bell Timmerman and Ace Carter, leap out from the pages of Muse's book. So do the events at Hoxie, Clinton and Mansfield that were later so overshadowed. The lessons that could have been drawn from the first years; it seems, were never used later.

Perhaps the most pleasant reading of all these books is "Mr. Kennedy and the Negroes" by Harry Golden (World). The North Carolina writer, whose humor is already widely known, has added another touch of it while driving home the point that the way President Kennedy will fare in history is tied to his role on the race question.

Golden may well be right in arguing that President Kennedy's deep involvement in civil rights was not caused solely by a commitment to the Negroes. He recalls the story of the support given Capt. Dreyfus by Georges Clemenceau in France at the turn of the century.

"Dreyfus thinks we are doing this for him," Clemenceau once said. "Nonsense. We are doing this for France."

Let George Do It

THERE IS A somewhat similar message in Charles Morgan's "A Time to Speak" (Harper and Row). No one who read Morgan's words immediately after four Negro girls were killed last fall in a church bombing in his home town of Birmingham is likely to forget them soon:

"What's it like living in Birmingham? No one ever really has and no one will until this city becomes part of the United States. Birmingham is not a dying city. It is dead."

This book is Morgan's story: why he said that, why he left Birmingham a few weeks later. But Morgan's book is more than his story. It is an indictment of all moderates and liberals who have stood aside and left the race problem to the extremists. It is a word of warning to other communities where, as in Birmingham, the good people sat at home and let the storm clouds gather.

The picture of segregation presented

by William Stringfellow in "My People is the Enemy" (Holt, Rinehart, Winston) is quite different from that written by Morgan. Morgan is talking about the problems of the white moderate in a white world. Stringfellow, a graduate of the Harvard Law School who chose to live and work in Harlem, tells of a white man in a Negro world.

African Relevance

IDA LEWIS, a young Negro writer, has looked at poverty among the Negroes in Africa in her "The Deep Ditch and the Narrow Pit" (Pavilion). But her words have relevance for America in that they express the way some young Negroes approach modern problems.

Perhaps the Negro's view of what is going on in America today is best represented in a paperback, "The New World of Negro Americans" (Compass), by Harold R. Isaacs. This book is based on interviews with Negro leaders and suggests the complex turmoil that must be going on as Negroes lose the feeling of "nobodiness" and gain that of "somebodiness," to use the Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King's words.

Some of the other books have neither the message nor the style of those mentioned thus far. Jackie Robinson's "Baseball has Done It" (Lippincott) is the story of desegregation in baseball in the words of major leaguers as they spoke to Robinson.

Beauregard James's "The Road to Birmingham" (Bridgehead) is a third-rate novel built around some rather unsavory Freedom Riders.

"Black Champion" (Scribners) by Finis Farr is the story of Jack Johnson, the first Negro to win the world's heavyweight boxing championship, and the way the world treated him.

"Integration vs. Segregation" (Crowell) is a useful collection of documents and articles on events of the past 10 years. It was edited by Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.).

"White on Black" (Johnson) is a collection of essays by well-known figures such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Pearl S. Buck, written for Ebony magazine.

"Equality in America" (Oxford) by Alan P. Grimes deals with the drive for Negro equality as it relates to problems of political and religious equality.

"Conference on Disadvantage" (Tuskegee) is an interesting collection of papers and discussions presented at a Tuskegee Institute seminar last fall.

The Highest Tribute

THERE REMAIN two rather unusual books. One is "A Southern Prophecy" (Little, Brown) written 75 years ago by a Virginia businessman, Lewis H. Blair, and revived this spring by historian C. Vann Woodward. Blair warned even then of the dangers that segregation might breed. It is interesting to speculate on what might have happened if his voice of realism had prevailed in the South.

Marion L. Starkey, who once taught at Hampton Institute, has gone farther into history on the race problem than almost anyone else. Her book, "Striving to Make It My Home" (Norton), is the story of how Negroes first came to America. Their life in Africa, the slave trade, the early years in a New World are all vividly recalled.

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