



AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

(From the New York Times)

Rebellious Congo

Of all the newly independent African nations, the Congo has been the most tragic and troublesome. It is living up to its reputation now, with its third largest city, Stanleyville, and about one-sixth of the country in the hands of rebels, while the Chinese Communists pull strings from neighboring Burundi and the Congo Republic.

The problems of the Congo have been beyond solution ever since the Belgians, who had done a poor job of preparing the Congolese for independence, suddenly pulled out four years ago. The country split apart; tribes fought; the Russians supplied the first Communist influence through Premier Lumumba, who was assassinated; the United Nations fought a minor war of attrition that had to be left unresolved, and now there have been a series of rebellions with the Chinese Reds doing the manipulating instead of the Russians.

The strange nature of the whole drama is demonstrated by the fact that the one-time President of secessionist Katanga Province, Moise Tshombe, having been driven out, is now back as Premier of the whole Congo. His boasts of bringing unity and peace sound pathetic in present circumstances.

In reality, Mr. Tshombe's return was an act of desperation, as if anything was worth trying since every other effort had failed. The United Nations cannot try again. The United States, which had helped the U.N. to drive Mr. Tshombe out, has had no choice but to welcome him back. The Congolese Army simply will not fight the rebels. Tribal conflicts continue.

This is a tale of woe and it would be blindness to depict it in any other terms. Yet a nation of 15 million people, as large as Western Europe, containing in South Katanga Province some of the richest copper and cobalt mines in the world, cannot be allowed to dissolve into anarchy or fall into Communist hands.

For the time being, the best hopes lie with Moise Tshombe. He is unpopular with his fellow-Africans, but they surely do not want to see the Congo fall into chaos or revolution. In any event, Mr. Tshombe must try to hang on and he will have to seek help. The loose, amorphous character of the huge country should prevent complete disintegration so long as the federal government holds Leopoldville and continues to get rich revenues from Katanga.

VOICE READERS COMPRISE A \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

A WORD to the DOLLAR-WISE

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

We Nevadans can not afford the luxury of risking a blue chip investment for an untried speculation.

Six years ago in 1958, Nevada voters sent a brilliant young attorney to the United States Senate with the election of Howard W. Cannon. The wisdom of this choice soon became evident when Sen. Cannon's colleagues in the upper house of Congress, perceiving his responsibility and potential, assigned him to three important committees. Each of these appointments has been vitally important to the economy of Nevada.

Sen. Cannon is now a candidate for a second term. His return to the Senate for another six years would greatly enhance his value to Nevada through added seniority and influence on these important committees.

No freshman senator would have these advantages of experience and seniority. In fact, it is highly unlikely that a new senator would even be accorded the opportunity to start from scratch on any one of these committees.

Nevada can not afford to lose its influence on the Aeronautics and Space Committee that has authorized the expenditure of more than \$150 million annually on a space project at the Nevada Test Site. We certainly do not want to lose our influence in the Armed Services Committee, which has kept Nellis and Stead Air Force Bases and the Hawthorne Naval Base in operation. The purchasing power of servicemen and civilian employees at these installations is of great importance to the economies of Las Vegas, Reno and Hawthorne. And Nevada's economy could be seriously impaired if we lost our voice on the Commerce Committee, which is closely involved in tourist trade and traffic as well as several other important facets of our state economy.

We, the citizens of Nevada, must protect our six-year investment in Sen. Cannon. This investment already has paid handsome dividends, but will pay even higher returns during the next six years with Sen. Cannon's continued presence in the Senate. To turn his seat over to some inexperienced replacement could prove disastrous to the financial security of thousands of Nevada families. We might well find our present prosperity transformed into deprivation for many.

Any loss in income to those Nevadans directly connected with our government controlled installations through their curtailment or transfer to other localities would be felt in the pocket-books of the grocer and the clothier, the barber and the plumber. The impact would reach out and effect the economy of all businesses and all services.

The best safeguard against such financial disaster is to keep Howard W. Cannon in the United States Senate. He is the one man who can effectively protect our interests and thus assure our continued prosperity. We can not risk trading a silver-lined purse for a pig in a poke.

Although Sen. Cannon's renomination and reelection may seem assured, we can not afford to take anything for granted. Nevada's stake in the future is too great. A "let George do it" attitude could prove ruinous. It is up to each and every one of us to protect our investment in Howard W. Cannon by voting for him on Sept. 1 and Nov. 3.

REGISTER!

(From the Washington Post)

Confidence in the police is an indispensable foundation for civil order. There was no such confidence in New York's Harlem, where Negroes, generally, think of the police as persecutors and predators, rather than as protectors, and believe them to be often wantonly brutal. It was this feeling about the police that resulted in a riot when a white police officer shot and killed a teenage colored youth a fortnight ago. Behind the incident lay years of futile protest and long-ignored suggestions of a civilian board to review charges of police misconduct.

The situation in Washington is by no means the same as in New York. But there are enough similarities to warrant intelligent concern. Here, too, there have been charges of police brutality. We think they have been frequently flamboyant and sometimes totally unfounded. Nevertheless, they reveal a state of mind in the Negro community that demands attention. Negroes not only complain about the police; they are convinced, besides, that their complaints are ignored—because there is simply no mechanism here for detached and dependable sifting of such complaints.

There has been a Complaint Review Board in the District of Columbia since 1953. But in simple truth little is known about it and it has achieved little reputation for impartiality or effectiveness. The National Capital Area Civil Liberties Union has published a most illuminating analysis of the Board's work, concluding that it amounts to "a mere illusion." Its hearings are closed and it relies wholly on police investigation of complaints. Moreover, the NCACLU study showed a shocking record of police reprisal against complaints. Four out of ten of the citizens alleging misconduct or crimes by policemen found themselves charged with the crime of false reporting.

The NCACLU report indicated, in addition, that many complaints against the police are never recorded because the complaining citizen is threatened with prosecution if the complaint is found to be unjustified. And the investigation of complaints is conducted by a Police Department officer in the direct chain of command over the accused policeman. None of this is calculated to promote confidence.

The NCACLU has proposed an independent Citizens Police Review Board with nine members (none of them a District employe) to be chosen by the District Commissioners and with a full-time salaried investigator having access to police files. This board would conduct open hearings at which the complaining citizen and the accused policeman would have the right of confrontation and the right to produce evidence. The Board would make recommendations; but final action would be up to the Police Chief or the Commissioners.

Such a Board of this kind would serve, we think, to assure citizens of an unbiased investigation of their complaints, while protecting policemen from unfounded or vindictive allegations. Most important of all, it would promote public confidence in the police.

LAS VEGAS Voice

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE of the NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

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