



AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

INADEQUATE PREPARATION for independence when the Congo was under Belgian rule is largely responsible for the African nation's present difficulties according to a Stanford University professor.

Prof. Herbert Weiss compared Belgian policy during its colonial stewardship of the Congo unfavorably with the French "policy of Africanization" in the same area. The latter, he said, created the "institutional forms" for independent government in former French West Africa.

The Stanford professor presented his views to 70 American, European, African and Israeli scholars attending a Washington, D.C., congress sponsored by Georgetown University, the Ford Foundation, the U.S. State Department and the African-American Institute.

The institutions required for successful statehood in the Congo, Professor Weiss said, were lacking on the eve of independence four years ago. In contrast, he said, France had sought to integrate the expanding African elite into the institutional forms created during the period of colonialism--Africanization.

"The leaders in French-speaking West Africa had at least 12 years in which to become adjusted to, and to manipulate, a variety of different political situations," he said.

IN THE CONGO, he noted, "political parties did not really start until the middle of 1958."

"The period of nationalist agitation leading up to independence lasted from one to two years in the Congo," he went on. Furthermore, "there were no parliamentary or even quasi-parliamentary bodies of any significance in which Congolese participated."

Professor Weiss said that the so-called "intelligentsia gap" in the Congo was exaggerated. There was a growing number of educated people, he said, but they were systematically excluded from sharing in public responsibility, and discouraged from participating in the political life of the country during the period of Belgian rule.

Students and university graduates did not play a significant part in the independence struggle, he went on, and were shunted aside after independence by the lesser educated men who had led the struggle.

AN EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM arose from the inability of the Belgians to develop a commercial "middle class" of Africans after 1950, he said, with the result that the political parties that emerged, for example, in Katange Province, came from ethnic associations.

"In the most general terms the colonial system which Belgium evolved in the Congo was marked by two rare characteristics," Professor Weiss said. "First, the refusal to give any African elite, be it traditional or assimilated and modern, even theoretic or symbolic equality with the colonizer, and secondly the important role played by the Catholic Church, and especially the Congolese clergy."

The church, he said, was in effect the only modern structure in the Congo that was progressively Africanized, and this "is probably related to the fact that the church was the only national structure which really survived the collapse of 1960." That collapse led to a massive United Nations military and technical effort to preserve Congolese unity.

Professor Weiss added that the church-con-

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

EDITORIAL

VOICE Endorsements

It would be nice if the VOICE, dedicated as it is to the best "interests and aspirations for a better life of the Negro citizens of the State of Nevada", could endorse ALL the fine candidates in next Tuesday's primary election who have demonstrated their sympathy and support for these same aims.

Unfortunately, this is impossible, and we sincerely regret it.

Choices must be made, some of them admittedly tenuous, in certain races where more than one of our good friends are running for a single office. The contest for the eight State Assembly seats in District No. 2 presents an even more soul-searching problem due to the large number of qualified aspirants involved.

However, after long and deliberate consideration of all the factors attendant to the various contests, the VOICE has decided to recommend the nominations of those candidates marked with an "X" on the sample ballot appearing on page 3. We do so without prejudice toward some of those who have not been selected whom we could not recommend under any circumstances.

Our support for Sen. Howard W. Cannon in his campaign for reelection has been expressed repeatedly in these pages, including this edition. But today, almost on the eve of the primary election, we would like to especially reiterate our support for Ralph Denton in his effort to drive Walter Baring out of the United States Congress.

Baring voted against the Civil Rights bill and he voted against the income tax reduction--waging his usual losing battle. He also has been absent from the Congress when other legislation vital to our welfare has come before that body. We cannot visualize Ralph Denton performing in such an irresponsible manner.

Your decision on who should represent you in the House of Representatives should be based on wisdom and not on sentimental emotion. This rule also applies to other contests before the electorate next Tuesday and later in the general election of Nov. 3. An election is not a popularity contest. It is a serious matter of utmost importance to the welfare of the people and the state.

We are making a sincere plea to each of you to vote on Sept. 1 if you are qualified. We further urge you to vote for the candidates endorsed by the Nevada Voters League and the VOICE because the qualifications of these candidates have received close scrutiny and have been found desirable by a majority of our community leaders.

The VOICE rates three contests in Tuesday's primary of significant importance to the future welfare of our community and state. We therefore appeal to your best judgment in considering the candidacies of:

SEN. HOWARD W. CANNON for return to the U.S. Senate;

RALPH L. DENTON for the U.S. House of Representatives;

LEO A. JOHNSON for the Nevada State Assembly.

(See page 3 for other recommendations.)

(APOLOGY, from page 1)

satisfy the demands of VOICE readers.

Food Fair general manager Art Lurie also expressed his regrets about the repeated shortage of the popular soft drink as VOICE readers continually depleted his stock. Lurie has assured the VOICE that he has taken steps to prevent a recurrence of the unfortunate situation when similar special offers are made in the future.

A word to the wise: The VOICE today publishes two full pages (12 and 13) of extraordinary coupon values at various Golden West Shopping Center establishments. Don't get caught short!

Controlled education system did not produce "secular equivalents to the Congolese clergy," and the clergy itself was never allowed to exercise leadership functions outside "the narrow confines of church activities."

Why We Like Howard

LISTED BELOW are some of the reasons why this newspaper supports Senator Howard W. Cannon in his campaign for reelection.

1. Senator Cannon had the courage to vote to end debate on the Civil Rights Act of 1964. No other Nevada Senator has ever voted for cloture.

2. He voted for passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act as he did the 1960 and 1962 Acts.

3. He has sponsored other legislation to prohibit discrimination on projects receiving federal assistance.

4. He worked tirelessly for programs to improve our education system. This includes tax benefits for college students, loans and scholarships to students, assistance to public schools for construction and teachers salaries, and programs to give vocational training such as shop work, carpentry, etc.

5. He has supported President Johnson in his War on Poverty.

6. He has sponsored legislation to give work-training and work-education to underprivileged young men.

7. He supported the Manpower Development and Training Program which prepares people for new and better jobs. Nevada has received about \$1,000,000 under this program.

8. He has supported tax bills which reduce the taxes of those with a \$3,000 income by almost 40%. Those with incomes between \$5,000 and \$10,000 would have their taxes cut by about one-fourth.

9. He has worked for a program of medical aid for our older citizens.

10. He supported legislation to increase the minimum wage from one dollar per hour to \$1.25 per hour. Twenty-four million Americans are now covered by this program.

11. He has worked for programs to aid communities in building libraries, roads, housing and hospitals.

Senator Cannon's record of accomplishment proves that he can and will continue to render important service to our community, our state and our nation. He should and must be given that opportunity.

Job Leaves for Voters

GWEN WEEKES, president of the Las Vegas Democratic Women's Club West, calls attention to the fact that employees at the Nevada Test Site at Mercury and certain other government installations in this area may request up to two hours leave from their jobs at the end of next Tuesday's day shift in order to vote in the primary election.

The law governing such leaves vary from job to job according to Miss Weekes and should be checked out in advance. Some of the smaller contracting firms may require the showing of a registration stub before granting leave, she said.

Miss Weekes also pointed out that qualified residents who failed to register for the primary election of Sept. 1 may register for the general election of Nov. 3 at various West Las Vegas locations, including Leo Johnson campaign headquarters, 1400 North 'E' St. and Sen. Howard Cannon's Golden West Shopping Center office.

Register to Vote Now!

The man who insists on seeing with perfect clearness before he decides, never decides. — Amiel

How do you know you're at the end of your rope? It may be just the beginning.