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EDITORIAL

Democracy on Trial in Nevada

(The following editorial by the publisher of the Las Vegas VOICE originally appeared as a front page guest editorial in the Las Vegas SUN in 1961. It was written in the form of an appeal to the Nevada Legislature, then in session, to pass a State Civil Rights Law in keeping with the traditions of the State whose silver helped preserve our great union 100 years before. Although the political and social climate has undergone drastic changes since 1961, many of the points made by Dr. West at that time still apply as another Nevada Legislature considers a bill that obviously does not measure up to the high ideals of our great Citadel of Democracy. We feel that the present Legislature may find some food for thought in Dr. West's words of four years ago as it mulls necessary improvements in the proposed State Civil Rights Act now being considered.)

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

OUR GREAT NATION is no longer the Home of the Free, nor is it the Land of the Brave. The traditional courage of our Minute Men of '76, our Dough Boys of 1918, and our GI's of Korea and World War 2, is not evident in our legislators of today. We Americans seem to put our courage away in moth balls between wars. We must put our better judgment, as well as our American courage, back to work if we are to avoid another war which would be far worse than all others combined. If we should keep our courage under wraps until this new war came, it would be too late for us to save the day as we have done in the past. We have never needed to apply our courage as much as we need it today. We need all of our courage to make Democracy work, and perhaps to save Democracy for our descendants.

Fellow citizens, this is a momentous and most important issue before us today. These chambers perhaps will never have a meeting of more impact on the future than this one today. The issue involved is not merely the recognition of Negroes as humans; it is not merely the liberation of a few thousand Negroes in Nevada; it is not merely a matter of sympathy with the pathetic plight of our Negro citizens. The issue at hand is to make Democracy work, so that we in America can demonstrate to the rest of the world that Democracy can have practices which match its Utopian principles.

This issue is a test of Democracy, and might well be a giant step in the salvation of Democracy. This issue is a test to decide if our intelligence shall rule over bigotry. This issue is a matter of reason ruling over stupidity and indifference. It is a matter of solving the mystery of how our great nation, renowned for its mental giants from Ben Franklin to Thomas Edison and George Washington Carver, could ever have followed the dictates of a relative handful of bigotted mental midgets who instituted an illegal and immoral American practice. We must decide, and decide now, if we want Democracy, or some other form of government.

THE EYES AND THE EARS of the world await an answer to the question: "Does America really believe in Democracy for everyone, or for only the chosen ones?" It is certainly not the purpose, not the intent, of the Democratic ideology to extend its advantages to some and not to all. The man who loves the freedoms and opportunities of Democracy for himself, must also want his fellow man to enjoy the same. No other thought is in keeping with Democracy's purpose.

The principles of Democracy are far more important than any personal or selfish issues. Under the Democratic ideology, the rights and considerations of the citizen are placed above all others, excepting only, the security of the state. A state divided is not secure. A house divided can not stand. Only unity gives strength, and segregation destroys unity. We must have a united America if we are to face the communists on equal terms.

Democracy is the only form of government that grants full freedom and opportunity to its citizens. These grants must be extended to all

citizens. The land must be governed by its laws, and not by the whims and prejudices of men. The supreme law of the land grants inalienable rights to all citizens. The State of Nevada must implement Federal law and assure to every citizen of this state that constitutional guarantees are protected. We stand on trial to see if we really believe in this principle. Nevada can lead the way for the U.S.A.

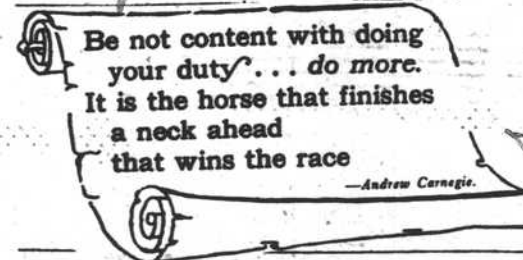
We can, and we must, lead the way. We must make Democracy a workable ideology. To do this we must enact Civil Rights legislation that shows that Nevada really believes in Democracy. It is the legal, as well as the moral duty, of Nevada's legislative body to enact in the law whatever is needed to implement the principles of Democracy. This body can fulfill its obligation by passing realistic Civil Rights legislation.

OUR NATION IS LOOKED TO for guidance in protecting the dignity and the freedom of men. We are looked to for ways and means of how the people of a nation should run the affairs of government for the benefit of the people themselves. Another form of government rules the people for the benefit of the governing body. This other form of government is conducting a world-wide campaign to win the favor of the many new and uncommitted nations of Asia, Africa and South America. The people of these lands add up to about three-fourths of all the people on earth. Their lands contain the vast majority of the remaining natural resources of the world. The people of these lands await the answer of how America administers Democracy, and of how it treats its non-Caucasian citizens.

These two billion people are non-Caucasian. The communists are putting forth all efforts to win these people as allies, and they use the American practice of racial discrimination as their chief propaganda weapon. America must stop providing the enemy with the tools and weapons which can mean our own destruction. Every American citizen who practices racial discrimination is aiding and abetting the enemy. Other Americans who remain indifferent to such practices are no less guilty of treason. It is the duty of every American to do all in his power to stop this treason.

If we continue to follow the dictates of bigotry, we will be handing over to the enemy more than two-thirds of the world. Add up in your minds the combination of communist aims to rule the world, plus two billion more people, and nearly all of the world's natural resources, and then ask how the Free World could defend itself. Such a combination would create a Red tidal wave that would sweep all Democracy from the face of the earth. Our own would be the first to feel the onslaught. We can not let the Reds gain this advantage. We must show these new nations that America believes in the Democratic ideology, and we must demonstrate that Democracy works. We must pass this legislation to do our part in salvaging Democracy from the potential Red tidal wave.

Let Nevada lead the way for the U.S.A.



AFRICA in Today's World

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

(Red China finally overplayed its hand in Africa last month by having one of its agents assassinate anti-communist Premier Pierre Ngendandumwe of Burundi, leading to expulsion of Red Chinese envoys from the country and virtual severance of relations with Peking. Following is a report by New York Herald Tribune correspondent Tom Lambert on two of the more notorious Red Chinese agents operating in Africa.)

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THE FIELDS OF NORTH CHINA yield, among other fruits, a tough grain cereal called kao liang. Nutritious for men and animals, the base for an explosive wine, kao liang is a rugged plant, self-reliant, durable in heat or cold, adaptable to a variety of soils.

Kao liang, the cereal, has no more of those desirable qualities, however, than one of Communist China's top foreign agents with the same name--possibly an alias--now busily at work in east and central Africa. He has promoted or had a hand in several uprisings and revolts.

And while Kao Liang operates diligently in that part of Africa, an equally tough and resourceful Chinese Communist agent--a lean, English and Hindi-speaking compatriot named Kan Mai, listed as a diplomat but actually an Army colonel--plows revolutionary furrows in the central and western part of Africa.

Communist China's leaders have declared with obvious relish that Africa is "ripe for revolution," and Kao and Kan are two of its most active revolutionaries.

In the past 14 years, they have been linked firmly or tenuously with revolutionary skull-duggery, subversion and armed uprisings not only in Africa--in the Congo, Brazzaville Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Angola, Ethiopia, Burundi--but also in India, Nepal, possibly Tibet, and Mauritius, a British island colony west of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.

AS ASSESSED HERE, Kao Liang, about 40, is the more subtle, devious and menacing of the two agents. He's given to covert bribings, manipulations of leftists and oppositionists, double-dealings and propaganda work. Kan Mai, about 50, is believed more essentially a military revolutionary specialist.

Presently, Kao Liang is the correspondent of Peking's New China News Agency in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Kan Mai is first counsellor of the Communist Chinese Embassy in Brazzaville, Congo. And reportedly he is director of the guerrilla training camps for Congolese, Angolan and other African rebels at Gamboma and Impfondo, 220 and 375 miles north respectively of Brazzaville.

Kao Liang is credited here with a major role in the 1964 takeover of Zanzibar by Chinese and Cuban-trained agents and rebels, and the slow, steady trend leftward of the government of Tanzania, composed of Zanzibar and the former independent state of Tanganyika.

Kan Mai-trained Congolese rebels have rampaged through the chaotic Congo's Kwilu Province, and may be getting ready now for another thrust into the Congo from neighboring Brazzaville.

But those are not the only doings of Kao Liang and Kan Mai.

(See AFRICA, page 11)

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 958 West Owens Ave. (Golden West Shopping Center), Las Vegas, Nevada
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