

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

EDITORIAL

South Must Realize Vote Drive Serious

IT MAY TAKE considerable time to get the job done, but public officials in the newly identified "Goldwater belt" of the Deep South must realize by now that nothing--repeat, nothing--is going to stop the Negro citizen from registering and voting in his home community. Recent events in Selma, Ala., should emphasize that fact.

Despite wholesale arrests of aspiring registrants in Selma by white supremacy "enforcer" James Clark, described by a New York Times reporter as a man who has "made a career of keeping Negroes in line" during his 10 years as sheriff of Dallas County, there will be no let-up in the drive for political and economic equality in that area. That much has been made clear by Dr. Martin Luther King and his top aides. And when things are straightened out in Selma, it is reasonable to assume that public officials and businessmen in other "Goldwater belt" communities are going to institute necessary reforms in order to avoid paying the penalty for racial injustice levied on Selma.

We reluctantly admit that "it may take considerable time to get the job done" in Selma and elsewhere because of the shamefully discriminatory registration tests aimed at potential Negro registrants in many southern communities. The utter unfairness of these tests was pointed up at the recent U.S. Civil Rights Commission hearings in Jackson, Miss.

A Mississippi county voter registrar, G. H. Hood, denied under oath that he had discriminated against would-be Negro registrants by forcing them to pass a test not ordinarily given white applicants, or by flunking Negroes on test questions requiring "interpretive" answers. So the commission decided to give him the same test.

Asked to interpret a section of the U.S. Constitution dealing with tax exemptions for corporations--one of the "questions" in his own test--the registrar began to read the complicated section when Commissioner Erwin Griswold snapped:

"I didn't ask you to read it, Mr. Hood. I asked you to interpret it."

Hood declined. Griswold, dean of the Harvard Law School, then asked if he was refusing to answer on grounds it might incriminate him.

"Yes, sir," replied Hood, seeking refuge in the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, as many a lower-case "hood" had done before him.

The foregoing comment should not be construed as criticism of the Constitution's protection against self-incrimination when the Fifth Amendment is used in good faith. But if anyone wishes to interpret such an observation as an analogy between hoodlums, commies, white supremacists and other enemies of our American society, we would be the last to deny them that privilege.

Will This Finally End It?

WE SINCERELY HOPE that the City Commission's ultimatum that health and safety hazards in the trailer court just east of 'H' St. and north of Owens Ave. be eliminated by March 3 will settle this matter once and for all. Immediate and permanent correction of this unsatisfactory--and dangerous--condition is long overdue.

It was particularly "amusing" to note that an attorney representing the court owner criticized the commission for not having the many violations brought directly to the attention of his client so he could make the necessary repairs before an official inspection report was made public.

As a matter of record, the unsanitary and unsafe condition of the court was called to the owner's attention as far back as seven years ago and a number of the trailers were "red-tagged" five years ago. It is still a matter of conjecture as to why and by whom some of those tags were removed.

But there is little point in going into all that now. The big thing is to get the court cleaned up and to see that it stays that way.

And while we're on the subject, we might suggest that some other property owners on this side of town could tidy up their places to the advantage of the community as a whole. 'Nough said.

Hock Shops Out of Line

AS THIS IS WRITTEN, we do not know what action the Las Vegas City Commission took last night, if any, on a resolution to impose stricter regulations on local pawn brokers. We do know that City Attorney Sidney Whitmore is acting in the best public interest by insisting that the hock shop operators stop charging more than the maximum legal interest rate of three per cent per month.

Ever since the pawn brokers were publicly warned to comply with the law several months ago, we have received complaints that some were still charging up to 10 per cent interest per month. Investigation proved these complaints to be based on fact.

We commend Mr. Whitmore for his vigilance in trying to protect those unfortunates who find it necessary to hock their possessions and support his recommendation that signs setting forth the legal rate of interest be prominently displayed in all pawn shops.

Safety, Dope Peril Films Shown Here

INSTRUCTIVE FILMS on "Safety To and From School" and "The Story of Dope" were shown by Detective Herman Moody and Officer Ray Clark of the Las Vegas Police Dept. at a Madison School Room 51 Mothers Club meeting on Feb. 22.

Club members also discussed plans for the Father and Son Banquet scheduled for April.

In-service workshops will be conducted at Madison during March as follows: March 11, Remedial Spelling Project (Mrs. Jordan); March 18, Audio-Visual Aids (Mr. Evans, Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Goynes).

Definite progress, especially in the proper use of technical terms, has been noted in the remedial arithmetic program at Madison.

Now in its fourth week under the direction of William Evans, the "early-bird" (8 a.m.) project will be thoroughly evaluated later on with a view toward eliminating weaknesses in the mathematics program.

Atty. Charles Kellar has been scheduled to address Madison sixth graders on March 10, followed by Miss Gwen Weekes, Women's Democratic Club West president on March 24 and W. C. Morrow, of the State Employment Service, on Apr. 7. Dr. James B. McMillan was the speaker last week.



AFRICA in Today's World

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

(This is the second part of a report from Capetown by John Jordi to the New York Herald Tribune on efforts of the "white supremacy" government of the Republic of South Africa to bolster trade with Black Africa. Last week Mr. Jordi noted that two new African nations, Zambia and Malawi, were weak links in a boycott of South African products by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In this week's concluding installment, Mr. Jordi examines other possible areas of South African trade expansion on the Dark Continent despite strong "northern" opposition to the Verwoerd government's strict apartheid or "separation of the races" policy.)

The economic and geographical difficulties and resulting "discretionary neutrality" of Zambia and Malawi thus seem exploitable for the South African purpose of reaching Black Africa as a whole. But three British protectorates within South Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, present an even more promising prospect for pressure-diplomacy, because they are even more dependent for their livelihood upon the good will of South Africa.

Internal self-rule will come to the first two with elections this March. For Basutoland, independence (plus a UN vote) will follow late this year or early next year; for Bechuanaland, probably a little later.

The "freedom timetable" for Swaziland is less predictable ever since King Sobhuza II, Great Elephant of Mswati, upset Whitehall constitution-makers and African nationalists alike by launching his own political party and, with white allies and (his foes allege) South African connivance, made an almost clean sweep of last June's Legislative Council elections.

Political history and geography have combined to interlock the economies of these three territories closely with that of South Africa--so closely that 60 per cent of Bechuanaland's produce relies on South African markets and 200,000 Basutos find employment in South Africa. The four operate a customs union, and even to contemplate the unscrambling of the present, deeply-embedded set-up would seem to be beyond all economic sense.

While it is fashionable for British Socialists to see these territories as "hostages of Verwoerd," many South Africans fear that they will become Trojan horses for African nationalist incursions across the borders, beachheads for Afro-Asian invasion. And Bechuana and Basuto politicians, even those with extreme Pan-Africanist pasts and policies have therefore been at pains recently to stress that harmony with South Africa--even Dr. Verwoerd's South Africa--is their prime objective once British protection has gone.

LIMITED POSSIBILITIES

For Dr. Verwoerd's government a point of major interest arising from Basutoland's and Bechuanaland's unenviable, tight-rope political future is whether these states can be persuaded to use their links with Africa to enable South Africa to rejoin the continent from which it has been virtually expelled.

Yet even if a "dialogue" can be launched, by this or other means, it cannot go far.

When Dr. Kaunda spoke of his "new approach," he offered to send an ambassador to South Africa "if he gets the same treatment as Dr. Verwoerd gives his cabinet ministers."

Dr. Verwoerd countered by offering a roving ambassador to visit "friendly states" which could, in return, send emissaries on flying in-and-out missions to Pretoria. "This," he said, "is a way to start up relations at least."

But it could get no farther than that start. The next stage in such an operation--African diplomatic missions resident in South Africa--is impossible to imagine. First, because there is something in the government's fear that African diplomats would be sent here with the specific aim of provoking "incidents." Second, because even if they came with the purest of intentions, South African apartheid society could be relied upon to provide such "incidents" a-plenty.

It is in this sense that, however admirable its diplomatic intentions toward the rest of Africa, the Verwoerd government is held captive by the public prejudices that sustain it at home.

Time of change:

Bigotry
Prejudice
Hate
Fear
HOOD

National Conference of Christians & Jews

LAS VEGAS Voice

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