

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

EDITORIAL

Is The Negro Community Adult?

By **ROY WILKINS**
NAACP Executive Secretary



AFRICA in Today's World

(Following is the second and concluding portion of a report from Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, by Los Angeles Times staff writer Dan Shannon dealing with the probable motivations behind Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere's "cultivation" of the Red Chinese when other new governments throughout Africa have become increasingly wary of the Peking regime's intentions. In last week's installment, U. S. and British officials in Dar-es-Salaam were quoted as believing Nyerere is merely "playing" East against West in an effort to obtain maximum financial support for building his impoverished nation and that he actually is more pro-Free World than pro-Communist.)

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THE MOTIVATION usually ascribed to Nyerere's pronounced attentions to the Chinese is the psychological scar left on him by the 1963 army revolt which forced him to call on British troops. For a leader of the "radical" Africans, it was a deep humiliation and much of Tanzanian friendliness toward Peking is traced to his desire to show independence of the West and particularly the old colonial master, Britain.

But the factor which perhaps colors Nyerere's current attitude toward the Chinese more than any other is his belief that they may help him realize his dream of a 1,000-mile railway from Dar-es-Salaam to Zambia, Tanzania's landlocked neighbor to the west. Zambia exports 700,000 tons of copper a year through white-ruled Rhodesia and Mozambique, the only rail route presently available to her.

While Nyerere undoubtedly is politically motivated in wishing to deprive Mozambique and Rhodesia of the income they derive from Zambian shipments, he also is not averse to diverting those revenues into his own meager treasury. He feels the railroad would help develop Tanzania's southern highlands as well as the agricultural eastern region of Zambia. The immediate problem is, however, a cost which far exceeds the resources of both Tanzania and China.

"WE WANT MONEY and as far as I am concerned I am going to take it from whoever offers," Nyerere declared after failing to get more from the British government than an offer to pay half the survey cost of 75,000 pounds (\$210,000). "Nobody can tell me not to take money from the Communist countries which I believe is good for my people."

The total cost (the 160 miles of existing narrow gauge line between Dar-es-Salaam and Kilosa would have to be rebuilt to match Zambia's standard gauge) has been set at between \$160.4 million and \$420 million. Nyerere indicated at one point that the Chinese had offered to take over the whole project, but Zambia's less emotional Prime Minister, Kenneth Kaunda, said the Chinese offer was only to pay the cost of the survey.

A World Bank study several years ago rejected the rail project in favor of a modern highway costing only \$22.4 million. The road might do an equivalent job in opening up agricultural production along the route, but Africans

The most tragic picture out of the Los Angeles horror riot was that of several small Negro children trying to open a cash register that had already been looted.

The most frightening riot cry, because of its unbelievable ignorance, was, "This is the Negro Revolution!" Whether riots erupt out of the unbearable, repeat unbearable, oppressions of a suffering population or whether they are stimulated, they benefit no people, help no cause.

According to the picture, little children are being taught early that rifling cash registers is a method of living approved by the society in which they live. A Harlem street speaker is reported as telling his small crowd that the Los Angeles rioters should be called "Freedom Fighters." Another picture from the City of Angels shows one of these "Freedom Fighters" leaning through a broken store window calmly selecting which pair of shoes he will steal.

Some Fighter
Some Freedom and some fight-



Wilkins

ter! God help black Americans if this is their revolution and these their revolutionaries!

Negro citizens in Los Angeles have just grievances. The Watts area has the lowest per capita income in the entire city except that of skid row bums. Black Angelenos have had a hard and unsympathetic police chief and department on their backs for more than fifteen years. It was a police incident that set off the riot.

But no grievances are settled by mob action and senseless mass destruction of property. The remedy lies in a determined and inescapable presentation of the grievances to the proper authorities with the widest possible publicity and the smartest possible use of political strength. A high caliber, non-partisan, biracial inquiry commission would help.

Choosing the emotional outlet of rioting and anarchy could mean the enthronement of thievery as an ideal of the "Freedom Movement." It could mean a society-sanctioned practice of hating people for their skin color alone—a practice Negroes have fought since 1619.

Nose-Grinding Work
Riding with the ever-present (but diminishing) discriminations

and inequalities imposed from without, when do we do something about ourselves, within our own group? Why don't we go to school, at night if need be, to learn the difference between a revolution and a riot? Or that freedom means more nose-grinding work, much more study and failure, much more discipline and restraint, much more compassion, than slavery or segregation ever did?

Of course the Los Angeles riot hurt the cause of civil rights because it gave free ammunition in generous amounts to Negro haters in the Southern California hot-bed and over the nation. The riot may even help elect an ultra-conservative as Governor.

But, along with this damage, the riot revealed sicknesses that, unless cured by the people themselves, can hurt the Negro community's forward movement. Real opportunities are at last opening up for the black minority. The machinery to enable it to win its share has been provided. Allies, including government, stand ready to aid. There need be no more riots for both blacks and whites to lose.

The big question mark is in the Negro community. Is it adult or is it still a ward?

We Stand Corrected

THIS NEWSPAPER takes great pride in its typographical cleanliness, thank you. We sincerely believe the VOICE reaches its readers with fewer typographical errors than 99 per cent of similar publications. But we do come up with some "beauts" on occasion and we hasten to correct two regrettable mistakes that appeared in these pages recently. The first may have embarrassed the budget-makers for the local Neighborhood Youth Corps program. The second, curiously enough, failed to give the VOICE enough credit for what we modestly consider a noteworthy accomplishment.

In the first instance, an article in the Aug. 5 issue stated that \$1 million has been allocated for a nine-month extension of the Neighborhood Youth Corps program in this area starting

have an almost mystical faith in railroads. It is bolstered by the fact that Nairobi, East Africa's metropolis, grew from a construction camp on the railroad from the Indian Ocean coast to Uganda.

THERE ALSO IS some doubt that copper could be moved by truck, although opponents of the railroad feel it is only a matter of time before white rule in Rhodesia and Mozambique ends, eliminating the political objections to the present routes.

Strong American sentiment exists in Dar-es-Salaam for helping build the railroad to offset excessive Chinese influence. A British Commonwealth representative, however, suggested that the Chinese might well be allowed to hang themselves.

"Does anyone think the Soviets gained anything when they took over the Aswan Dam from the United States in 1956?" he asked. "I doubt if the Chinese will do any better with this and if they get involved it will be just that much (See AFRICA, page 2)

Sept. 15. After explaining that about 700 jobs will be available to school dropouts and in-school participants (the latter on a part-time basis) between the ages of 16 and 21, the story went on to say: "Some \$80,000 will go toward wages for those employed under this program."

That figure of \$80,000 (amounting to 8 per cent of the total allocation of \$1 million) happened to miss the mark by a mere \$720,000 all because a zero was dropped (or gobbled up by a hungry gremlin). The line should have read: "Some \$800,000 will go toward wages for those employed under this program."

Then, only last week, in pointing out that the VOICE is now nationally recognized as a leader in its field after only "151 weeks of uninterrupted publication," we immediately detected a more baffling numerical error as soon as the issue came off the presses--too late, of course, to do anything about it.

Actually, we weren't "bragging" strong enough, because whatever stature we have achieved in our field was accomplished in "99 weeks of uninterrupted publication," or a good year ahead of the "151 weeks" stated in last week's issue.

We'll try to do better in the future.

LAS VEGAS VOICE

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