

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

EDITORIAL

Coleman Case Looks Even Worse in Europe

BY ROY WILKINS

COPENHAGAN, Denmark—The acquittal of Thomas L. Coleman in Hayneville, Ala., is uglier over here than it is at home. The feeling spread from shock to outrage to anger and, for Americans, to shame.

The farce may seem logical and routine in Gov. Wallace's Alabama or in a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan, but in Europe the news is simply incredible. Here was a man, they say to American tourists, who shot another man dead and wounded a second man. The Europeans by now know a bit about the American civil rights struggle. They have learned to expect almost anything out of a street confrontation, but out of a courtroom they expect a semblance of legal procedure, not an extension of mob action.

Out of Hayneville, Ala., they got an old-fashioned American lynching with the law as its victim. The Americans here could only look down and stutter at the news from home. It was so bald, so utterly and shamelessly transparent. The "testimony" was that the dead student for the priesthood was carrying a knife and that the wounded priest was carrying a gun. No weapons were ever found.

So, Coleman shot them down and a jury of his home county friends set him free. The victims were intruding on the Hayneville plantation and one of the riding bosses took care of them.

The Nation Was Hurt Badly

Well, despite the Americans who maintain that what we do to our Negroes is our business alone, the Coleman thing hurt the United States. They make us look so immature, so unseasoned for world leadership, so uncivilized despite our gadgets and our bank balances. They help to balk us at the conference tables. They breed the smirks and the contemptuous deference which greet our social and diplomatic sorties.

They help to make our tourists fair game because these come from a underdeveloped country with overdeveloped pretensions. A country with both a trillion economy projection and the Philadelphia, Miss., murders. With both photographs of the moon and Georgia police enforcing lily-white school buses. With both the Statue of Liberty and Hayneville juries.

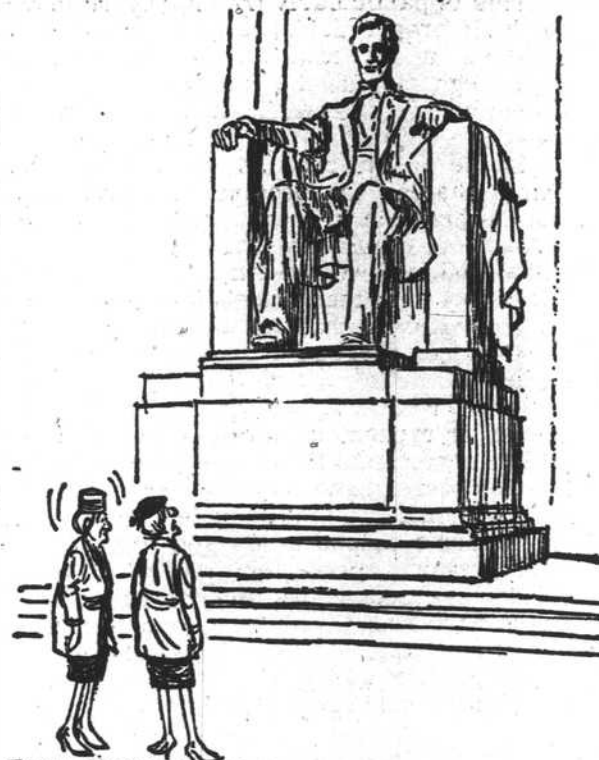
CARTOON BY HAYNIE



"We must free ourselves from foreign domination!"

BELOW OLYMPUS

By Interlandi



"I wonder what he's thinking now about keeping the South in the Union?"

But it hurts worse in Northern Europe, not because some of these people and these governments are themselves so pure, but because Hayneville has betrayed the white fraternity and its proudest creation, the Western, Anglo-Saxon system of law. This system says that one must live by the rule of law, and especially so when the spotlight is glaring and the chips are down. It says that this is the discipline of greatness and that those who fail to measure up fail the white race and, in our present day, the western world. They feel that in the most humiliating way the Lowndes County pretenders are traitors to genuine white greatness.

The 'System' Was Illuminated

As for Thomas Coleman, he and his county's court have revealed to an incredulous nation the system under which the South's Negroes have lived since the end of the Civil War. No perversion or stultification has been too fantastic if it served to keep white men up and black men down.

The thousands of white Americans who have gone South to work for civil rights in the past two years have experienced the controls face to face. At long last they understand what Negroes have been complaining about all these years. Men with no other label than mere whiteness have been in-breeding their littleness in local compounds. The assaults upon the "nigger-lovers" in the closed society tradition have laid bare the Haynevilles.

The Coleman jury explains why vast numbers of Negroes have such misgivings about resting their case in the law. When they are able to vote freely perhaps the concept will approach that of the law of the land, of all the people. Just now, in too many instances, it is still Coleman's law. And the corollary to Coleman's law continues to be Watts.



AFRICA in Today's World

GHANA'S CAPITAL CITY of Accra has been feverishly pushing a "fix-up, paint-up clean-up" campaign during the past several weeks in preparation for the Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit conference scheduled to start today, Oct. 21, according to a recent Associated Press report.

Russian taxis, American buses, Irish roses, Indian shrubbery and thousands of gallons of paint have been used to glamorize the steamy seacoast city.

President Kwame Nkrumah is trying to make sure all the invited guests--Africa's 35 heads of state--show up on schedule.

Neighboring Ivory Coast, Upper Volta and Niger threatened to boycott Accra, contending Ghana supported political refugees from their countries in plots against them.

Nkrumah issued soothing statements, tightened internal security and shipped many political refugees out of Accra for the duration of the meeting. It remains uncertain whether Presidents Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast and Hamani Diori of Niger will attend.

Ghana's inability to complete on schedule a massive complex of conference halls, residences and offices forced postponement of the original starting date, Sept. 1.

NEW PARKS and gardens, new buildings and refurbished old ones, hundreds of flags and miles of colorful bunting brighten Accra.

Taxi drivers attended a two-week course in elementary courtesy and basic French. They have been ordered to wear black trousers, white shirts and black ties.

A fleet of 50 red-and-yellow Russian taxicabs has been put on the roads and the first of 120 U.S. buses has arrived to supplement public transport during the conference.

Radio Ghana has been promoting politeness for months with a program called "service with a smile." It describes the proper way to treat guests.

A Ministry of Parks and Gardens under Mrs. E. N. Ocansey put 300 workers to planting \$106,400 worth of roses from Ireland, flowers from England and shrubs from India and Ceylon.

GHANA'S ECONOMY has slumped under the burden of low world prices for her cocoa crop. Lack of spare parts has idled thousands of vehicles. Long lines form early each morning for scarce sugar, matches, milk and flour.

These shortages have been eased at least temporarily by issuing \$504 million worth of consumer credits for imports.

The conference center, known as "Job No. 600," originally was expected to cost about \$20 million. Such extra expenses as air-freighting special steel rods, electrical equipment and other gear are believed to have driven the price up to more than \$36 million.

Virtually all construction in Ghana not connected with the conference is at a standstill.

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