

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man



as told by
John P. & C. Buck West

IN ORDER TO BRING the VOICE "Hidden History" feature (The Saga of the Black Man from earliest civilization) to our readers, a great deal of research is involved. One of the prime research resources has been the works of Joel A. Rogers, veteran historian, researcher, and author. Today, we, the writers of the "Hidden History" series, join the (now) countless scholars in the field of Negro history, and the legion of Rogers reader fans in mourning the death of the eminent Author-Historian.

Death claimed the 85 year old Rogers, a native of Jamaica, British West Indies, last week at New York City's St. Clare's Hospital after a short illness. Until his passing, the vigorous interest and concentration of Rogers in the field to which he had devoted a lifetime, was such that, at the report of his death, Dr. Charles H. Wesley, Executive Director for the Study of Negro Life and History, and other member historians expressed feelings of shock as well as loss at the news.

J. A. Rogers had engaged continuously in research on the Negro since 1915. His first book, "From Superman to Man", he published, himself, in 1917, after it was refused by publishers. He began writing for the Negro press in 1920, and wrote a column on Negro history for the Pittsburgh Courier from 1921 up until his death.

MORE THAN ANY historian, J. A. Rogers contributed to the awakening of interest in the history of the Negro. Without exception, all professional historians credit him with "popularizing" this field. It is conceded that his knowledge of world history was even more extensive than that of Negro history. An understandable premise in that to dig into the ancestry and contributions of the Negro from time immemorial, painstaking, and exhaustive research of chronicled, and unchronicled historical facts were mandatory.

Rogers spent more than thirty years in anthropological and historical research on the Negro in all ages and all lands. He traveled extensively, particularly in Europe and Africa. He was a student of race relations, particularly as it affected the broader field of international politics. In 1930, he was elected to membership in the Paris Society of Anthropology which was founded by Broca in 1859. The same year he was one of the speakers at the International Congress of Anthropology which was opened by Paul Doumer, President of France. His constant search for factual information on the black man took him to all the European libraries and museums, to North Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan.

HIS BEST KNOWN books are "From Superman to Man", his first, published in 1917; "World's Greatest Men of African Descent" (1930); "100 Amazing Facts About the Negro" (1934); "Sex and Race" (3 vol-publication began 1940); "World's Great Men of Color, 3000 B.C. to 1946 A.D." (2 vol-(1947); "Africa's Gift to America" (praised in the U.S. Congressional Record, June 8, 1960), and "Nature Knows No Color Line" (A research into The Negro Ancestry in the White Race).

Rogers was a prolific writer, authoring many more books, pamphlets and magazine articles, all of which have been of incalculable influence in the field of history, and have revolutionized the chronicling of Negro history.

Although many professional historians refuse to acknowledge the validity of some of his conclusions, none have been able to substantiate refutation of them. There are just too many pictorial proofs and authenticated research data.

Although the works of J. A. Rogers is only one research resource for the information re-

JUDGE SUNDEAN

Reveals "Hole Card," Bigotry

THE ABOMINABLE American heritage of racism revealed its ugly image from the bench of District Judge Clarence Sundeau last Wednesday, April 6. The Judge was shocked right out of his judicial wits by the mere implication that a 'white woman' could possibly have had sexual relations with 'colored men.' Sundeau placed more significance upon saving a white woman from a black man, than he placed upon the salvation of our way of life.

We make no attempt to judge the guilt or innocence of the accused, but we do question the racial attitude of Judge Sundeau. We feel that Sundeau impeached himself in the Riley case when he demonstrated his reaction of 'horror' that a white woman could willingly submit to relations with a Negro man.

Judge Sundeau is reported to have said, "Considering what counsel (Atty. Charles L. Kellar) did, the horrible question he asked of the witness under subpoena, and other implications that she, a white woman, had relations with colored men, I can't see that what the court did could be more prejudicial than conduct of counsel." With this statement the Judge denied Attorney Kellar's motion for mistrial. Kellar, counsel for the defense, had based his motion upon the fact that the "number of uncomplimentary remarks against counsel for defense, was making it appear impossible for the defendant to have a fair trial."

The Attorney for the defense was apparently abiding by the code of ethics of his profession in his attempt to do all within his power to defend his client whose life was at stake. However, Kellar was interrupted by Sundeau and admonished by the juror for his (Kellar's) questions directed at the complainant in an attempt to reveal sexual promiscuity of the witness.

Judge Sundeau expressed no surprise concerning admissions by the witness of sexual relations with several alleged fiances, presumed by the Judge to have been white lovers, nor was he horrified about the admission by the witness that she had lived with a man for six or seven months without benefit of clergy.

THE JUDGE STATED that "There is no presumption that she is an unchaste woman." Apparently Sundeau sees nothing horrible about a white woman being promiscuous with white men, but he spontaneously reveals the bigotry hidden beneath his jurors robes, when it is suggested that a white woman could go to bed with a black man.

Sundeau's reaction on the bench last Wednesday clearly reveals that he is not capable of rendering equitable justice to a Negro who has been accused of a sex crime involving a white woman. He exposed his bigotry quite clearly,

and quite spontaneously when he reacted as he did to counsel's questioning of the witness.

Attorney Charles L. Kellar has been threatened by Sundeau for conduct unbecoming a member of the legal fraternity. Sundeau said, "I think I'll report this to the bar association." It should not be necessary for the legal fraternity to wait for Sundeau's report before action is taken. The Bar Association has been mandated by this man (Sundeau) to protect its image of integrity in the eyes of the public, while at the same time protect the image of democracy and its concept of equal justice.

If there is no action taken against this bigot hiding behind the legal bench while garbed in jurors robes, how can the members of the Bar expect the public to recite the Salute to the Flag with sincerity? How can they expect the democratic ideology to make gains in the hearts of non-Caucasian people of the world?

MEN LIKE Clarence Sundeau have marred the image of democracy for more than a century. There was a time when such scarring of our national countenance was considered popular by a segment of our society. That time is now relegated to the dark ages of our American history. The democratic way of life is today engaged in an ideological conflict with an ominous adversary. For democracy to win the conflict all among us who would aid the enemy must be treated as traitors to our cause. Democracy is on the move to create a way of life that practices what it preaches. If this move is to gain momentum, the likes of Sundeau must be moved from the pathway of progress.

It is incumbent upon the Nevada Bar Association to admonish this bigot of the bench. Sundeau must be impeached with speed as well as with decisiveness. If the legal fraternity does not clear the stench from the atmosphere of our District Court, the task will fall to the voters. There is no question as to what the voters will do, but the lawyers should wash their own dirty linen.

The issue involved is no longer the question of clearing or convicting an indicted felon, it is now a matter of protecting the democratic way of life.

(P.P. Please take note that two wrongs do not make a right. Regardless of how, in your opinion, counsel for the defense may have crucified the witness, he was only doing what he thought best for his client. His action did not justify Sundeau's action which crucified our system of justice. If the judge has gained stature by his handling of a dynamite-laden situation, how much has our system of justice lost by his display of bigotry from the bench?)

FICKLE LIBERALS LACK COMMITMENT

By Whitney M. Young, Jr.
National Urban League Executive Director

IN RECENT WEEKS I have been dismayed to find Vice President Hubert Humphrey come under violent attack from those for whom he has been a leading spokesman for the past 20 years.

No one in the nation has had a more consistent record of support for liberal policies and programs than has Vice President Humphrey, yet his critics are all too willing to forget this and publicly pillory the man because his position as a leading figure in the Administration requires him to take a stand on Vietnam with which they disagree.

Conversely, the new darling of the liberals is Sen. William Fulbright of Arkansas, whose opposition to the war in Vietnam has made them forget that he has consistently voted and acted with that bloc of southern senators who have consistently over the years obstructed measures aimed at extending the civil rights of Negroes.

The Senator has not matched his courage in speaking out against Vietnam with speaking out against his own Gov. Faubus and racial conditions in the South.

All citizens have their own opinions on the policies we are following in Vietnam and I don't

vealed in the "Hidden History" series, it has proven to be one of great value and certainly the most revelatory.

intend to discuss this very complex subject here.

What concerns me is the way liberal intellectuals tend to fluctuate in their feelings about public figures and issues, and the effect this has on the civil rights movement.

One of the complaints liberal intellectuals have made is that, although they have participated in the civil rights movement with vigor, Negro leaders tend to mistrust them and fail to make full use of their abilities. Why? Perhaps the answer lies in the current Vietnam debate. Liberals have almost abandoned the civil rights movement to do battle with the Administration's (See LIBERALS, page 9)

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