

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

SPONSORED BY



TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE

The Negro of Whom Napoleon Was Jealous
(1743-1803)

(Conclusion of a three-part profile of Toussaint Louverture, the Haitian slave whose civil status at birth was that of an ox, but who established a record for political and military ability second to none in the annals of history. Author J. A. Rogers, the late historian-anthropologist, (whose "World's Great Men of Color", Vol. II is the authority on Hidden History's Chronicle of the Great Toussaint) unconsciously points out the irony of Girard College's policy of barring Negroes from enrollment in the 2nd paragraph of the footnotes appended here.)

* * * * *

"ONE BY ONE, however, Toussaint's generals, Dessalines, Christophe, Maurepas, surrendered to Leclerc till at last Toussaint alone held out. Declaring he would fight on even if he had to use Leclerc's own men, he continued until he had only 1,200 men left, and even attacked Leclerc's army of 11,000 with his hand-

tacked Leclerc's army of 11,000 with this handful. Finally, when these were nearly all gone he agreed to surrender, and swearing loyalty to France, was permitted to retire to his estate. The other black and mulatto leaders were given high posts in the government.

"Toussaint, however, had not yet played his last card. Leclerc's troops were being decimated by yellow fever, and he knew that sooner or later Leclerc would weaken and then would come his opportunity. He began to plot with the British.

"Leclerc, in power, now decided to seize Toussaint. He had General Brunet invite him to his home for a conference, assuring him of a safe return and then had him tied like a common thief and carried aboard a ship bound for France. As his feet left the soil of Haiti forever, Toussaint cried, 'In seizing me you have only cut down the tree of liberty. It will spring afresh; its roots are deep and strong.'

"Prophetic words, these were!

"WHEN TOUSSAINT reached France, Napoleon sent General Caffarelli to interrogate him about 32,000,000 francs in gold that he had heard Toussaint had hidden in the hills. But to all importunities Toussaint replied, 'I have lost other treasures.' Or he would say, 'My conscience is my only treasure.'

"Napoleon ordered him to be imprisoned at Fort Joux, high in the Alps, and gave special orders that he was to communicate with no one save his jailer and a domestic. Toussaint pleaded to see his wife and children, but Napoleon was obdurate. His money, his watch, his papers, were all taken away at Napoleon's orders, and no writing paper was permitted him. In his cell, well above his reach, was a little barred window that looked out on the eternal snows.

"Napoleon allowed him the equivalent of a dollar and a half a day for maintenance, later reducing this to half. A wooden chair and bed of straw were the only furnishings in his cell. Napoleon, though, denounced the English as stingy when they allowed him \$200 a day at St. Helena. Napoleon, too, perhaps in irony, had General Rigaud, Toussaint's mulatto rival, put in an adjoining cell. Rigaud, however, was more favored; he was permitted to converse with a

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

EDITORIAL

LEST WE FORGET

NEVADA VOTERS are in a singularly advantageous position to review the qualifications of the two candidates for Governor. Incumbent Governor Grant Sawyer has been justifiably heralded throughout the nation as one of the truly great governors. Under his leadership and proven administrative ability, the State of Nevada has enjoyed incomparable progressive growth. Moreover, Nevadans can take understandable pride in the fact that Governor Sawyer has skillfully handled all the problems contingent with such unprecedented growth without compromise of principle or philosophy.

On the other hand, his opponent, the Lieutenant Governor, has a consistent record of inconsistency. Having spent most of his tenure as Lt. Governor as a candidate for other offices, he has afforded the voter with a bewildering picture of an ambitious politician whose only commitment is to what is expedient at the moment.

To refresh the memories of Nevada voters, the VOICE has recently reprinted statements of the ambivalent Lt. Governor. The following reprint of an editorial from another newspaper is a classic example of the double talk practiced by the candidate and is totally indicative of the principle (or rather the lack of principle) of the man.

up - 'How are you going to get this type of person to come to Carson City? You're talking about people who would have to make a big financial sacrifice.'

"Sure I am. But I'd like to start a 'Dollar a year' program here in Nevada like they've had in Washington for years. I think this state is full of top, public spirited citizens who would come to Carson for four years to do a job for their state - even if it costs them money....

"If elected your governor, I pledge I'll comb this state from one end to the other - the business, the professional, the vocational community - to find these people and induce them to be part of my team for the next four years."

Laxalt, in addressing the state employees, emphasized his steadfast belief in the merit system as long as those working for the state turned in top performances.

But on Sept. 22 he indicated he was going to sweep everybody out of state government and put dollar-a-year men in their place. Of course, he may be talking, in one instance, about run-of-the-mine employees, and in the other about department heads, assistant department heads, and assistants to the department heads and assistants department heads, and...but how far down the ladder is he actually going? Where is the dividing line between those who have no worry about being "purged" and those who will be tossed out to make room for the dollar-a-year experts?

Then, too, there is another facet to this matter of assuring the state employees they have nothing to fear from him if they happen to be his political enemies.

If the Republican candidate were elected and was successful in persuading "top businessmen" to come into government for four years, those businessmen who would be heads or sub-heads of some departments would rub their hands in glee and start trimming. Each would know just how much a janitor, a clerk, a stenographer, and so forth, can do in private life. Any such department head who found the least bit of "fat" would start eliminating it.

The governor then would have to back up his dollar-a-year department chiefs and renege of his campaign promise to the state employees or fire his department heads and fail to keep his promise to all the people that he would operate state government with experts from private business and industry.

It might prove to be quite a dilemma.

Nevada State Journal Friday, October 7, 1966

TWO CAMPAIGN PROMISES MAY POSE A PROBLEM

Last Monday gubernatorial aspirant Paul Laxalt spoke in Las Vegas to the Southern Nevada members of the State Employees Association.

He told them that if he were elected governor employees of the state would not have to worry about being "purged" from their posts, as is often the case when a new administration takes over in a state Capitol - any state Capitol.

"If I become your governor, I will not ask your loyalty to me as a man," he told the state workers. "If your political faith differs from mine, you need no fear of being purged. If you're not on my side, now or in the future, you don't have to worry about political revenge."

This high-minded statement was made when Gov. Grant Sawyer's opponent Nov. 8 was talking to a special group of voters - those who had jobs with the state.

However, Laxalt's stirring words to the state employees differed somewhat from his campaign kickoff speech, delivered on a paid TV broadcast on the evening of Sept. 22.

Let us quote what he said about employment in state government on that occasion:

"It seems to me that it's basic that in order to run a big business, you should have businessmen and businesswomen - people who know how to manage money.

"I've been asked - when this question comes black general, Martial Besse, also a prisoner.

"Hoping to learn the secret of the supposed treasure, Napoleon had Toussaint subjected to torture. Nine months later, on April 27, 1803, the valiant black chief died of apoplexy and pneumonia and was buried at St. Pierre at the foot of the fort. Later his remains were transferred to Chartreuse Cemetery at Bordeaux by his stepson, Placide, where a small monument was erected in his memory by his French admirers.

"TOUSSAINT WAS ONE of the outstanding figures of an age that produced notables like Washington, Napoleon, Nelson, Murat, and the Duke of Wellington. Certain French writers place Toussaint Louverture above Napoleon in military as well as in administrative genius. Chateaubriand says: 'The Black Napoleon--whom the White Napoleon imitated and killed.'

"Gerbil writes: 'Bonaparte was angered. He could not admit that a Negro could be so intelligent; he regarded all that passed at San Domingo as a personal affront... Toussaint was a victim of the rising despotism of Napoleon who could not pardon a Negro for having elevated thoughts and having dared to do what he had done himself.'

"Biographie Universelle thinks that Napoleon might have copied Toussaint. It says: 'His political administration was such that Napoleon, in a larger sphere, appeared to have taken him for a model.'

"AUGUSTE COMTE, in his Calendrier Positiviste, ranks him with Buddha, Plato, Charlemagne and Washington. Wordsworth and Lamartine, great white poets, eulogized him. To Wendell Phillips, however, he owes his finest

(See HISTORY, page 13)

LAS VEGAS
Voice

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED
to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE
of the NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. - Publisher & Editor
ALICE KEY - Associate Editor * JOHN P. WEST - General Manager
DOROTHY WEST - Treasurer * CARITA HARBERT - Office Manager

RAY FEASTER - Advertising Production * EDDY K. KIM, Society
REV. DONALD M. CLARK - Religion * DOROTHY JOHNSON - Food Forum
HENRY MILLER & ROBERT ARRINGTON - Advertising Representatives
CLINTON WRIGHT - Photography * EARL PERKINS - Northern Nevada

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
958 West Owens Ave. (Golden West Shopping Center) Las Vegas, Nevada
Telephone: 642-5308

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST
Price per copy - 15¢ • One year - \$6 • Two years - \$10
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)