

(HISTORY, from page 2)

the pigment in his skin, though he was constantly running the risk of being caught and returned to his master in the South. At first he used a false name and gave a wrong place of birth, but when the pro-slavery faction denounced him as a fraud, he boldly published his autobiography with full details.

"His book had a wide sale and put the slavers on his track. He fled to England where he had long been wanting to go to carry on the fight. On the way over, however, his zeal almost cost him his life. An anti-slavery speech he made aboard the ship so incensed a party of southerners that they tried to throw him overboard and might have succeeded had not members of the crew and other passengers interfered. This dastardly attack on the high seas brought him immense publicity in England and world-famed figures as Cobden, Brougham, Peel and Disraeli, invited him to their homes.

"HE LITERALLY swept England off its feet. Leonine, majestic, lithe, graceful, and peerless in his eloquence he stirred audiences with his clear, expressive voice like a bugle sounding the charge. Some acclaimed him the greatest living orator. Some white Americans living in London were proud to call him countryman while others tried to win his friendship, hoping to be introduced into aristocratic and influential circles. Among the latter, he said, was one white minister, who seeing him speaking with Lord Morpeth in the House of Parliament came up to him and asked him for an introduction to the lord. But, says Douglass, in America 'he would scarcely have asked such a favor of a Negro man.'

"While in England at this time, indignation at his treatment increased when he applied to George M. Dallas, the American Minister there, for a passport to visit France and was refused one on the ground that he was not a citizen of the United States. The Supreme Court of the United States had held that a Negro could not be a citizen. Douglass wrote directly to the French Minister in London and immediately received the necessary permit to go.

"HE WAS offered a home in England but true to his resolve, he declined. 'America,' he said, 'is my home and there I mean to spend my life and be spent in the cause of my outraged brethren.' His English friends thereupon gave him \$20,000, of which \$750 was to purchase his freedom and the remainder to found a newspaper."

Gregory Off To Vietnam

CHICAGO - (NPI)--Uncle Sam wasn't laughing about the prospect of Dick Gregory visiting North Viet Nam.

And the famed comedian wasn't worrying. "I don't know if there will be reprisals, and I don't care," he said, as he announced his intention to entertain American servicemen held captive by the North Vietnamese.

GREGORY SAID he would not go to South Viet Nam if North Nam officials turn down his request to perform. "I hate killings on all sides," he said. "I will not entertain soldiers in South Viet Nam."

Sources in Washington said the State Department was likely to forbid the trip--and Gregory could get into trouble with the law after returning to the United States.

NYC Rep Makes Visit



VEGAS SCHOOLS VISITOR--C.Z. Brown (right), Region 7 Field Representative of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, had a chance to see Las Vegas program in action recently at Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center where many of the approximately 120 in-school students employed are receiving specialized vocational training. Checking over training provided NYC worker Jo Ann Ragsdale (seated) are Mrs. Eleanor Graham, SNVTC secretary, and Bob Cooper, Clark County School District NYC vocational counselor. Under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Federal Government assists locally-controlled NYC programs by providing approximately 90 per cent of the funds.

(Clark County School Dist. Photo)

CIVIL RIGHTS FRONT

DO IT YOURSELF

NEW YORK--(NPI)--The NAACP has announced it will step in to investigate police brutality complaints in the absence of a civilian - controlled police review board killed in a local referendum. NAACP Executive Director, Roy Wilkins said offices will be set up in four of the organization's New York branches to handle citizens' complaints about police.

VETO URGED

WASHINGTON--(NPI) President Johnson has been asked to veto a controversial D. C. crime bill which would permit police to detain suspects for up to four hours without placing charges. The District Human Relations council, urging that the bill be killed for "the safety, welfare, and comfort of our Washington Community," said improved police-community relations "can lessen the number and tone of incidents between police and citizens."

COLOR IT WHITE

CHICAGO--(NPI) -- "We're getting around to the realization that we don't have a Negro problem, but that we do have a very real white problem," declared the Rev. George Clements, Assistant Pastor, St. Dorothy RC church during an address before Kilmer school's International and Human Relations Committee. "White fear, not black power, is the real problem," he noted, adding "the cry of black power finds a warm response in many Negroes who remain in the ghetto."

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