

# Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

SPONSORED BY



PETER JACKSON

Gallant Knight of the Prize-Ring  
(1861-1901)

(Last of a two-part Series--From Volume II of the late J.A. Rogers' "World's Great Men of Color")

"AT LAST, a leading white boxer, James J. Corbett, later to be world champion, agreed to fight Peter. Corbett, called Gentleman Jim, because of his graceful manner, was five years younger than Peter but had the disadvantage in height and weight. He was an inch shorter and fifty pounds less. But what he lacked in build and strength, was amply compensated for in skill. Corbett was a born strategist and one of the most scientific fighters of all time. In the very fine points of the game, he was probably Peter's superior. Moreover, unlike Sullivan and most of the other fighters, he shunned liquor and trained with Spartan discipline.

"The two met on a night forever to be famous in ring history, May 21, 1891, before the California Athletic Club for a fight to the finish with five-ounce gloves. The purse was \$10,000. Odds were against Corbett.

"When the gong sounded, Peter came straight at the delicate looking Corbett and it looked like his finish. All felt that his meeting with the black giant was suicide. Corbett saw that his only hope was to keep away from Peter and he ran, dodged and ducked with Peter in pursuit until the spectators hooted.

"CORBETT, IN his account of the fight, says, 'No matter in what direction I would dash, this big black thing was on top of me trying to one-two me to death.' At last, in the sixteenth round Peter caught up with Gentleman Jim and landed his favorite blow. Corbett successfully blocked part of it, but the tail-end, catching him sideways, sent him reeling like a drunken man. To all, it seemed as if the fight was over, but Corbett, thanks to his strict regime, rallied. Clinching, he hung on to Peter so desperately that the referee had great difficulty in tearing him away.

had been observing where Peter was in the habit of landing his blows and as the fight progressed learned how to avoid them. When the bout dragged into the twenty-eighth round Peter no longer seemed the certain victor. He had turned his right ankle, too. In the next round, Corbett broke through Peter's guard, but he still dreaded that lightning one-two, and worked cautiously.

"IN THE fortieth round the odds were almost even. It had become an endurance contest. Two of Corbett's ribs were broken, but he stuck it out gamely. In the sixty-first round Corbett 'was somewhat fortunate when the referee declared it a draw.'

"This fight, the most noted up to that time and for long after, was a turning point in ring history. It introduced new tactics and methods of training. The gentlemanly and chivalrous nature of the two opponents gave the public a taste for other than bruisers. Corbett gained great prestige by the fight. Later he defeated Sullivan. Many insisted that Sullivan would not have made as good a showing against Peter as Corbett had.

"Soon afterwards, Peter returned to England. He was in time to meet a boxer whose name was on everybody's lips; Frank Slavin, an Aus-

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

# EDITORIAL

## The Worst Is Yet To Come - UNLESS We Show The Strength Of Unity

There is no denying the fact that it took a deal of courage on the part of a majority of the elected "representatives of the people" to take punitive action against a fellow Congressman as did members of the House of Representatives against Adam Clayton Powell who has represented the nation's 18th Congressional District for 22 years. As was pointed out in a Las Vegas Sun editorial, the "Powell Case Could Be a Pandora's Box".

THE REAL import of the action taken by members of the 90th Congress in delaying the seating of veteran Congressman Powell for us, as Negroes, is that they dared to do it. This should be an unforgettable lesson for us. Never would they have dared to affront Adam Clayton Powell or any Negro, even of lesser stature, in the face of a united Negro populace.

Those who took advantage of the situation are as aware as any that "We mortals have few just standards by which we judge men by--to some we lower the scales, for others, we raise too high". But out of sheer self-protection, and nothing more or less, members of the Congress have, historically, maintained a standard of non-judgment of fellow Congressmen. Not a

tralian, who had been trained by Jackson's own teacher, Jem Mace. Slavin was a magnificent athlete, and next to Sullivan, the most powerful hitter in the world. He was square-jawed, ferocious, brutal and feared no one. He despised black men. Certain that the white race was superior, he was, unlike Sullivan, eager to prove it. Best of all, he made a perfect match for Peter, being almost the same in age, height and weight.

"THE FIGHT was staged at the National Sporting Club in London, May 30, 1892, with the leading sportsmen present, among them the Prince of Wales, afterwards, Edward VII. As Slavin stepped into the ring, he shouted: 'To be beaten by a nigger is a pill I will never swallow.'

"The betting was two to one in favor of Slavin. 'He was the stronger and more powerful; his devastating right was world-famous, and then, moreover--he was white,' says Farnol.

"When the gong sounded, the two faced each other cautiously. Then Slavin shot out a terrific right at Peter, which had it caught him, might have finished him. But Peter danced nimbly out of his way. Crouched like a panther, alert and dangerous, he kept Slavin at bay with his long reach, shooting out his wonderfully straight left with a feline swiftness that defied duplication and never missed its mark.

"Slavin, hoping to ruffle Peter, taunted him, but Peter boxed coolly and gracefully, winning every round up to the fifth, and letting Slavin tire himself out. In the sixth round, however, Slavin smashed one through that caught Peter under the heart. Peter reeled and Slavin drove in another. All seemed over for Peter when the gong saved him.

"WHEN THEY came out again, Slavin was sure of victory. Wishing to show his backers something spectacular, he rushed at Peter to finish him but Peter, refreshed, kept out of his way and waited for his chance. It came in the tenth round. As Slavin charged madly in, Peter flashed through his famous one-two. And the fight was over.

"Slavin was still standing, however, his hands at his sides. He had been knocked out on his feet!

"Then something happened that made ring talk for a long time to come--something that sent Peter's popularity soaring even higher. Seeing his opponent helpless, he did not want to hit him again and when the referee insisted otherwise, Peter said, 'Sorry, Frank,' and gave him a few light taps that sent him to the floor. He then picked up Slavin and carried him tenderly to his corner.

"Frank Harris, famous English editor and

(See HISTORY, page 4)

single Congressman has ever been denied his seat by the House of Representatives in the past 50 years, nor has one been deprived of his committee chairmanship after he had held that Chairmanship.

There are presently 435 Congressmen in the House of Representatives, and only 6 (one percent) are Negroes. Face the unalterable truth...Who would have dared to face the wrath of 20 million UNITED Negroes?

WHAT MUST BE faced up to is that Mr. Charley who, for the past decade, unhappily and bitterly had to content himself with cautious statements such as "going too far too fast" finally found his "out"--division among the Negroes, and how swiftly he moved in to capitalize on it.

Unity is the only real weapon Negroes have. Without it, we are at the mercy of every bigot in the nation--and there are millions. The action against Powell was just a notice to us all. It is a challenge we must meet here--now.

How do we meet the challenges ahead? We simply have to present a united front. It's just as simple as that and it is our only salvation.

## THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Jan. 12, 1890 Birth of Dr. Mordecai Johnson, President-emeritus, Howard University.
- Jan. 13, 1869 First convention of Negro labor was held.
- Jan. 13, 1873 C. C. Antoine became Lieutenant Governor to W. P. Kellog in Louisiana.
- Jan. 13, 1941 The Four Freedoms proclaimed by Great Britain and the United States.
- Jan. 14, 1907 Jamaican earthquake occurred.
- Jan. 14, 1923 Bishop Benjamin T. Tanner, AME church leader, died.
- Jan. 15, 1881 Dean William Pickens, author and NAACP field secretary, was born in Anderson county in South Carolina.
- Jan. 15, 1941 Prof. S. H. Archer, President, Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., died.
- Jan. 16, 1955 Andrew M. Bradley, first Negro to serve in Pennsylvania governor's cabinet, named to post of secretary of property and supplies.
- Jan. 17, 1941 Henry "Hammering Hank" Armstrong, only fighter to hold three fistic titles simultaneously, retired.
- Jan. 18, 1867 John Mercer Langston became first Negro to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Jan. 18, 1856 Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, first doctor to perform a successful heart operation, was born in Pennsylvania. He also helped found Provident Hospital in Chicago.

## 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: 642-5306

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)