

**(HISTORY, from page 2)**

the ghastly task he overtook. Like some of the movements today, his was doomed to failure from the start. Instead of helping the plight of the slave he seemed to hinder it, but did he not help in the long run by showing Negroes were thinking people also?

**THE SLAVE SHIP REBELLION**

LONG AND black, the schooner sailed down the Cuban coast in a black starless night. In the ship's hold were fifty-three Negro captives, chained by hand and foot. This Hell ship, ironically named "The Amistad" which is Spanish for friendship, was on a voyage that would normally take two days, over a three hundred-mile route from Havana to Puerto Principe, however nothing had gone right and after four days at sea, on this night of January 1, 1839, mutiny and murder was stirring through the humid night air.

Through the choppy sea, the "Amistad" sailed into history. She was about to become a "cause celebre", or exciting international law case, that would pit president against president, government against government and affect the lives and education of the American Negro down to our own time.

On this night of death, the slaves in the hold were engaged in a silent, but desperate struggle. They had been kidnapped on their homeland in the Mendi country of Sierra Leone; they had survived the horrors of mid-passage, chained in a four-foot high hold where they could never more than half stand; they had been taken at night to Havana; placed in a "barracoon", examined from head to toe like cattle and sold.

EVEN THESE experiences did not prepare them for what was to come on the "Amistad". When the slaves were let above deck to exercise, one slave helped himself to a dipper of water. For this seemingly innocent act, he had been lashed severely. The bleeding wounds were then rubbed with vinegar and gunpowder, ending the punishment with excruciating agony. This treatment shocked the Africans and filled them with apprehension and fear. What would be their fate? By gesture they asked this question of the ship's cook. With an ill-timed joke, the cook drew a hand across his throat and pointed to his bubbling pot.

With these actions fresh in the minds of the black men, they listened to their leader, Cinque, in the dark hold. He was a remarkable man. He stood about five feet ten inches. He possessed a powerful torso; with sinewy arms and legs, the build of an athlete. His forehead was high, the eyes wide-spaced and intelligent; his carriage was erect, his stand proud, for he was the son of a chief.

When the slaves moaned in misery, and bewailed their fate, Cinque offered them a remedy. They must kill the white men and sail back to their homes in Africa. This exhortation whipped the natives into action. First they had to break the chain which held them captive. Using brute force and strength they released themselves from the awful prison. To arm themselves the natives broke open a box of sugar-cane knives. With these instruments of destruction the followers of Cinque stormed the deck of the "Amistad".

ON DECK was Captain Ramon Ferrer and the cook that had made the bad joke. The noise of the blows that rained upon the cook awakened the captain. Cinque took care of him with a single blow. With a cloven skull, the captain fell to the bloody deck. His fall unnerved the rest and the mutiny ended with two men dead and two men overboard. These had jumped to escape the knives of the rebels.

Montez, a planter, who had once commanded a ship, yielded to the brandishing knife of Cinque and the demand to take the Negroes home. By day Montez sailed east, by night, northwest. Consequently, on August 21, 1839, the crew of the "Amistad" sailed into the eastern entrance of Long Island Sound.

There the Africans were taken captive by an American ship the "Washington". This act of "salvage" started an international issue under an agreement between Spain and the United States in 1795, under which each pledged to return goods of the other it might find on the high seas. Another argument resulted from the agreement between Spain and England where Spain had agreed to stop the importation of African slaves after 1820.

A trial was set for early in 1840, before

**First "PLAN" Donation**



J. David Hoggard, Sr., Mrs. Eldora Hoyer, Mr. Hetro Washington, and Rev. Marion D. Bennett, Pastor, Zion Methodist Church.

Zion Methodist Church received its first twenty-five dollar donation from Guardian Memorial Plan on Sunday... The donor, Mrs. Eldora Hoyer, requested that it be applied toward the Commission of Missions budget.

BY BECOMING a trustholder in the Plan, Mrs. Hoyer was eligible to designate where she wished this cash discount applied. This cash discount donation is allowable to any member of any church who purchases a trust plan through Memorial Guardian and Bunker Bros. Mortuary.

According to J. David Hoggard, Sr., representative for the Plan in West Las Vegas, this is another of the many ways these firms say "thank you for your support".

The Plan is available to all persons up to 70 years of age without a medical examination and it "freezes" the cost of a funeral at the low 1967 price of \$795. This amount includes a metal welded casket, total facilities and professional services required at the time of need.

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**(FREEDOM, from page 1)**

and my brother does not...when my race has achieved it and others have not.

"I believe that freedom belongs to mankind--not just to a third of mankind or to white mankind or to that part of mankind which happens to dwell in the temperate zone. Freedom belongs to ALL of mankind--or at least it should.

Mr. Humphrey said the NATION'S STRENGTH RESTS ON the "INDIVIDUAL dignity and freedom of 190 million Americans--AMERICANS OF ALL PERSUASIONS, CREEDS, RACES AND AGES...Americans who quietly support the majority and Americans who dissent from it."

"If the freedom of any American is denied to him, our total strength is diminished and our total national freedom becomes unbalanced and thus incomplete," the Vice President concluded.

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Judge Andrew T. Judson in the United States District Court in New Haven to decide the issue. Under the evidence given to the judge which told of the crowded condition between Africa and Havana, which also proved that the slaves were imported after 1820, he handed down the decision that they should return to Africa.

THERE ENDED a legacy to an entire race from the small band of slaves who struggled so

courageously for freedom. The case of Cinque was a famous one, one that brought to the attention of the public the plight of the hardships of the slaves. With these and many similar stories of the hardships of the slaves, the abolitionists started and continued their campaign which ended eventually in war, but freed the slaves forever in the United States of America.