

**(HISTORY, from page 2)**

came a part of their defense of the institution, and they went to the extreme in representing this. Frequently, also, the antislavery forces contended that the slaves were easily controlled and that was the explanation for their exploitation by their owners. Each group in its own way, therefore, was inclined to overstate the case and to refuse to make a realistic appraisal of the slave's true reaction to his status as a slave. Some of the manifestations of the slaves were superficial and were for the purpose of misleading his owner regarding his real feeling. In the process of adjustment he developed innumerable techniques to escape work as well as punishment, and in many instances, he was successful. An understanding of his reaction to his slave status must be approached with the realization that the Negro at times was possessed of a dual personality; he was one person at one time and quite a different person at another time.

It cannot be denied that as old as the institution of slavery was, human beings had not, by the ninth century, brought themselves to the point where they could be subjected to it without protest and resistance. Resistance has been found wherever slavery existed, and Negro slavery in the United States was no exception. Too frequently, there were misunderstanding, suspicion, and hatred which were mutually shared by master and slave. Indeed, they were natural enemies, and on many occasions they conducted themselves as such. There are many examples of kindness and understanding on the part of the owner as well as docility, also on the part of the slave. But this was an unnatural relationship and was not, by the nature of things, an essential part in the system.

BRUTALITY of human exploitation was in every community where slavery was established. The wastefulness and extravagance of the plantation system made no exception of human resources. Slaves were for economic gain, and if beating them would increase their sufficiency --and this was generally believed--then, the rod and lash should not be spared. Far from being a civilized force, moreover, the plantation bred indecency in human relations; and the slave was the immediate victim of the barbarity of the system which was created by the master-slave relationship. It stimulated terrorism and brutality because the master felt secure in his position and because he frequently interpreted his role as calling for that type of conduct.

The laws that were for the purpose of protecting the slaves were few and were seldom enforced. It was almost impossible to secure a conviction of a master who mistreated his slave. Knowing that, the master was inclined to take the law into his own hands. Overseers were generally known for their brutality, and the accounts of abuse and mistreatment on their part as well as on the part of the hirers are numerous. Masters and mistresses were, perhaps, almost as guilty. In 1827 a Georgia grand jury brought in a true bill of manslaughter against a slave owner for beating his slave to death, but he was acquitted.

Several years later Thomas Sorrel of the same state was found guilty of killing one of his slaves with an axe, but the jury recommended him to the mercy of the court. In Kentucky, a Mrs. Maxwell had a wide reputation for beating her slaves on the face as well as the body, women as well as men. There is also the shocking story of Mrs. Alpheus Lewis who burned her slave girl around the neck with hot tongs.

Drunken masters had little regard for their slaves, the most sensational example of which is the Kentucky owner who dismembered his slave and threw him piece by piece into the fire. One Mississippi master dragged from the bed a slave whom he suspected of theft and inflicted over one thousand lashes on him. Brutality such as this is the slave's decision to leave.

BUT THE Negro reacted to these demonstrations of brutality as well as the institution of slavery in various ways. He could be philosophical about the whole thing and escape through song and ritual. He made most of an unfavorable situation by loafing on the job, faking an illness, and engaging in an elaborate situation of sabotage. Many times he drove the animals with a cruelty that suggested revenge. He burned forests, barns, and homes to the extent that numbers of the patrol were frequently fearful of leaving home lest they be visited with revenge in the form of the destruction of their property by fire.

Self-mutilization and suicide were popular

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**Paul Laxalt, Governor**

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ON EQUAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS**

State Office Building, Room 209  
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Las Vegas, Nevada  
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forms of resistance to slavery. Slaves cut off parts of their body so as to render themselves ineffective as workers.

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**VICTORY**

FOR THE Negro, Lee's surrender in the Civil War was a victory. At last he achieved what human beings everywhere have always wanted--freedom. The end of the war brought to a close a period of enslavement which had lasted for almost two hundred and fifty years. The victory was won, in part, by their struggles through the centuries as well as by their services in the final battles. The Negroes would have to perfect their freedom in a society that was changing so rapidly that adjustment would be difficult even for the best educated of them. For all Americans, perhaps the greatest problem which arose out of the Civil War was to find a way to retain freedom, the desire for which had become almost an obsession, and yet at the same time to enjoy security.

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**LOUISIANANS AWARDED  
HIGH LEVEL POSTS**

NEW ORLEANS - (NPI)--Three local Negroes were recipients last week of appointments to high positions. Norman C. Francis, Assistant to the President of Xavier University, was named to membership on the City Civil Service Commission.

John H. Blanchard, claims supervisor, Universal Life Insurance Company, New Orleans area, was given a post on the Selective Service Board No. 39. Ernest N. Morial, Assistant U.S. Attorney for Louisiana, was appointed to the Section Committee on Civil Rights, American Bar Association.

OVER 40 per cent of the population of New Orleans is Negro but, until recently, few Negroes have been appointed to important positions.

Dr. J. M. Epps, prominent local physician-surgeon, some months ago, was appointed to membership on the City Board of Health and Dr. Albert W. Dent, President, Dillard University, was made a member of the City Planning Commission.

There were over 50 Negroes on the police force but to date not a single Negro has been hired as a member of the city's firefighting group. Many Negroes now drive busses for the New Orleans public service and Negroes are now being employed in many places where they were never before. Practically all of the hotels and restaurants are open to them with courteous treatment, and race relations are reportedly on the uprise.