

ON THE OTHER HAND

By LOUISE P. DUMETZ
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

MEDDLING IN the affairs of other people is a satisfying way of life for some. Fortunately, not every one embraces this exasperating habit.

Some people find that it takes most of their time and thinking to keep their own affairs on an even keel. They may offer to lend a helping hand in an emergency situation, or they may cooperate when asked to extend themselves--as a thoughtful or kindly gesture. But mostly, they mind their own business.

The others--the meddlers--seem to feel that they are both omnipotent and omniscient. They are all-powerful, and they know EVERYTHING.

"Janet is a fool. She thinks her husband is working late every night. He stops by a tavern every evening and drinks like a fish. I'm going to tell her what's going on."

This conscientious meddler-type feels she is all powerful in being able to get information unavailable to the person concerned. And she feels all knowing in that she knows positively that the best things for the people involved is for her to tell the wife what is happening.

Of course, there are many variations--the tattling sister, brother, cousin, parent, grandparent, aunt, neighbor, student, employee...on and on, ad infinitum.

THE NORWEGIAN playwright, Hendrik Ibsen--a powerful writer of realistic social drama--uses the meddler theme in his 19th century drama, "The Wild Duck."

The character, Gregers Werle, is obsessed with the idea that he must help his old friend, Hjalmar Ekdal, by revealing a devastating truth.

Hjalmar does not know that his wife, Gina, was pregnant when he married her. He believes their daughter, Hedvig, is his child. The marriage is one of warmth, affection, and discerning contentment. It has lasted for some 15 years and seems to be stable and enduring.

Then, enter Gregers, who avows, discussing Hjalmar, "and there he is now, with his great, confiding, childlike mind, compassed about with all this treachery--living under the same roof with...a creature...and never dreaming that what he calls his home is built upon a lie..."

As you might expect, Gregers succeeds in exposing the deception, and the happy family is beset with distrust, anger, hatred, and finally tragedy.

Gregers, the meddler who caused all the trouble in the first place, is finally appalled at the unhappiness he has brought about. He is aghast that what he considered to be necessary for the family's own good, has brought them an overwhelming disaster.

THOSE PERSONS who consider themselves omnipotent and omniscient might do well to carefully examine their objectives. Is what they are setting out to do helpful in every way? Are the motives objective, or is there a need to feel important at someone else's expense?

The extraordinary qualities that meddlers feel they possess could be put to positive use by developing ways of adding delight or joy instead of always probing for ways of causing unhappiness or distress.

However, that ought to be perfectly obvious to anybody who does so well at running his own business that he feels obliged to help EVERYBODY ELSE RUN THEIRS.

Don't you think so?

(MARSHALL, from page 2)

Marshall's outlook on the U.S. Constitution. 'The difference between the Constitution and the law is something a lot of people don't seem to appreciate,' he has said. 'The law can fluctuate because of the changing whims of the people and their legislators. But the whole purpose of the Constitution is to serve as an instrument which cannot be changed overnight, which does not change when morals and customs change.'

This philosophy, if correctly applied, is particularly needed as a stabilizing influence in an era when America is undergoing rapid and difficult changes.

Finally, we congratulate Mr. Marshall on his appointment to the Supreme Court, and point to it as another demonstration that America is still a land where wrongs get righted and where a man's ability is what counts."

Kit Carson Library Open

THE KIT CARSON Summer Library program is now open for children, ages 3-9, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Library program is conducted by teachers Charlotte Cook and Irene Moore.

(RIGHTS, from page 1)

ilize grass roots support for new civil rights legislation by flooding Congress with letters, telegrams, and telephone calls.

The politicians attending the conference seemed to lean toward the use of politics, rather than demonstrations or angry talk, to achieve the Negro's goals.

Mrs. Barbara Jordan, a Houston attorney who became Texas' only Negro state senator last January, said she does not condemn the "black power" push but prefers to work through the political process to further the Negro's objectives.

According to Carl H. Russell, mayor pro tem, Winston-Salem, N.C., "Public demonstrations have served their purpose. Now it's up to the courts and the politicians."

Mose Cooper, the first Negro elected to the six-member council in Hiltonia, Ga., said "Black power people only make things worse. I'm trying to get my people more interested in government so they can have a better chance."

However, Edward Davis, Vice-President, Akron (Ohio) City Council, cited the role "black power" plays in "doing something to arouse people from their apathy and keep elected officials awake."

And Mrs. Yvonne Brathwaite, Los Angeles member of the California state legislature, noted that "black power," while it is an overstatement, shocks society into dealing with problems it would otherwise ignore.

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(KEYNOTES, from page 1)

charged that "To the great-grand-daddies of these young Negroes today the white world owes beaucoup back money--lots of it--for working and waiting a while--back pay for free labor, slave labor, hopeless expectations--payments long overdue--since 1619.

"We want 'what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming'. We want 'my country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty'. We want everything we ever heard about in all the Fourth of July speeches ever spoken. Don't say it.... because you might be declared subversive... but we want freedom!"

And just prior to his death, the late poet submitted one of his last poems to The Crisis for publication--an excerpt from it may be enlightening.

"Mister Backlash, Mister Backlash, Just who do you think I am? You raise my taxes, freeze my wages, Send my son to Vietnam, You give me second-class houses, Second-class schools.

Do you think that colored folks are just second-class fools?"

IT IS my personal feeling that what, in all probability, is a major factor in the lack of understanding in our area, is the grievous policy practiced here of singling out an individual Negro to discuss the problems of the Negro.

In a recent conversation with Assemblyman Woodrow Wilson, I pointed out to him that Negroes had, years ago, criticized the Republican Party for this policy. The point arose when I questioned his presence at a meeting that was held several weeks ago at the office of Equal Rights Chairman Richard Laub attended by local commissioners and Governor Paul Laxalt, and if credence can be given to the report that came to the attention of the VOICE, Al Bramlet of the Culinary Workers Union.

Since a rumor prevails that, as an incentive to push a Negro Republican voter registration drive, an announcement would soon be forthcoming of the employment of a half dozen cocktail waitresses on the Strip as well as several Negro secretaries in the State building, I was curious as to whether that unannounced meeting was relevant to the rumor.

I warned Assemblyman Wilson of the danger to his own political career if he is allowed to be used as a tool of the administration. He is an elected representative to the legislature. Elected to serve his constituency, 4th Assembly District.

It is my feeling that if the Governor of the State desires a personal liaison between the Negro citizens and the Governor's office, he should have a Negro on his staff. I feel very strongly that if resolution of a problem of the Jewish or Italian-American community were indicated, the organization representing those individual groups would be consulted, not an Italian-American or Jewish member of the State Legislature.

Why not the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People?

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