

# Hidden History

## The Unsung Saga of the Black Man NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

The association between Abraham Lincoln and the Negro is a baffling one (and thus appropriate for the Baffler to examine). He is remembered as the "Great Emancipator," yet his statements and actions with reference to the Negro left much to be desired.

It has been said that Abraham Lincoln acquired his status as a champion of freedom and enemy of slavery, not by virtue of anything he did, but as a result of the glorified image superimposed on by the Negroes of his time and later.

Today's Baffler will test your knowledge of Abraham Lincoln's real actions--and what he became in the eyes of those who looked vainly to him to freedom from oppression.

Scoring: 4-7: tops; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus question at the end is worth two points. Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. What was Abraham Lincoln's stand on the Negro's right to vote, sue whites in court, and intermarry whites?

--A. He opposed these things asserting that there was a difference between the races that would forever separate them;

--B. He could hardly have opposed racial intermarriage, since he was married to a Negro woman;

--C. He favored passage of a Voting Right act to insure Negroes the right to vote, urged that Negroes be given their "constitutionally guaranteed" rights in court, and urged that miscegenation laws be repealed.

2. What was President Lincoln's reaction, when Gen. John C. Fremont, in 1861, freed the slaves of every rebel in Missouri and when Gen. David Hunter, in 1862, declared slaves to be free in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida?

--A. He gave the generals special commendations for advancing the cause of human equality.

--B. He revoked or weakened the orders, fearing reaction among those who supported the Union cause in border states;

--C. He had the generals executed for "high treason."

3. How did the 19th century leader, Frederick Douglass, feel about Abraham Lincoln's Presidency?

--A. He said Negroes would do better to write in Jefferson Davis' name in the 1864 elections;

--B. He enthusiastically and wholeheartedly hailed Lincoln as the "champion of all the oppressed of the earth."

--C. He was skeptical about Lincoln's anti-slavery intentions, but regarded him as the best man available, under the circumstances.

4. What was slave emancipator Harriet Tubman's view of Abraham Lincoln?

--A. She regarded him as a "great man," who would defeat the South only when he freed the slaves;

--B. She condemned him for not coming out forcefully enough against slavery;

--C. She said Lincoln was fighting the war to free the slaves.

5. In 1863, President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in areas not under Union control. What other action on slavery did he take during the war?

--A. He sent a message to Congress, in

# COMMISSION REPORT TO BLAME RIOTS ON UNRESPONSIVE CITY GOVERNMENT?

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--City officials' indifference is expected to be blamed by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders for the disturbances which wracked the nation last summer.

The panel's interim report, to be released near the end of the year, will declare the riots to be the reaction of an alienated black community to unresponsive city government, according to commission sources.

The report is expected to put primary emphasis on what city officials can do about riots, rather than action the federal government might take.

Some observers regarded this as a form of "passing the buck" by the federal panel, but others hail the effort to move anti-riot programs closer to home.

THE COMMISSION set up by President Johnson to study the causes of urban rioting, probably will not blame any "conspiracy" for the summer trouble.

Even FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who would find a conspiracy if he could, could detect no nationwide organization of the riots. And the riot panel was expected to follow suit.

But the Senate Investigations subcommittee, headed by Sen. John L. McClellan (D.-Ark.) was looking into the riots in an effort to see whether any "conspiracy" was involved.

While not dismissing the possibility of a "conspiracy" altogether, riot panel officials appeared to be more concerned about the actions of city officials.

They have recommended that seminars on slum needs and riot prevention be organized for the nation's mayors. City department heads should improve their service to slum dwellers and take action on their complaints, according to panel officials.

A MAJOR goal of the commission report is to offer suggestions on how to prevent a "long, hot summer" in 1968. The panel's final report, due next June, is expected to go into these suggestions at length.

While trying to prevent disorder, the commission also was seeking to keep businesses from fleeing riot-struck areas because no insurance is available.

To encourage the businesses to stay, the President's panel recommended:

--Urban area plans--to inspect properties individually and provide insurance if they are in adequate condition;

--Industry pooling on a state or national basis: to mobilize effectively the full resources of the property insurance industry and to spread equitably throughout the industry insurable risks that individual insurance companies are reluctant to accept.

--Possible government backup of the industry pool and of riot losses incurred by members of the pool, first by the states and, if ne-

cessary, then by the federal government;

--Possible tax measures: to increase the reserves that insurance companies and industry pools can accumulate to pay for extraordinary losses such as from riots.

1862, proposing that states be compensated for gradually abolishing slavery. Nothing came of his proposal;

--B. He took no action on slavery at all; in fact, he urged that slavery be continued.

--C. He vetoed a bill that would have freed the slaves in the District of Columbia.

BONUS QUESTION: This question has two parts, each worth one point:  
--(A) What was Lincoln's proposal for solving the "Negro problem"?

--(B) What was his plan for doing away with slavery after the Civil War?

ANSWERS:  
1. A; 2. B; 3. C; 4. A; 5. A.

BONUS; --(A) Colonizing Negroes in Africa; --(B) He proposed that the slaves be gradually emancipated over a 35-year period and that this "emancipation" be presided over by the Southern rebels who put the Negroes in slavery in the first place.

## THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Nov. 9, 1785 Lemuel Haynes, soldier-minister, was born. He served as pastor of a white church in Vermont for nearly 20 years.
- Nov. 9, 1831 Benjamin Banneker, astronomer-scientist, was born in Baltimore. He invented the first striking clock in America.
- Nov. 9, 1868 Dr. Alexander T. Augusta of Howard University named to faculty of an American Medical school.
- Nov. 10, 1782 Elihu Embree, Tennessee emancipationist, was born.
- Nov. 10, 1880 Clarence Cameron White, noted violinist-composer, was born.
- Nov. 10, 1901 T. J. Hornsby, Pilgrim Life Insurance company executive, died in Augusta, Ga.
- Nov. 10, 1960 Andrew Hatcher, first Negro assigned to White House Press Service. He was appointed by President John F. Kennedy.
- Nov. 11, 1831 Greatest slave uprising in U.S. history ended when leader, Nat Turner, surrendered in Southampton insurrection.
- Nov. 11, 1904 Author Shirley Graham, wife of the late Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, was born in Indianapolis, Ind.
- Nov. 12, 1831 Rev. Richard DeBaptiste, pastor, Olivet Baptist church, Chicago, during 1860's, was born.
- Nov. 12, 1950 Gwendolyn Brooks was first Negro woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize (for poetry).
- Nov. 13, 1858 Dr. Daniel Williams, first surgeon to stitch a human heart (at Provident Hospital, Chicago), was born in Pennsylvania.
- Nov. 13, 1944 Harriet Pickens and Frances Wills become the first Negro members of the WAVES.
- Nov. 14, 1915 Booker T. Washington, famed educator - founder, Tuskegee Institute, Ala., died.
- Nov. 14, 1956 U.S. Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation.
- Nov. 15, 1777 Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union adopted.
- Nov. 15, 1897 J. M. Langston, lawyer and race leader, died.
- Nov. 15, 1947 Marques Haynes, world's greatest basketball dribbler, organized Harlem Magicians.

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**LAS VEGAS Voice**  
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA  
CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. - Publisher  
ALICE KEY - Executive Editor \* DOROTHY WEST - Treasurer  
RAY FEASTER - Adv. Production \* CARITA HARBERT - Ofc. Mgr.  
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EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES  
900 West Bonanza Rd., Suite A-B (Moulin Rouge Hotel)  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 \* Telephone: 384-3117  
ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST  
Price per copy - 15¢ \* One year - 7.50 \* Two years - 12.50  
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)