

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

The recent drift toward racism and demagoguery in the civil rights movement stands in sharp contrast to the interracial character of efforts to improve the black man's situation throughout U.S. history.

The Negro's oppressors were often white, to be sure, but so were many of those who dedicated their lives to the cause of freedom. On the other hand, indiscriminate terrorism--like the Nat Turner slave insurrection of 1831--has been blamed for frightening whites into making the black man's conditions even more intolerable.

In today's Baffler, identify the interracial efforts against slavery and discrimination. Scoring: 4-7: excellent; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus Question at the end counts two points.

Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. The nation's first anti-slavery society--largely white--was formed in Philadelphia on:

--A. April 14, 1611; --B. April 14, 1775; --C. April 12, 1861.

2. In the early 1800s, an interracial movement arose in the North known as abolitionism. This movement was dedicated to:

--A. Abolishing the black man's presence in the United States and sending him back to Africa.

--B. Abolishing the U.S. Constitution and returning to English common law.

--C. Abolishing slavery throughout the United States.

3. A white Congressman from Pennsylvania, who was buried in a Negro cemetery, was a leading abolitionist. One of the architects of the Reconstruction program after the Civil War, he wanted every adult freedman given a 40-acre lot:

--A. Thaddeus Stevens; --B. Cassius Clay; --C. William Monroe Trotter.

4. Prominent in the battle against the extension of slavery and in supporting the freedman's right to vote after the Civil War was a Senator from Massachusetts:

--A. Charles Sumner Stone; --B. Charles Sumner; --C. Edward W. Brooke.

5. These two civil-rights organizations were established by interracial groups in the years before World War I:

--A. The NAACP and the Urban League.

--B. Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee and the Bonus Marchers.

--C. Revolutionary Action Movement and Operation Crescent.

BONUS QUESTION: While the abolitionist movement was interracial, its members did not always agree with each other. A white abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison, split with which black abolitionist over leadership of the movement and whether moral force (Garrison's view) or "ballots and bullets" would secure the black man's freedom. Who was the black abolitionist?

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

BONUS ANSWER: Frederick Douglass.

PROTEST AT THE POLLS REGISTER TO VOTE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS REPORT EXCELS

The March publication of the League of Women Voters of Nevada is entitled "CURRENT REVIEW of NEVADA Projects towards Equality of Opportunity for all in EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT". Objective readers of the report, unfettered by modesty of authorship, will agree the title justly deserves the adjectival prefixes of "comprehensive and informative".

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the development of citizen interest and active participation in government, and, unquestionably, the League is without peer in the nation for probing research and in depth study of issues which engross the nation.

Introductorily, the Nevada League's March report notes that since its study of Equality Of Opportunity in Education & Employment which began in 1964, the League of Women Voters has observed some encouraging developments in our state and has noted some equally discouraging attitudes.

The report continues, specifically, "There is more open acceptance of the fact that problems exist than there used to be, some significant attempts to identify what the problems are and why they exist, and a beginning commitment

to solve them.

"AT THE SAME TIME, suburban awareness of urban and rural poverty needs is slight. White comprehension of non-white needs and the destructive nature of segregated living is slight. And the poor, the unskilled, the minorities who have the problems are beginning to express the frustrations which come from expectations unfulfilled. Meaningful dialogue is not taking place between those of who enjoy America's--and Nevada's affluence and those of us who do not."

INTENT OF the report, it was stated, was "to make us aware of some of the efforts to fill the gap which are being made in Nevada." This the report accomplishes, concisely and inclusively.

It also lists a number of policies and programs designed to provide for all persons equality of opportunity in education and employment the League of Women Voters of the United States had announced its support of in March of 1966, and in a segment captioned "Nevada does have Needs", a summary of current programs in the state is given.

While acknowledging the success of Job Corps, Neighborhood Youth, Manpower Development, Headstart, Work Experience, and other programs, the report expresses concern over Community Action Programs which are of particular interest to the League. Noting that Community Action Programs have been the most controversial of Anti-Poverty programs, and that the 1967 Amendments included more municipal participation and controls of them, the League report takes the position that "How CAP is administered does not seem to be as important an issue as the fact that novel and flexible machinery must be allowed to go forward to seek out the hard-core poor and innovate and design programs to help them become participants in this society."

To that end, the report warns "the need is urgent enough, even in our relatively isolated Nevada, to demand a coalition of all elements of our establishment--business, labor, education, religion, government, (and housewives)--to work dynamically together for visible and felt results."

There is a complete listing and explanation (See LEAGUE, page 15)

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- March 28, 1924 Birthday of Sarah Vaughn, one of the nation's most popular jazz song stylists.
- March 28, 1652 Samuel Sewall, anti-slavery author, born.
- March 28, 1799 New York legislature passed law abolishing slavery in the state.
- March 28, 1870 The 15th Amendment to the Constitution, giving freed men the right to vote, was ratified in Congress.
- March 29, 1853 First Negro YWCA was started in the nation's capital.
- March 29, 1919 Birth of singer Pearl Bailey in Newport News, Va.
- March 31, 1878 Jack Johnson, heavyweight boxing champion, was born in Galveston, Texas.
- March 31, 1896 The late Dr. William Edward Burghardt DuBois' monumental study on slavery published.
- March 31, 1942 United States and Liberia established agreement on air bases.

CURRENT EVENTS BAFFLER

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In today's Baffler, identify the black politicians seeking to be elected to Congress in several cities.

Eight descriptions will be given, followed by a Grab Bag containing names of persons who may or may not be candidates. Your job is to match descriptions with newsmakers (none of whom are incumbents).

Scoring: 7-10: excellent; 5-6: fair; 0-4: poor. Bonus Question counts two points. Here's the quiz:

DESCRIPTIONS:

1. This man, who formerly headed CORE, is running as the Liberal Party candidate for U.S. Representative in Brooklyn's proposed 12th Congressional district.

2. Brother of Cleveland's mayor, he's running for Congressman against the mayor's top aide.

3. He's thousands of miles away from his constituents, but even in exile, he's going to seek his Congressional seat.

4. A Chicago alderman who recently visited the Soviet Union, he's opposing incumbent Rep. William L. Dawson in Chicago's First Congressional district.

5. Known as a civil-rights loner and an occasional mystic, he's opposing the person referred to in Description 3.

6. This Chicago Southside publisher, defeated in an earlier effort to be elected alderman, is running as an independent in the Third Congressional district.

GRAB BAG: A. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.; B. Geraldine Williams; C. Wesley South; D. James Farmer; E. Carl Rowan; F. Floyd McKissick; G. Augustus A. (Gus) Savage; H. Bayard Rustin; I. Louis Stokes; J. James Meredith; K. Percy Sutton; L. A. A. (Sammy) Rayner; M. Constance Baker Motley.

BONUS QUESTION: Why did Charles Evers say he had actually won a major victory, even though he lost, almost 2 to 1, in his bid for U.S. Representative from Mississippi?

ANSWERS: 1. D; 2. I; 3. A; 4. L; 5. J; 6. G.

BONUS ANSWER: Evers believes his candidacy kept his victorious opponent, Charles Griffin, from running an openly racist campaign. "The mere fact we were able to get Negroes involved is a victory for us," according to the black candidate.

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CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. - Publisher
ALICE KEY - Executive Editor * DOROTHY WEST - Treasurer
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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

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