

# Hidden History

## The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

### NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Sometimes, the impression is given that the lot of black people is getting progressively worse and that most Negroes are desperately poor.

It is true that millions of black people continue to live in poverty--but it is also true that millions of other Negroes are living considerably better than they did 10, 30, or 50 years ago.

Even the relative poverty found among the nation's lower classes is not the emancipating, hopeless phenomenon that poverty used to be.

There is a poverty problem--and it should be alleviated, but overstating the situation only besmirches the reputation of the very country which is offering most of its citizens an increasingly better deal.

We live in a blessed land where the majority of people--black and white--are not poor and where economic expectations are constantly rising. This sharply contrasts with conditions in most Asian and African countries where no more than 10 or 20 per cent of the population have even moderate incomes.

Today's Baffler is dedicated to offsetting malicious, exaggerated statements about the black man's economic situation.

Scoring: 8-10: excellent; 6-7: good; 4-5: fair; 0-3: poor. Bonus Question counts two points. Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. In 1909-11, the average length of life for Negroes was 35.8 years. Now it's:

- A. 31 years; --B. 40 years; --C. 64 years.

2. In 1926, federal courts approved racially restrictive covenants used to segregate Negroes. What do the courts say now?

- A. The same--except that the term has been changed to "black people";
- B. That the covenants cannot be enforced;
- C. That all neighborhoods in the country must be integrated.

3. The current Poor People's March is focusing attention on unemployment among black people. What percentage of Negroes can't find jobs?

- A. 1 per cent; --B. 7 per cent; --C. 25 per cent.

4. Disease is widely reported among some black people--especially in Northern urban areas. What percentage of Chicago Negroes have tuberculosis?

- A. One-tenth of one per cent; --B. Ten per cent; --C. Forty-five per cent.

5. Recent acts of Congress have upheld:

- A. The Ku Klux Klan's right to march in small Southern towns;
- B. Black people's right to vote and not be residentially segregated;
- C. The "status quo" in race relations.

6. The median family income for the nation's black people is about:

- A. \$1,500 a year; --B. \$400 a year; --C. \$4,000 a year.

7. In 1945, the Supreme Court, the President's Cabinet, the U.S. Senate, Major League baseball, and most primary elections in the South were for whites only. What is the situation today?

- A. They're all integrated now;
- B. They're still segregated;

### CURRENT EVENTS BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

In today's Baffler, choose the correct expression which completes each statement. Scoring: 8-10: excellent; 6-7: good; 4-5: fair; 0-3: poor. Bonus Question counts two points. Here's the multiple-choice quiz:

1. Charging that the Poor People's March on the nation's capital amounts to a "massive (-----)," Dr. Thomas W. Matthew is planning a self-help factory there, in answer to the demonstrations.

- A. "Be-in;" --B. "Beg-in;" --C. Beginning.

2. Funeral services have been held for Arthur W. Mitchell, 85-year-old former (-----) from Illinois, who once served as an office boy for Booker T. Washington.

- A. Slave; --B. Minister; --C. Congressman.

3. It has become a certainty that Ohio will send its first Negro to (-----) next year.

- A. Congress; --B. The gas chamber; --C. Ohio State University.

4. This has come about because of Louis Stokes' (-----).

- A. Efforts to rebuild Cleveland; --B. Victory in a Congressional primary; --C. Advocacy of capital punishment.

5. Republican contender Richard M. Nixon has favorably impressed (-----) by calling for black capitalism.

- A. Hubert Humphrey; --B. All Americans; --C. CORE Chairman Floyd M. McKissick.

6. Now that fair housing is federal law, efforts to pass local housing ordinances across the nation have (-----).

- A. Gotten all the stronger; --B. Weakened; --C. Stopped.

BONUS QUESTION: Name three universities recently "taken over" by black students protesting racial grievances.

\* \* \*

ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. C; 3. A; 4. B; 5. C; 6. A; 7. C; 8. B.

BONUS ANSWER: Among them are Columbia University, New York; Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; and the University of Chicago.

--C. Integration of all public enterprises is required by law.

8. In 1943, one black man, Rep. William L. Dawson, was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. How many Negro Representatives are there now?

- A. The same number; --B. Six (counting Adam Clayton Powell); --C. Three (not counting Adam Clayton Powell).

\* \* \*

BONUS QUESTION: Tell whether the U.S. armed forces were (a) totally segregated, (b) largely segregated, (c) largely integrated, or (d) totally integrated in each of the following wars: World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

\* \* \*

ANSWERS: 1. C; 2. B; 3. B; 4. A; 5. B; 6. A.

BONUS ANSWER: The armed forces have progressively become more integrated. In World War I, our forces were (a) totally segregated; in World War II, they were (b) largely segregated; in the Korean War, they were (c) largely integrated; and in the Vietnam war, they are (d) totally integrated.

### THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- May 30, 1822 Denmark Vessey's Carolina freedom plot exposed.
- May 30, 1854 Kansas - Nebraska Slavery Compromise bill ratified.
- May 30, 1870 Fifteenth (Right to Vote) Amendment ratified.
- May 31, 1810 Walt Whitman, poet advocating freedom and democracy, born.
- May 31, 1853 First Negro YMCA organized in Washington, D.C. by Anthony Bowen.
- May 31, 1869 Isaac Meyers, early Negro labor leader, addresses fourth Congress of National Labor Union.
- May 31, 1944 War Department abolishes segregation in U.S. Army posts.
- May 31, 1945 Theodore Bilbo, Mississippi senator, urges sending Negroes back to Africa.
- May 31, 1961 Freedom rides in public transportation in Deep South protest segregation.
- June 1, 1859 Henry O. Tanner, famous American Negro painter who achieved his greatest honors in Europe, was born in Pittsburgh, Pa.
- June 2, 1950 U.S. Supreme Court outlaws racial segregation in railroad dining cars in inter-state travel.
- June 4, 1849 John Mercer Langston, lawyer, Congressman from Virginia, abolitionist, minister to Haiti and acting president of Howard University, 1873-75, was graduated from Oberlin University.

### Note From The Editor

It was a newspaper publisher, unsurprisingly, who once made the perceptive observation that "In a great democracy such as ours the outstanding need of the hour is greater information and greater tolerance. Sincere efforts at enlightenment and education by the press are more important than self-appointed leadership."

The essence of that statement is the personal philosophy that motivates publication of the VOICE Annual Negro History Special, the 1968 edition of which is contained in this issue of the newspaper.

Revelation of the true role of the Negro in world and American history effects a two-fold blessing to the goal of improved human relations. It affords Negroes great pride of heritage and race, infinitely therapeutic in dissipating the "degenerating sense of nobodiness" as the late Dr. Martin Luther King so eloquently phrased it.

That same knowledge should be signally enlightening to whites and evoke a complete re-evaluation of the Negro citizenry for "Truth", the philosopher Amiel said, "is not only violated by falsehood; it may be equally outraged by silence."

The published works of the late Langston Hughes, poet, author, researcher of Negro history, was a prime source for much of the information appearing in this '68 edition.

Also, we are grateful to Dr. Ralph J. Roske, Director, School of Social Science, Nevada Southern University for contributing the informative article on Senator Blanche K. Bruce. --a.k.

### LAS VEGAS Voice

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