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SHELL ME ..... Ray Milton
BLUE GARDENIA ..... Hart Bostic
HASSING MY DOUNCE ..... Joe Latcher
UNFINISHED BUSINESS ..... Paul Ware
WRITE ME A LETTER ..... Vivian Greene
MARLAD ..... Charles Parker
THE LONG IS ENDED ..... Sir Charles
MOTHER'S EYES ..... Nellie Latcher
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IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU ..... Hadda Brooks
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SATURDAY NIGHT ..... Charlie Barnett
JUMPING AT THE WOODSIDE ..... Lester Young
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HARD LUCK BLUES ..... Buster Bennett
HIGHWAY 101 ..... J. McCrackin
NO-HEART DRIVERS ..... Smokey Hogg
YOUR HANDS AIN'T CLEAN ..... P. Gaylor
I WANT SOMEBODY ..... Joe Evans
ROCK-A-MOVIN-A-PAYING BLUES ..... Henry Gray
BOOGIE WOOGIE ..... Big Boy Lasley
SHORT HAIRED MAMA ..... Sam Rankins
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LOVIN' WITH A FEELING ..... Brownie McGhee
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STANDING ON THE PROMISES ..... Heavenly Gospel Singers
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IF I COULD JUST MAKE IT IN ..... Ernestine Washington
WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING ON ..... Coleman Bros.
YOU GOTTA MOVE ..... Willie Post
THE WILDEST TREASURE ..... Rev. Fred Washington
DOES JESUS CARE
I'M ON MY WAY ..... Georgia Peach
LEAD ME TO THAT ROCK ..... Four Knights
NEW MILKY WHITE WAY ..... Coleman Brothers
I JUST COULDN'T KEEP IT TO MYSELF ..... Dixie Hummingbirds

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Racial Headlines Blasted by Churchman as Indictment of Entire Population Group

Identifying Culprit or Suspect by Race or Color Held Harmful; Retractions Never Prominent

By ROBERT B. ELEAZER
Superintendent of General Church School Work

(Editor's Note: The following article, entitled "Indicting a Whole People," has been sent to the editors of 400 daily newspapers by the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church in an effort to reduce the use of racial identity in headlines of crime stories.)

"I do not know the method of drawing up an indictment against a whole people," said Stateman Edmund Burke, in a famous plea for conciliation with the American colonies.

"There is such a method, however, and many American newspapers are demonstrating it in their handling of crime news involving Negroes.

The fact that this is done without thought of injustice, merely as a matter of custom and convenience, makes its results no less serious.

The method is simple—merely that of featuring race in the headlines of practically every story involving Negro crime or misdemeanor.

Fallacious Thinking

Seeing these headlines daily, month after months, the public inevitably gets the impression that color and crime are closely related, if not synonymous. Thus is the whole race indicted, and in the minds of the superficial, convicted.

As illustrative of this practice I think specifically of one daily which I know very well. This paper certainly is not hostile to Negroes. I would say, on the other hand, that it is essentially friendly, desirous of being fair and helpful.

Yet a review of its headines throughout a recent month (May, 1947) reveals the unvarying pattern described above.

Two Different Standards

In the 31 days of the month this paper ran 133 stories of crimes, misdemeanors and court actions involving white people, and in not one of the 133 did the headlines mention the race of the culprit or suspect. In general this is just as it should be. But note this contrast:

During the same month the paper carried 30 crime stories involving colored people. In 24 of the 30, the headlines featured the word "Negro" or "Negroes," while in three others the racial identity of the subject was clearly indicated, though not expressly stated.

Reproduction of the two groups of headlines in parallel columns is tempting, but would run to too great length. A few typical illustrations must suffice.

Typical Heads

Here, for example, are head lines of six stories involving the charge of robbery at the hands of white bandits:

May 6—"Pair Bound Over in Robbery Case."

May 7—"Three Youths Held in Robbery Case."

May 13—"Two Draw Terms in Robbery Cases."

May 16—"Young Bandits Rob Store Owner."

May 24—"Samaritan Robbed by Hitchhikers."

May 31—"Men Questioned in Robberies."

Note that to the headline reader the suspects in all these cases were just people—"youth," "men," "bandits

Color Stressed Here

Not so in the two parallel reports involving Negroes. Here the headlines leave no uncertainty. "Lone Negro Youth Robs Woman," says one; "Negro Held in Robbery," the other.

Similarly on May 25 we find "Two Youths Held in Theft Case," (they were white), set over against "Praying Negro Confesses Theft."

Three arrests for reckless driving were reported during the month (May 6, 25 and 29). Two of the accused were white; the third colored. The headlines read true to pattern: "Jailed on Driving Count" and "Man Arrested for Drunken Driving," but "Negro Arrested After Accident."

Just People in One Case

Here are typical headlines in cases involving alleged assaults upon white women:

May 10—"Youth Guilty of Killing Brother."

May 10—"Great Grandmother Indicted for Murder."

May 15—"Soldier Admits Strangle Killing."

May 15—"Holdup Man Slays Victim."

May 19—"Youth Admits Slaying."

May 30—"Father Kills Three."

Just people again, you see, not members of any particular race.

Now note the following in which the suspects were colored. Observe again how race dominates the picture:

May 3—"Negroes Face Trial on Murder Count."

May 16—"Wife Hires Negro to Slay Husband."

May 16—"Negro Sentenced for Killing Wife."

May 21—"Negro Bound Over on Murder Charge."

May 21—"Negro Questioned in Atlanta Killing."

Lead to Tension, Riot

The greatest injustice, however, is in the handling of stories of criminal assault. Because of the heinousness of this crime the public is peculiarly sensitive to it and easily aroused to resentment and even violence.

Such charges (not infrequently groundless), have been made many lynchings and more than one race riot. There is need therefore, that such stories be handled with great care.

During May the paper carried 16 stories of criminal assault involving white women.

In these stories the headlines identify the attackers or suspects: "Negro," "Negro Youth," "Negro beat-attacker," "youthful slayer," "Negro," and the like—never once as belonging to this race or that.

Made Racial Offensive

Note again the contrast. During the month the paper carried four criminal cases against Negroes (of which, one was repudiated next day) and two more later dropped for lack of evidence.

Here are the headlines conspicuously advertising each case as a racial offense:

May 16—"Girl Assaulted; Gun-Wielding Negroes Escape."

May 25—"Expected Mother Attacked by Negro."

May 26—"Negro Surrenders After Escape From Mob." (The Jackson, North Carolina case).

May 28—"Mob Feared; Negro Whisked to State Prison (this was South Carolina).

And here is another significant contrast in the same connection:

The horrifying story of the 16th was spread on the front page, under double-column, double-deck headlines. Nobody could miss it. On the other hand, its repudiation next day as "just a hoax" was inconspicuously reported on an inside page, under a small-type single-column head, where it is reasonably certain that comparatively few saw it.

Probably fewer still ever learned that the courts later dropped add charges against the two Carolina Negroes featured in the headlines of the 26th, leaving only one of the four accusations still standing up.

Without a doubt the original headlines closed all these cases for most readers, leaving the Negro branded as a menace and all Negroes under suspicion.

Recognizing the danger pointed out above, a number of the nation's greatest daily papers have recently discontinued use of racial tag in reporting crime. They see no gain, but a great deal, in continuing the indictment of a whole people.

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2 White Motorists Cleared in Death of Two

Two white motorists, one a Philadelphia operator of a Grayhound bus, were exonerated on Monday, of responsibility in the auto deaths of two local pedestrians.

The first traffic victim was David Brown, 35, of 216 S. Sharp St., who was struck by an inter-State bus on Dec. 6 while crossing Orleans St., near Exeter.

The other victim, Mrs. Lucie Jenkins, 56, of 218 S. Sharp St., was struck when she ran into the path of a truck at Hopkins Pl., and Pratt St. on Dec 15. The

Benefit Recital Given by Nurses' Chapter Here

The Henryton "Angels of Mercy" were presented in a benefit recital Thursday at Union Temple Baptist Church, by the Baltimore Chapter of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

Proceeds will be used to entertain the NACGN at its annual convention to be held here in September.

Lead to Tension, Riot

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Mayor, Former City Solicitor Assail Rampant Prejudice

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

IN PHILADELPHIA

Woodie Armstrong Sr., took the oath of office Monday as a newly elected member of the City Council. All other members are white. Mr. Armstrong, a former shipping clerk, has been a Republican committeeman for 12 years.

Mercer I. Lewis and Lewis Tanner Moore, attorneys, were sworn in for new terms in the District Attorney's office. James Robinson and George Wilmer Jr. took office as county detectives.

Magistrate Joseph H. Rainey who was hospitalized for a week because of pneumonia returned to his courtroom on Tuesday.

Arguments on the appeals of AME Bishop S. L. Greene and the Rev. David H. Sims from the decision of the U.S. District Court were heard in Circuit Court. Last September the lower court dismissed the Rev. Mr. Sims's suit to restrain Bishop Greene from presiding in the First Episcopal District.

IN RICHMOND

Travis Glasgow, well - known sportsman, businessman and "Sugar Hill" resident and two other persons were arrested on a federal grand jury on a charge of attempting to influence a witness in a grand larceny filmflam case.

Rocked none too gently in the rever end of a Greyhound bus, a 6-pound baby boy was born to Mrs. Magnolia Sam and her husband, traveling to her home in Phoenixville, Pa. Both mother and son are reported in good condition at the St. Philip Hospital.

A Peter Dalton Circuit Court order granted plaintiffs permission to obtain desired evidence in the case charging discrimination in pay and facilities for colored teachers in the school system of two Virginia counties.

IN NEW JERSEY

Arrested in Newark on the charge of beating his roommate into life to death with a baseball bat, John Ingram, 47, went berserk in a cell and had to be restrained in City Hospital.

A drinking bout with 24 bottles of beer and an argument over how to spell "psychology" led to the Hampton slaying of Archie Fuller, 70, allegedly by Julius Nuby, 55, in North Brunswick.

Charged with deliberately pushing his wife under a passing snowplow, Charles Wright of 70 Murphrey St., Englewood, will face the grand jury on a murder charge.

IN WASHINGTON

The Board of Education rejected three proposals to settle the Browne Jr. High School strike and offered a new plan to give all of the Browne pupils full-time instruction. This counter-proposal was turn rejected by the parents of the children, who plan to sue for complete and equal education facilities.

Seeking heavenly guidance to secure fully the essential human rights of minority groups of the United States, 131 ministers from 31 States and the District of Columbia held a prayer meeting on the steps of the Capitol on Monday, the day before Congress convened. Approximately 1400 workers in cafeterias operated by Government Services, Inc. in 41 Government buildings went on strike for a 15-per-an-hour raise.

A $50,000 heart balm suit brought by Frank Johnson, morician of Leesburg, Va., charging alienation of his wife's affections by Y Lee Holloway, retired Navy veteran, was dismissed.

A recent brickbat on race relations in which a school board member and two civic leaders, all white, criticized the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, brought an avalanche of protests from prominent leaders and organizations.

Chicago Pastor Opens Revival at New Shiloh

Dr. William A. Johnson, pastor of the Greater St. John Baptist Church of Chicago, on Monday opened a two-week revival at New Shiloh Baptist Church.

Graduate of Bloomfield Seminary and the University of Chicago, Dr. Johnson heads a congregation of some 2,200 persons. He is also assistant dean of the Chicago Baptist Institute, and president of the Urban League.

MEETING SCHEDULED

CAMDEN—The local NAACP was scheduled to meet at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8, at the YWCA, 822 Kaighn Ave.

JOURNALISM TEACHERS CONVENE—Armistead S. Pride (left), dean of the school of Journalism at Lincoln University (Mo.), checks the program of American Association of Teachers of Journalism and the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism with Norval Neil Luxon, secretary-treasurer of both organizations which met jointly, last week, at the Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia.

Good Will Meeting Told Facts of Discrimination

D'Alesandro Lashes Intolerance; Sobeloff Points Out Absurdity of Racial Taboos

Mayor D'Alesandro and Simon E. Sobeloff, former city solicitor, joined forces Wednesday in lashing out against racial and religious prejudice at the annual good will meeting of the Advertising Club of Baltimore.

Appearing at the meeting in a surprise visit, the mayor scored "racial and religious intolerance throughout the country" and lamented the fact that the nation's solidarity cemented by Pearl Harbor no longer exists.

Majority Held to Blame

Mr. Sobeloff spoke of the "absurdity of racial taboos, and said in part:

"Theatres allow colored persons to appear on a stage as entertainers without restriction or discrimination, but they may not appear in the same theatres as patrons.

"The majority group which has the greater power, the higher prestige and which sets up the barriers excluding the minority from employment opportunities, room residential areas, hotels, fraternities, clubs and swimming pools, has the chief responsibility to correct this evil.

"It is unhappily true that despite the nation's recent sacrifices to secure for ourselves and the world the blessings of democracy there are men today—perhaps they have become numerous, certainly they have become bold—who, to America's shame, bear false witness against their neighbors, spread falsehoods, sow suspicion and discord, and sometimes in the name of Americanism, betray American ideals.

"Not only the target of prejudice is made to suffer, but the prejudiced man, too, is the victim of his own poison, for it degrades his own humanity, and his spiritual health is corrupted.

"The ideals of democracy and religion are the same in essence, whether we look to words of Jefferson in the immortal Declaration of Independence, or to the prophets of the Bible, we read the same lesson."

Nose for News May Bring Readers $$$ for Pockets

Do you have a "nose for news?" Do you know a good story when you see one?

Well, you can make this knack pay off on sensational news stories. If you're on the scene when a big story breaks, phone in the news tip to the AFRO City Desk, Mulberry 6015, any week day between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

A cash award of $5 will be paid to the person who calls in the most important story of the week. Other prizes will be awarded for lesser stories; but look particularly for a sensational news tip. Remember, the bigger the story, the better.

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★ EARLY IN THE MORNIN' — HADDA BROOKS: It All Depends On You; Don't You Think I Oughta Know? Don't Take Your Love From Me; Trust In Me — Louis Jordan: Chicago
JOE LIGGINS: Shuffle' Joe; Willie, Willie; Down Home Blues — Lulu James; Hastings St. Bounce; Ballerina — Paul Williams; Vaughn Monroe; I Guess I'll Fall For You — Dinah Washington; 33-30 — Dinah Washington; I'll Love You, Yes I Do — Joe Liggins
COUNT BASIE: Blue and Sentimental; Blond New Wagon South — Bull Moose Jackson; Billy Eckstine
ERSKINE HAWKINS: Sammy's Nightmare; Wiggle Warm — Charlie Barnett; Jack McVea
INK SPOTS: Just For Me; Information, Please; I Don't Want To Love You — Pearl Bailey; Ella Mae Morse
MILLS BROTHERS: I'll Never Make The Same Mistake Again; It's True — Bobby Darin; Billy Eckstine
ANDY KIRK: I'm Falling For You; Memories Of You; Soothe Me — Lucky Millinder; Frankie Laine
LIONEL HAMPTON: I Miss You So; The Percil Brake; The Man In The Lindfard Gyp You — Joe Liggins; Hadda Brooks
DUKE ELLINGTON: Happy Go Lucky; Carnegie Blues; Metronome All Out — Jack McVea; Ella Mae Morse
LUCKY MILLINDER: How Big Is Your Gal, Little Man? Can't Take For Lookin' — Paul Williams; Ella Mae Morse
BUDDY JOHNSON: Fine Brown Frame; Please, Mr. Johnson — Joe Liggins; Lulu Russell
Remaining Souvenirs — Lulu Russell
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ALWAYS LOOK FOR THIS TRADEMARK
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