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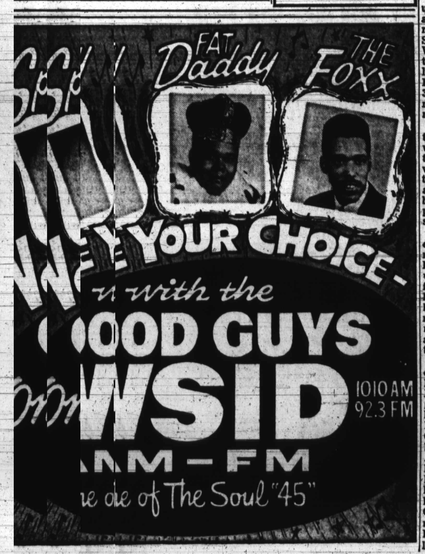

MUSICAL MOMENTS

37 pupils at School 139 at music project exhibition

By ADAH K. JENKINS

A demonstration of one of the latest music projects in the Baltimore public schools was held recently at School No. 139, Central and Lexington Sts.

A two-manual, spinet organ, one of 60 placed in the local public schools this year, occupied the front of the music class room.

A class of 37 pupils was seated at their desks, with xylophones, bells, flute-tonettes, rhythm sticks and caracas. There were also two trumpet and clarinet players and a snare drummer.

Under the direction of their classroom teacher, Miss Lucretia Billops, a program of rounds and two and three-part folk songs was given, accompanied by students at the organ and other instruments.

The pupils exhibited unusually excellent precision in handling the instruments and seemed particularly delighted with their newly-acquired ability to play the organ.

They have had three weeks' instruction, using a special organ study course designed for elementary schools.

* * *

THIS PARTICULAR class has been studying with Miss M. Almira Miller, music specialist, for three years. Thru the use of an earphone system, the pupils may practice the organ during school hours, without disturbing the rest of the class.

Mrs. Alice Beard, supervisor of music in the local public schools, complimented the teachers and class on the demonstration and on a similar program which they gave on a television broadcast last month.

Mrs. Beard then introduced Joel Bazzelli, organ demonstrator and a former school principal in Minneapolis, who conducted a session with the class which he called "Fun with the Keyboard."

With his youthful organists at the console he introduced them to the various "buttons" (stops) and pedal keyboard effects, in combination with the class chorus and other instruments.

* * *

THE PUPILS were remarkably alert and delighted with the entire process. Following the demonstration Mr. Bizzelli discussed the aims and values of the organ project with a number of educators from neighboring schools and from the faculty of School No. 139.

The 60 spinet organs in local public schools are provided, without cost, by the Jason Piano Company of Baltimore. Mr. Bizzelli stated that the project is being carried out extensively in Mid-Western and Eastern cities.

The program was initiated here thru Dr. J. Marion McGill, director of the local Music Department in the Public Schools.

Present for the demonstration were: Mrs. Anna Payne, Principal of School No. 102; Mesdames Carol Taylor, Anita Watson, Mildred Brown, McDonald, Cecelia Harris, Miss Miller, Miss Courtney Harris and John Nelson, music specialists; Robert Coumbe, Earl Brown, Reginald Watts, principal of the host school and a number of his faculty attended also.

* * *

CALENDAR: Friday and Saturday, March 19 - 20, at 8:30 p.m. in the Peabody Concert Hall, Mt. Vernon Pl., two one-act operas "Impresario" and "Masque of the Angels," both sung in English, by the Peabody Opera Company. John Work Jr. of New York, has the leading role in the latter opera. There will be a matinee at 2:30 Saturday.

Sunday, March 21 at 3 p.m. in the Murphy Auditorium, Morgan State College, Nelson and Neal, duo pianists, in concert in the Morgan Concert Hall Series.

Saturday, March 20 at the Lyric at 8:30 p.m. the Baltimore Symphony, in Hit Show Tune Concert, conducted by Elyakum Shapira, with Gladys Callahan and Frank Whitmore, soloists and Joseph Eubanks' Chorale.

Virgin Islander predicts passage of Medicare bill in this session

ST. THOMAS, V.I. — Lawrence A. Oxley, director of special projects for the National Council of Senior Citizenships, told the Women's League of St. Thomas Wednesday, that a social security - financed "medicare" bill would pass the U.S. House of Representative before Easter.

He added that the program would win approval of the Senate and get the Presidential signature before the end of the 89th Congress.

* * *

MR. OXLEY, of Washington, D.C., now 78, served for 23 years as a special assistant to the Secretary of Labor of the United States. In 1961 he joined the newly-formed senior citizens organization set up by former Congressmen Aime J. Forand to mobilize public support on behalf of President Kennedy's proposed legislation to provide hospital insurance for the elderly through social security. He travels extensively throughout the United States, interesting church and labor groups in the problems of older people.

The National Council of Senior Citizens is now the largest organized senior citizens organization in the U.S. Its more than 2,000 affiliated older people's clubs include a membership of over two million.

* * *

MR. OXLEY said President Johnson's landslide election victory last November had created the setting for the "medicare" breakthrough in Congress.

"After years of frustration with a coalition of Republicans and conservative southern Democrats keeping the 'medicare' bill bottled up in the Ways and Means House Committee, a re-alignment this session of party strengths on all committees has enabled 'medicare' to win a committee majority," said Mr. Oxley.

"Thus the bill can be voted on in the House for the first time — and a clear majority of 50 or 60 votes awaits the measure. The 'medicare' bill passed the Senate last year and another easy majority is assured for it this year."

Modifications and improvements will also be made in the present Kerr - Mills law for the "medically indigent" to provide more adequate benefits, Oxey said.

Dr. DuBois tribute set for Sunday

NEW YORK, — An unusual programs of writers, artists and speakers will mark the appearance of a Special Issue of FREEDOMWAYS, devoted entirely to the life and work of Dr. William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, on Sunday, Mar. 21 at 3:30 p.m. at the Crystal Ballroom, 309 West 125th St., near Eighth Ave.

Announced as a prime feature are readings from the works of Dr. Du Bois by the talented Ruby Dee. Tributes will be heard from the distinguished Africanist scholar, Dr. William Leo Hansberry and from the contemporary writer, Truman Nelson.

Lorenzo Graham, Jr. will enliven the proceedings with musical selections. Richard B. Moore will remark on ways and means to carry forward the work of Dr. Du-Bois and will display selected historical books, prints and records. Dr. Calvin H. Sinnette will present the Issue and Keith E. Baird will chair the program.

Many of the distinguished contributors to this Special Issue will be present at this Magazine and Writers' Program. The complete list follows: The African statesmen Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria; Dr. Herbert Aptheker, Carl Bloice, Dr. Horace Mann Bond, William Branch, Dr. Henry A. Callis, Philip A. Davis, Ruby Dee, Dr. Irene Diggs, Shirley Graham Du Bois, Dr. Bernard Fonlon, Dr. John Hope Franklin, Carlton B. Goodlett.

Trailways adds Maryland trips

WASHINGTON

Safeway Trailways, headquartered in Washington has extended its Baltimore to Washington schedules to provide for the first time two round trips daily for residents of Columbia, Atholton and Scaggsville, Maryland, L. L. Browning, General Traffic Manager, has announced.

In addition, a third trip will be made each week day (Monday through Friday) from Baltimore to Silver Spring and Washington via Columbia, Atholton and Scaggsville.

The 8 a.m. Monday through Friday departure from Baltimore will leave Columbia at 8:32, Atholton at 8:38 and Scaggsville at 8:42, arriving in Silver Spring at 9 and in Washington at 9:25 a.m.

Other schedules with identical departure to destination elapsed times will leave Baltimore weekends as well as during the week at 11:15 a.m. and 5:40 p.m.

Treasury expert to talk on bonds

R. Duane Saunders, director, Office of Debt Analysis, Office of the Secretary of the Treasury, will be the principal speaker at a Treasury-Industry Savings Bonds luncheon-meeting at the Federal Reserve Branch Bank in Baltimore on March 22 to be attended by business, industrial agency leaders in the Metropolitan area.

Mr. Saunders will discuss "The Value of Savings Bonds in Public Debt Management."

The meeting has been called by Alfred P. Ramsey, president, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, who was recently named to the Treasury Department's U. S. Industrial Payroll Savings Committee, to serve as chairman for the metropolitan Baltimore area.

Royal Theatre gets twin title boxing

The Royal Theatre will provide the exclusive showing of the championship boxing doubleheader, scheduled at Madison Square Garden next Tuesday (30th) night.

Announcement was made early this week at a press luncheon at Civic Center, to the effect that defenses by Willie Pastrano and Emile Griffith will be relayed to Baltimore by Theatre Network Television, Inc.

Pastrano will put his lightweight title on the line against Jose Torres, and Griffith will meet Jose Stable of Miami, with Emile's welterweight crown as the stake.

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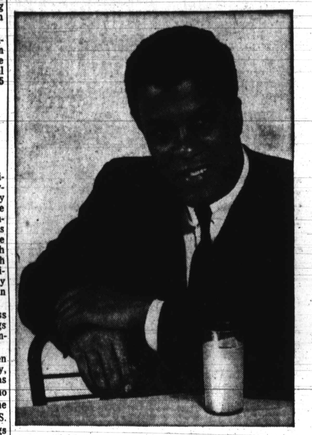

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A NATION COMES TO GRIPS WITH ITS CONSCIENCE . . .

The President Speaks

Excerpts from President Johnson's historic voters rights address to a joint session of Congress, Monday, March 15, 1965, are published here as a public service.

"I speak for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy. I urge members of both parties — Americans of all religions and colors — from every section — to join me in that cause."

At times history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama.

There, long-suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans. Many were brutally assaulted. One good man — a man of God — was killed.

There is no cause for pride in what happened in Selma:

There is no cause for self-satisfaction in the long denial of equal rights of millions of Americans.

But there is cause for hope and faith in our democracy in what is happening here tonight.

For the cries of pain, the hymns and protests of oppressed people, have summoned into convocation all the majesty of the government of the greatest nation on earth.

Our mission is at once the oldest and most basic of this country: to right wrong, to do justice, to serve man.

In our time we have come to live with moments of great crisis. Our lives have been marked with debate about great issues — issues of war and peace, of prosperity and depression but rarely, in any time, does an issue lay bare the secret heart of America itself. Rarely are we met with a challenge, not to our growth or abundance, our welfare or security — but to the values and purpose and meaning of our nation.

AN AMERICAN PROBLEM

The issue of equal rights for American Negroes is such an issue and should we defeat every enemy, double our wealth, conquer the stars and still be unequal to this issue, then we will have failed as a people and a nation.

For with a country as with a person, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

There is no Negro problem. There is no Southern problem or Northern problem. There is only an American problem.

Yet the harsh fact is that in many places in this country men and women are kept from voting because they are Negroes.

Every device of which human ingenuity is capable has been used to deny this right. The Negro citizen may go to register only to be told that the day is wrong, the hour is late, or the official in charge is absent.

If he persists, and manages to present himself to the registrar, he may be disqualified because he did not spell out his middle name or because he abbreviated a word on the application.

If he manages to fill out an application he is given a test. The registrar is the sole judge of whether he passes this test. He may be asked to recite the entire Constitution or explain the most complex provision of state law. Even a college degree cannot be used to prove that he can read or write.

For the fact is that the only way to pass these barriers is to show a white skin.

OUR DUTY IS CLEAR

Experience has clearly shown that the existing process of law cannot overcome systematic and ingenious discrimination. No law that we now have on the books — and I have helped to put three of them there — can insure the right to vote when local officials are determined to deny it.

In such a case our duty must be clear to all of us. The Constitution says no person shall be kept from voting because of his race or his color. We have all sworn an oath before God to support and defend that Constitution. We must now act in obedience to that oath.

Wednesday I will send to Congress a law to vote. The broad principles of that bill will be in the hands of Democratic and Republican leaders tomorrow. After they have reviewed it, it will come here formally as a bill.

This bill will strike down restrictions to voting in all elections —federal, State, and local —which have been used to deny colored the right to vote.

It will establish a simple, uniform standard which cannot be used however ingenious the effort to flout our Constitution.

It will provide for citizens to be registered by officials of the United States Government if State officials refuse to cooperate.

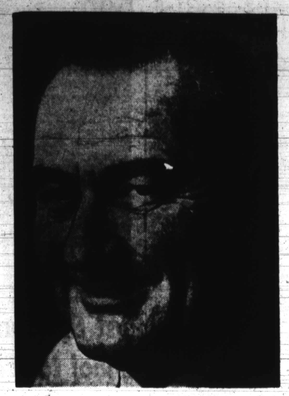
It will eliminate tedious, unnecessary lawsuits which delay the right to vote.

Finally, this legislation will insure that properly registered individuals are not prohibited from voting.

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE

I will welcome suggestions from all the members of Congress —I have no doubt I will get some — on ways and means to strengthen this law, and to make it effective. But experience has plainly shown that this is the only path to carry out the command of the Constitution.

To those who seek to avoid action by their communities — who seek to maintain purely local control over elections — the answer is simple.



PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON

Open your polling places to all your people.

Allow men and women to register and vote whatever the color of their skin.

Extend the rights of citizenship to every citizen.

There is no constitutional issue here. The command of the Constitution is plain.

There is no moral issue. It is wrong to deny any American the right to vote.

There is no issue of states rights or national rights. There is only the struggle for human rights.

I have no doubt what will be your answer.

CANNOT REFUSE

We cannot, we must not, refuse to protect the right of every American to vote in every election he may desire to participate in.

And we ought not, and we cannot, and we must not wait another eight months before we get a bill. We have already waited 100 years and more. And the time for waiting is gone.

So I ask you to join me in working long hours, nights and weekends if necessary to pass this bill. And I don't make the request lightly. From the window where I sat with the problems of our country, I recognize from outside this chamber is the outraged conscience of the nation. The grave concern of many nations —and the harsh judgment of history on our acts.

But even if we pass this bill, the battle will not be over. What happened in Selma is part of a far larger movement which reaches into every section and state of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life.

Their cause must be our cause too. It is not just colored, but all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.

And we shall overcome.

As a man whose roots go into Southern soil I know how agonizing racial feelings are. I know how difficult it is to reshape attitudes and the structure of society.

But a century has passed, more that 100 years, since the colored was freed. And he is not fully freed tonight.

It was more than 100 years ago that Abraham Lincoln, a great President of another party, signed the Emanipation Proclamation. But emancipation is a proclamation and not a fact.

A century has passed, more than 100 years, since the equality was promised and yet the colored is not equal.

A century has passed since the day of promise. And the promise is unkept.

The time of justice has now come. No force can hold it back. It is right —in the eyes of man and God —that it should come. And when it does, that day will brighten the lives of every American.

HOW MANY?

For colored are not the only victims. How many white children have gone uneducated — how many white families have lived in poverty —how many white lives have been scarred by fear because we have wasted our energy and substance to maintain the barriers of hatred and terror?

So I say to all of you here and to all in the nation tonight, that those who ask you to hold on to the past do so at the cost of denying you your future.

This great, rich, restless country can offer opportunity and education and hope to all —black and white, North and South, sharecropper, and city dweller. These are the enemies —poverty and ignorance —and not our fellow man. And these too shall be overcome.

Let no one, in any section, look with prideful righteousness on the troubles of his neighbors. There is no part of America where the promise of equality has been fully kept. In Buffalo as well as Birmingham, in Philadelphia as well as Selma, Americans are struggling for the fruits of freedom.

ONE NATION

This is one nation. What happens in Selma or in Cincinnati is a matter of legitimate concern to every citizen. But let each of us look within our own communities and our own hearts, and root out injustice there.

Tonight, men from the South as well as the North, men from the East as well as from the West, are all Americans, all fighting together in Viet-Nam. Men from every region fought for us across the world 20 years ago.

In these common dangers and these common sacrifices the South made its contribution of honor and gallantry no less than any other region of the Great Republic. I have not the slightest doubt that good men from everywhere in this country — from the Great Lakes down to the Gulf of Mexico, from the Golden Gate to the harbors along the Atlantic will rally now together in this cause to vindicate the freedom of us all. For all of us owe this duty; all of us will respond to it.

The real hero of this struggle is the American Negro. His actions and protests —his courage to risk safety and even life — have awakened the conscience of the nation. His demonstrations have been designed to call attention to injustice, to provoke change and stir reform. He has called upon us to make good the promise of America. And who among us can say we would have made the same progress were it not for his same persistent bravery, and his faith in American democracy?

For at the heart of battle for equality is a belief in the democratic process. Equality depends not on the force of moral right —not on recourse to violence but on respect for law.

And there have been many pressures upon your President and there will be others as the days come and go. But I pledge you tonight that we intend to fight this battle where it should be fought in the courts, and in the Congress, and in the hearts of men.

WE MUST PRESERVE

We must preserve the right of free speech and the right of free assembly. But the right of free speech does not carry with it, as has been said, the right to holler fire in a crowded theater. We must preserve the right of free assembly. But free assembly does not carry with it the right to block public thoroughfares.

We do have a right to protest —and a right to march under conditions that do not infringe the Constitutional rights of our neighbors. I intend to protect all those rights as long as I am permitted to serve in this office.

We will guard against violence, knowing it strikes from our hands the very weapons with which we seek progress —obedience to law, and belief in American values.

In Selma as elsewhere we seek peace. We seek order. We seek unity.

But we will not accept the peace of stifled rights, the order imposed by fear, the unity that stifles protest. For peace cannot be purchased at the cost of liberty.

All Americans must have the right to vote. And we are going to give them that right.

All Americans must have the privileges of citizenship regardless of race. And they are going to have those privileges.

But to exercise that privilege takes more than legal right. It requires a trained mind and a healthy body. It requires a decent home, and the chance to find a job, and the opportunity to escape from poverty.

Of course, people cannot contribute to the nation if they are never taught to read or write, if their bodies are stunted from hunger, if their sickness goes untended, if their life is spent in hopeless poverty.

We want to open the gates to opportunity. But we are also going to give all our people —black and white —the help they need to walk through those gates.

THE FIRST JOB

My first job after college was as a teacher in a small Mexican - American school. My students were poor, and often hungry, and they knew, even in their youth, the pain of prejudice. They didn't understand why people dislike them. But they knew it was so. You could see it in their eyes.

I often walked home after classes wishing there was more I could do. But all I knew was to teach them the little I knew —hoping it might help them against the hardships that lay ahead.

Somehow you never forget what poverty and hatred can do when you see its scars on the hopeful face of a child.

I never thought then that I might be standing here. It never occurred to me that I might have the chance to help the sons of those students— and people like them all over this country.

But now I do have that chance. And I'll let you in on a secret — I mean to use it.

And I hope that you will use it with me.

This is one richest and most powerful country which ever occupied the globe. The might of past empires is little compared to ours.

But I do not want to be the President who built empires, or sought grandeur or extended dominion.

I want to be the President who educated young children to the wonders of their world. I want to be the President who helped to feed the hungry and to prepare them to be taxpayers instead of taxeaters. I want to be the President who helped the poor to find their own way and who protected the right of every citizen to vote in every election.

I want to be the President who helped to end hatred among his fellowmen, and who promoted love among the people of all races and all parties.

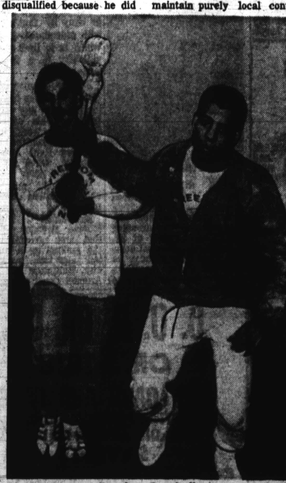
I want to be the President who helped to end war among the brothers of this earth.

I want this to be the Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, which did all these things for all these people. Beyond this great chamber out yonder in 50 states are the people we serve. Who cannot tell what deep and unspoken hopes are in their hearts tonight as they sit there and listen.

We all can guess from our own lives how difficult they often find their own pursuit of happiness. How many problems each little family faces. They look most of all to themselves for their futures, but I think they also look to each of us.

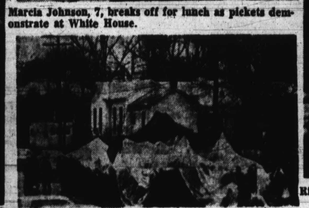
Above the pyramid of the Great Seal of the United States it says in Latin "God has favored our undertaking."

God will not favor everything that we do. It is rather our duty to divine His will. But I cannot help believing that He truly understands and that He really favors the undertaking that we begin here tonight.



Two members of Freedom Run Rally team pass torch en route from New York to Washinton, D.C.

Marcia Johnson, 7, breaks off for lunch as pickets demonstrate at White House.



Rambling, tent-like shelter in Selma for all-night vigil

Rights demonstrators block Pennsylvania Ave. in D. C.

Selma police press billy club against throat of Selma marcher.

Catholic priests join hands with Selma vote asphrants in singing "We Shall Overcome."

Two dozen policemen cleared Pennsylvania Ave. in 15 minutes.

Afro Feature Page