"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."
—14th AMENDMENT, U.S. CONSTITUTION

THE AFRO-AMERICAN

IN MEMORIAM

May we let our light so shine that it will illuminate that which is good and beautiful, and magnify our Father which is in heaven. May we stand strong and firm against despair, falsehood, rudeness, hatred, pessimism and prejudice.—Carl Murphy, Editor-Publisher—1889-1967

Athletes Snubbed

Remember the tale of Ali Baba and how he used the magic word "sesame" to open the door of the cave that spelled safety and security for him?

We thought of this bit of literary lore this week as we were again confronted with the majority race's managing somehow to keep the door partially closed to full opportunity for colored citizens — even the most gifted and fortunate among them, such as star athletes.

The AFRO's sports editor, Sam Lacy, reports that the NAACP's Legal Defense and Education Fund has filed a report with the Federal Communications Commission protesting "under-representation" of colored sports celebrities in television advertising.

LDEF monitors surveyed sports events; they explained, because they felt that sports audiences might be more receptive to commercials featuring colored persons because of the importance of black athletes in professional sports.

But alas, even though the Most Valuable Player awards in both leagues went to dark-skinned athletes in both 1965 and 1966, these players have not discovered the magic word to open the door of the lucrative advertising contracts available to others.

This is all the more significant when we consider the Lacy-supplied statistics which LDEF used: 30 per cent of all major league baseball players are colored; 26 per cent of all professional football players are dark-skinned and 44 per cent of all professional basketball players are non-white.

Yet LDEF found that the viewing public sees a colored appearance in only five (5) per cent of television commercials, and these are most often as a silent, walk-on "extra."

In the television-viewing area of our national life where many mental attitudes of our people are fashioned, the FCC ought speedily to issue such rules as will open wide this door to a broader, more realistic viewing pattern, as well as increased economic opportunity for those involved.

The late President John F. Kennedy had the right idea when he would look around wherever he went in search of the darker American that he knew was very much in our national picture.

We must find new "sesames" — new magic words, deeds and people to open closed doors. We hope FCC will supply a part of this need.

Thurgood Iconoclast?

The word North Carolina Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. used to describe Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall on the senate floor while attempting to block his confirmation Wednesday is an interesting one.

We are sure it caught most Americans off guard — even the more literate ones. In this age of new terminology associated with the revised sciences, its sound and structure could suggest a scientific reference.

But lo, as we turned to the dictionary, we learned surprise of surprise that an iconoclast is one "who destroys established religious or institutional beliefs and images."

It then becomes clear Ervin was saying that Marshall has been a destroyer of established images and beliefs Americans have held concerning their Constitution.

How inaccurate of the Senator!

The new justice's work, as the Constitutional history books must record, has been singularly among lawyers of a kind which has sustained and advanced the venerated Constitutional beliefs this country has advanced from the beginning.

The central themes of the U. S. Constitution in all its parts, including its Bill of Rights, have been equality of all men before the law and security for all men as they confront the powerful proclivities of government.

Thurgood Marshall as NAACP general counsel insisted that these historical notions not be forgotten in the hustle and bustle, the push and pull of latter day social and political pressures.

The only iconoclasm we can conceive of Justice Marshall being guilty of is that of smashing to smithereens the un-American and unconstitutional discriminatory neo-legalisms the South attempted to engraft on the Constitution.

Far from being an iconoclast, Thurgood, in our humble judgment, has been a constitutional iconographer (one who catalogues and preserves venerated beliefs).

We trust that as he takes his seat on the Supreme Court in October, he will continue to be the great protector of constitutional liberty that his years of advocacy would lead us to expect.

Miss. Election Pace

Shakespeare has a character say in Act 1 of Henry VI, "To climb steep hills requires slow pace at first."

And whether or not the wish is to run, somehow in the very nature of climbing there is a slowing process.

The results of the Mississippi State Democratic primary runoff election held Tuesday affirm these truths.

Charles Evers, state field director of the NAACP, had done a yeoman job of organizing colored voters in the southwestern counties of the state.

But colored voters in Mississippi, as indeed in most of America, have a steep hill to climb to accomplish their just political goals.

The slow pace was exacted of Mississippians in their August 8 outright election of 15 nominees for office.

The faster pace desired by non-whites and some involved whites of successful nominations for four county-sheriff posts and other offices, was denied — but only for the time being.

You Guys Play A Good Game But You Don't Fit In Here

Wilkins Speaks • *By Roy Wilkins*

Fulbright Can Still Be Saved

The Senate vote recorded Jan. 24, 1967, said: Fullbright (Ark.)" under the heading, "Against the Motion." The motion was one to shut off a filibuster on a motion to take up a change in the filibuster rule. It lost, 53-46, since 66 votes were needed.

ROY WILKINS

Hon. J. W. Fulbright, Senator from Arkansas, chairman of the powerful foreign relations committee, former president of the University of Arkansas and one-time Rhodes scholar, voted against changing the present two-third rule and barred even bringing to the floor the proposed reduction to three-fifths.

Since Mr. Fulbright's voting record is overwhelmingly against civil rights legislation, it might be thought that he is opposed to the view that the government should protect and expand the rights of colored citizens. His speech before the American Bar Association in Honolulu, however, suggests strongly (if it is morally consistent) that this is not so.

'Flawed Democracy'

In referring to the two wars (Vietnam and the domestic riots) he declares: ". . .the other demands freedom and social justice at home, an end to poverty, the fulfillment of our flawed democracy. . ."

"At the present," he goes on, "much of the world is repelled by America . . . Abroad we are engaged in a savage and unsuccessful war . . . At home our cities are exploding in violent protest against generations of social injustice. . ."

"Not only does the Vietnam war foster the conviction on the part of slum non-whites that their country is indifferent to their plight — in addition [illegible]

repentance.

The message of the January vote was that the Senate of the United States, the nation which Senator Fulbright does not wish to behave so as to repel the rest of the world, will not permit a bill for "housing and jobs and training" for colored citizens to come to the Senate floor for debate.

This stuff of which riots are made has been accumulating for decades before Vietnam. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1954, in all the majesty of a righteous nation (the kind Mr. Fulbright would have us be) ruled out racially segregated schools. But in 1957, United States Army units were required to enable nine colored children to enter Central High School in Little Rock, the capital of Senator Fulbright's state.

He Can Be Saved

Senator Fulbright must surely remember, also, that only a threat of a march on Washington in 1941 wrung from FDR a weak executive order on fair employment practice and that in 1967 the Senate has so far refused to give cease and desist power to the equal employment commission created by the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Despite his obsession with Vietnam, there is a way he can be saved. He can secure the release of the 1967 civil rights bill from the Senate Judiciary Committee and get it enacted. He can revive rent supplements and restore the cut in the model cities bill. He can insist on the revision of the welfare section of the Social Security bill.

If his colleagues are reluctant, Senator Fulbright might try a line from his Honolulu speech: ". . .there is a great need for moral leadership — by which I mean the leadership of decent example."

'Uncle Remus, keep out'

A memorial association operating the Wren's Nest, home of Joel Chandler Harris, has told the Atlanta

WHAT AFRO READERS SAY

I wholly disapprove of what you say but will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire on Helvetius

G.I. hails Mike Davis' Viet reports

APO NEW YORK,

I am a soldier stationed in Germany. I wish to express my gratitude to the AFRO's Mike Davis. I think, he is doing a wonderful job expressing the feeling of fellow "Soul Brothers" and GI's stationed in Vietnam. My buddies and I enjoy reading reading his reports.

Mike Davis' reports are very enlightening and touching. He shows a deep interest in the opinion of the colored soldier. In most newspapers, they just report some of the facts and completely overlook his opinion.

It is a wonderful feeling to meet one of your hometown buddies or someone interested in you when there are many miles between you and loved ones. I know this really gives the troops more morale.

So, I will say to you, Mike Davis, "Keep up the good work for great is your reward."

I wish the above to be entered into the AFRO so that Mike Davis can see that everyone over here enjoys his work.

SP.4 OLIVER S. ROBINSON

Thrilled By Photo

Dear AFRO:

WASHINGTON, D.C. — I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate your sending me my son's picture taken in Vietnam by the AFRO's Mike Davis.

PFC Jerome M. Small is the eldest of three boys and you can imagine how thrilled we were when we saw his statement in your August 26th issue.

We are looking forward to seeing his picture in the next issue. We enjoy reading the AFRO very much.

Please thank the AFRO's Mike Davis and all your staff for us. It seemed to bring my child a little closer to home. (Mrs.) ESTHER M. SMALL.

None so blind

CHICAGO — The black man must face not only the open, direct and sometimes hostile acts of prejudice aimed towards him, but he is also faced with the effects of having his humanity and existence ignored by the majority and dominant white race.

The two-world existence — black and white — operating in society continues to reinforce white society's failure to recognize the existence of the minority society.

There's nothing more crushing than, for example, to get well groomed and all dressed up and have no one recognize the transformation with either a complimentary word or smile. This is the colored man's plight.

Thousands are grooming themselves intellectually and "getting all dressed up" in middle-class mannerisms, clothing and housing. Yet, hardly anyone white, is recognizing the transformation.

Even worse is the plight of those locked in the ghetto who need the immediate attention and assistance of the majority race.

Recently, one of the more conservative protestant denominations — the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod — spent some time at its 47th regular convention taking a look at the black man.

Less than one per cent of its ministry is colored. One of the delegates, appealing to the convention to take positive active against racial discrimination, said: "We want to be accepted as human beings. . .please."

Pleas frequently heard from the riotous New Jersey battlefield were for recognition of existence. People seem to be saying, "Hey, you, look over here at us."

And, like the delegate in the convention, these too were saying "We want to be accepted as human

rioting to gain attention cannot be condoned, but when thousands have used the saner approach and yet fail to achieve recognition, one begins to wonder.

There is an altar of honest human mutual acceptability. Apparently it's not easy to find, but both will have to keep searching.

EMORY G. DAVIS, D.D.

Brown given notice

Fort Dix, N.J. — Reading the AFRO for the past four weeks, I have liked it very much, but not the substance of some of the stories, particularly about teenagers.

As a teenaged Army private and preacher, I feel that, with the right help, the teens can make a better world. If we just look to God and help each other, we can get much more out of life.

I don't like H. Rap Brown. It's leaders like him who make it hard for the rest of ns.

I will be going to Vietnam soon. I want him and his kind to know that, when I get back, I will do all in my power to make them a thing of the past.

I know it is time we got our rights, but we must ask God for help, and learn to love when we are hated.

(Pvt. (Rev.) JAMES BARNETT

Juggling percentages

New YORK — Recent reports show the percentage of colored troops in the New York National Guard to be 2.6 percent and in the New York Air National Guard to be 1.3 percent.

National Guard officers, attempting to justify this disproportionate figure, have complained of the great difficulties of getting colored volunteers in the Guard units. "They just don't apply."

This seems odd in view of the fact that the Armed Forces appear to be experiencing no such difficulty.

The proportion of black troops in Vietnam is said to be about 25 percent and the explanation from the Pentagon is that minority citizens just volunteer for service.

Can both of these statements be true?

LEROY McLEAN

Rat Patrol

Baltimore —An open letter to Rep. Rogers C. B. Morton, R., Md., First:

I heartily agree with your position on the rodent bill. There should be no extermination without representation.

BROTHER RAT

Skeptical of riot solutions

Irvington, Ky. — As a non-church member, I would like to tell about a conversation regarding the racial problem.

The family and I were visiting friends. The pastor and deacon of a church were out trying to recruit people for a revival. The trouble in Detroit came into the conversation. The pastor gave his opinion on how to settle this problem.

He, as a man of God, suggested that they take six or seven hundred, line them up, and shoot them down.

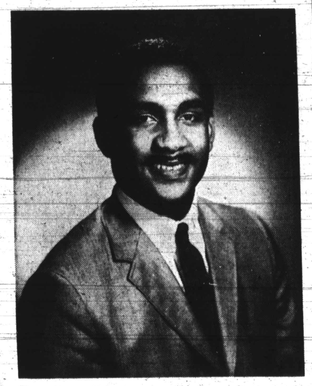
The deacon's idea was to fly about a thousand over Vietnam and drop them without a parachute.

With this kind of thinking from a minister, who is also a school teacher, and a deacon of a church, how can we ever hope to solve this problem? Although I am not a church

TIME FOR A CHANGE! VOTE FOR THE FREEDOM TICKET!

VALLE
Comptroller

ANGELOS
Mayor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The Only Integrated Democratic Team At the Top of the Ticket.