

"SOLDIERS JOY"
231 PEACHTREE BATTLE AVE., N.W.
ATLANTA 5, GEORGIA

August 3, 1963.

My dear Ivan the Second :

I read with great pride in you that Senator John O. Pastore, the Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, had said after your testimony, that he felt humble in your presence. Atlanta has been brought to the favorable attention of the entire United States and the World through the World Wide recognition of your nobility of character. Your integrity, fairness and goodness stood out in what you said to the Senate Commerce Committee. You are the Earlys' Candidate for the most outstanding Mayor of a large American City in the U.S. for the Twentieth Century so far. May many fine days of Constructive achievements lie in store for you in the years to come.

I cut out a "poison pen" letter which appeared in yesterday's Atlanta Journal signed Neal Adams and in which he says: "A Negro is all right in his own place, and that is where he should stay." Mark Twain said that the worst thing one could say about a being is that he belonged to the Human Race. The letter of Neal Adams helps prove Mark Twain's contention.

Who is Neal Adams to decide what is a Negro's place. What he means is that while negroes slavery to individual slave owners ended with the end of the Civil War, he would have human slavery continue in a different form by condemning all Negroes to the lowest, most unpaid, and unskilled day labor jobs. Being kept in their place means that every person with a chocolate brown skin is to be a Biblical "Hewer of Wood and Drawer of Water" and nothing else. Negroes in their place means to white segregationist Negroes digging ditches, washing dishes cleaning up Wash rooms and nothing else.

The Negroes proper place is to be allowed to do any thing he has the intelligence, ability, character, ambition, education and skill to do and which he would be allowed to do if his skin was not black. America needs the brains, skills and abilities of every competent and eager-to-serve American Citizen regardless of the color of his skin.

It is only fair to admit that at present if we take a million Negroes and compare them with a million whites the Negroes will certainly have fewer highly educated and technically skilled persons in their group than the same number of white people. But that is not reason to keep the skilled and educated Negroes in virtual slavery. Denial of their just rights by Southern Segregationists has undoubtedly injured Negroes of the South. But it has injured the Community of Southern Whites far more.

The idea that no Negro can compete on terms of Equality with the White man just is not so. I am going to Analyze the situation in reference to just activity first and that is in line of *athletics.*

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The reason I take Athletics first which is a physical thing is that the Results of Athletic Contests are facts. Not even the most vicious and depraved of the Negro-Hating Racists can deny and disprove the Negroes achievements in Athletics .

Americans kept the Negro girl Althae Gibson off the Tennis Courts for many years. She learned Tennis by knocking a tennis ball around the streets of Harlem with a wooden paddle. But Althae Gibson became the Woman Tennis Champion of the World . The United States has not had a Woman Champion Tennis player since Athae Gibson retired .

In the World Olympic Contests which as you know take place once every four years , the United States might well stand about equal to some petty South or Central American Country but for the Negro Athletes on our Olympic Teams. I need not recall to you that in the 1960 Olympics that Rafer Johnson Negro won the Decathlon . The Negroes Ralph Budd , Thomas Wilma Rudolph were high on the team stars . Miss Wilma Rudolph won three gold medals for the United States Team. It is to be noted that recently in Moscow , Russia our American team of Women Athletes competed against Russian Women Athletes. Miss Wilma Rudolph was not along with the American Team. The Russian Women won all 10 medals for gold medals for top places . The American White women did not win a single gold medal. Just the other day a Southern Negro Bob Hayes from Florida broke the world Record for the 100 yards dash .

The first Negro that was allowed to play in professional Base ball was in 1947 ; Jackie Robinson ; That was a brief 16 years ago. Last year both the First and Second most valuable Baseball player in the National League were Negroes . Number 1 Maury Wills No. 2. Willie Mays. And who was voted the most Valuable Baseball player in the American League : A negro of course.

In the College Basket ball champion ship this very year who won ? Loyola University in Chicago with 4 Negroes playing in the six man team. What white basket ball players can be named that are in the class with with Wilt Chamberlain . Bill Russell , Ascar Robertson etc. Negro professional Basket ball players.

If one wishes to see a world Championship Prize fight in most any weight class as for instance the Liston-Clay Contest scheduled for next month , he has to go to see one Negro fighting another .

What the Negro has achieved in competitive Athletics has been achieved not with encouragement but in spite of every obstacle that the Segregationalist could devise . Southern Negroes have " Voted with their feet " and nearly half of them left the South . But even at that ; half of the Negroes in America still live in the South. Until very recently any of the Southern Negroes who attempted to compete in Athletic

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would have been rushed off to jail immediately. What will the Negro Achieve when he is free to compete in Athletics every where in the United States. That is one thing that will speed integration ~~x~~. In mixed Schools when the students attend a basket ball game, for instance, every member of the team may well be a ^{Negro} member. Students of schools are going to cheer for their team even if they are all Negroes. ^{on the team.}

The above just deals with Negroes' ^{achievements} achievements in athletics. The Southern Segregationists will say: That is just physical. They are so much nearer savages than we whites when they had to be active to keep alive. But they are inferior in brain power. They cant compete with white people mentally " Keep them in their place " Let them confine them selves to digging ditches and cleaning wash rooms.

For many years Marian Anderson was not allowed to sing in a white Concert hall in this country. She had to go and live in Europe to be allowed to sing. Finally the acclaim of Europe ~~and~~ enabled her come back to her native land and be allowed to sing. The Director of the Symphony La Scala Orchestra in Milan, Italy said that Marian Anderson had the finest singing voice in the 20th Century. That is a question of opinion. Any way she was, and is, a superior concert singer. I heard the Laurel, Mississippi Negress Leontyne Price Singing in Opera in Vienna in the summer of 1961. I have been going to Opera for 60 Years. Never in my whole life have I heard such tumultous and continued applause as the European Music Lovers gave Leontyne Price. Some outstanding Music Critics say that Leontyne Price is the greatest Opera singer who ever lived Others are more moderate and say that she is potentially the greatest Opera Singer that has ever lived so far. To me she is very good but I have hear others just as good. But if Neal Adams had his way Marian ADAMS AND Leontyne Price would be fixed in their places ~~and~~ doing menial domestic housework as a ~~near~~ near slaves.

I think that it was wonderful and noble of you ~~to~~ Ivan to introduce Mattiwilda Dobbs to her first recital in Atlanta Municipal Auditorium. I attach a clipping I made at the time of you introducing her. You look so handsome and distinguished. If ~~f~~ Neal Adams had his way Mattiwilda Dobbs would be a waitress in a restaurant or similar job. By the way, the Story of the Dobbs Family as I read it in the Atlanta News Papers is an epic of the Negro Race. There were and are six Girls in the Dobbs Family. The father was a postal clerk. There was no money for education in the Dobbs Family. If they were to get an education they had to get out and work their way through school. All six did. Five earned their M.A. Degrees and one a PhD. Equal that, if you can, any Millionaire white Family in Atlanta.

I want prolongue this already much too long letter by going into the constantly increasing triumphs of the Colored Race in the Educational and scientific World.