

940 Ellis N.E.

The Readers' Forum

Negroes' Place

Dear Sir:

If there was ever a race of people in the history of man that should be thankful that their lot in life was improved by the people of another race it is the American Negro.

Some 250 years ago they were savages in the jungles of Africa. There were other civilizations that had prospered on lands that were far less fair to the provision of a livelihood for man than the luscious and arable lands of Africa. Yet, while civilization was following its tortuous pace in these countries, the savages

in the Dark Continent were practicing cannibalism.

Misguidedly, some of these white people, thought that blacks, living as savages and as cannibals, were animals, and they took them as slaves.

Perhaps, that is the best thing that could have happened to them, for otherwise, they, as a race would never have known the benefits of this great country.

My colored friends, while your ancestors were savages and no doubt doing what was right by their customs of the day, eating each other, the forefathers of this country were preparing those great documents of human liberty, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill Of Rights.

Does that mean anything to you? Cannot you understand that there is a path of history, the history of man's efforts to find a basis of law whereby one can live in peace with the other? Cannot you understand that the documents mentioned above are the nearest to perfection that have ever been achieved? Do you not understand that to destroy these laws is to destroy the very source of those things you say that you want - even those things that you are now beginning to demand as belonging to you.

True, the implementation of the law is not perfect. There are many instances where people of all colors have been dealt unfairly by the law - also by the men who administered the

law. But, what if there were no law? What then? Do you want to revert to savagery? There is no other answer. Either there is law or there is savagery!

So now you have set yourselves on a path of violence to take what you have been led to believe by your power-hungry leaders belongs to you.

The first question of course is how can you say that it belongs to you? Did you build it? Could you build it? Could you run it? It's just that simple; if you cannot answer yes to all three questions then the final question is "How would you live - that is, if you had to depend on yourself?"

If you had no law, as your leaders are now teaching you, do you intend to live in savagery? Shall you have cannibalism? Maybe that is the way you intend to live, for as long as the strong last, after you have destroyed everything, as you did in Watts and are doing in Chicago.

Rather than face such a disheartening outlook, I should think that it would be wise to be thankful for the privilege that you have to live in this great country - the only country in the world where a man has a freedom of choice.

Once one recognizes that this country, in spite of all its inequalities by today's standards, is still the country of the most individual freedom and thereby the best country in which to live then an effort on the part of that one will be made to preserve his position in the world. After all, there is no other place to go.

J. O. Allen
Orangeburg, S. C.

The Principles

Dear Sir:

It is most interesting to read the statement that William M. Garrett, a Democratic candidate for the office of state treasurer, sent to Governor McNair and the press on Friday. Garrett urged the governor to use "every means within your power to allow our Republican opposition to place a nominee on the general election ballot. Can we, as Democrats, say 'the people' had an opportunity to choose? I feel every voter should be afforded freedom of choice at the polls."

Prior to this statement we have had no Wade Hampton, Ben Tillman, Cole Blease or "Cotton Ed" Smith to voice the

sentiment of the people.

Anyone will have to admit that it took a great deal of moral courage in this man who would risk political defeat rather than surrender a shred of principle.

Mr. Bernard Baruch's father, Dr. Simon Baruch, addressing the convention of the S. C. Medical Society, of which he was president, in 1873, quoted an Arabian sage: "What good comes from Ali's sword, if it be sheathed; What good from Sadi's tongue, if it be silent."

If we do not adhere to the principles of this man, we can well say; "Here lies a decent people who wanted love, not empire, and got neither; who tried to trade power for popularity and lost both."

We might also say that here lies a nation of advertisers who knew how to change the consumers taste in cigarettes, but were themselves manipulated on all issues that really mattered to their salvation.

Every voter would do well to read and reread this statement, it is not the statement of a politician, but of a man of true principle.

G. A. White
Spartanburg, S. C.

Thought you would enjoy this letter

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