The Rochester Voice

Editorial

Ladies and gentlemen of the radio audience, as a representative of the local branch of the National Negro Congress we wish to express our deep appreciation to the management of this station for their cooperation in extending this brief period in which to speak of our Negro youth.

To let this week pass, one in which much thought and study have been given to the Negro in general, without paying special tribute to that vast army of Negro youth standing on the threshold of a rapidly changing world, would be a grave mistake on the part of spokesmen for this racial group. Today, as never before, men and women of intelligence are realizing the importance of the Negro to the success of our democratic society. They are beginning in a big way to see him as a normal individual capable of contributing a valuable part to a progressive civilization. They have finally seen the wisdom of giving ear to the universal conditions of life—a search to know the kind of citizen if his journey into the future is to be a successful one. We readily admit that white youth has also become an important actor on life's stage, but we wish to impress upon our radio audience that in enumerating the problems of youth today one runs across those peculiar to the Negro. The attempt to solve these peculiar problems has done much to attract the attention of white Americans and convince many of the Negro's worth.

It might be wise to remind you that this Negro is called a "New Negro" mainly because he has found and accepted a definite philosophy of life. This means that he is searching for the universal conditions of life—a search to know the kind of world we live in what we can do in that world, and what we ought to do if life is to compass the fullest possibilities. Yes, many before us have profited by this desire to discover principles of enduring effectiveness. It was this philosophy of life that made such Negroes as Alexander Dumas, the greatest writer of fiction of France; Samuel Celeridge Taylor, England's greatest composer of recent times; Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, and many others. Negro statesmen, educators and artists are daily proving to a more bewildered world that difference of race and color have no bearing on a person's ability to produce. Our youth are beginning to see this and more the advantage of having outstanding men and women who have blazed a brilliant trail to lead them on into the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you would know more about this new Negro's philosophy of life, I beg you to delve deeply into the history of this race. Trace its advance from bleeding servitude to a position or honor and respect. Study the lives of those men and women who dared the lurking shadows of death while building the bridge over which we Negroes to today have crossed. It is that unconquerable will to win that has influenced Negro youth. It is that inherited determination to carry on that will aid the twentieth century Negro in weathering the storm of present difficulties and enable him to face the future with his head erect. He has found a fountain of inspiration that had been obscured by the evil forces that would have kept him down.

One might gather from what I have said that the Negro has the true and only solution to the many problems confronting us today. Nothing could be more false than this assumption. Indeed, the Negro sees his side of the situation, but does, or rather has he been successful in winning the host of white Americans to his side? Here, I believe, lies the crux of our problem—getting other people to see the same vision that has led us thus far. Have we given enough time and thought to this particular angle of the so-called racial question—the re-education of the white majority with the Negro? My sincere belief is that young Negro America has hit upon something that will greatly enhance his chances to succeed without having to face and fight the anti-social forces that handicapped his parents, when he made up his mind to aspire and cling to those things which have lasting value; and in the meantime flooding American society with good deeds and actions. In doing this he will be accomplishing two very important things at the same time—bettering his own condition, creating a frame of mind that enables him to continue on; and also paint a living picture of beauty and Christian service for his white neighbors. Therefore, Negro youth must have the cooperation of every American citizen if his journey into the future is to be a successful one.

Before closing I must say something concerning the occupational opportunity of our youth. Educational authorities, recognizing the inadequacy of existing educational facilities, both for vocational guidance and apprenticeship training, are now groping for new educational objectives and techniques to meet the needs of a changing society. Government has assumed the responsibility of obtaining social security for the masses through the establishment of wage and hour standards, collective bargaining regulations, adequate housing provisions, maternal and child welfare services, etc. Despite these facts, it is evident that our economic system as at present constituted can never absorb all potential workers. It is necessary the nthat youth, especially Negro youth, in search of gainful and satisfactory employment in the work world of tomorrow, be ever alert to secure the best training and preparation possible. It is necessary that this training include not only the development and conservation of skills, but the formation of efficient work habits, the development of personality traits, and the growth of social understanding.

We admit that most of our problems arise primarily out of inadequate incomes. Low income of itself produces an impaired standard of living which necessarily gives rise to other serious social and cultural problems. It is true that a raising of our group's income and consequent improvement of its living standards may still leave other social problems to be solved, but it is also true that no successful attacks on these secondary problems may be made until the basic handicap of inadequate income is removed. There are roughly speaking about 2,500,000 Negro youth between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four. How will this army of youth face the competition and hardships that are bound to be theirs in the future? Will they be forced to accept inadequate incomes at lower standard of living? Negro youth is asking himself these same questions. (Continued on page 2)
GUEST EDITORIAL

The fact that about 30,000 Negro youth are today attending the colleges and universities of this country in acceptance of the truth, by them, that education is an indispensable tool to clear the road ahead of much of human destruction. Education and character combined with courage sound the clarion call to youth today to marshal their forces and to march steadily onward to obliterate those agencies which are obstacles or barriers in the path that leads upward.

The young Negro of high school age is definitely in need of special vocational guidance. This individual, a high school graduate, contemplating his future, decides to tape up medicine, law, teaching or preaching chiefly because he has seen other Negroes succeed in these occupations, and believes that they are the only fields of skilled in which a Negro can succeed. He struggles through college, acquires the necessary degree, and then learns that he made the wrong choice. With proper guidance at high school age, he might have saved himself a great deal of anguish and avoided going into a type of work in which he was bound to be unsuccessful. With proper training facilities might have started early on a program in which the course of years would have led him an artist, a musician, an executive or a master craftsman. It would be very wise for young Negroes to know that members of their race have succeeded in certain fields that are supposedly closed to them. One can see the effect that false information, or perhaps, no information would have on a young mind. It is a definite challenge to those directly concerned with the vocational guidance of Negroes to become aware of the achievements of successful Negro men and women in the professional and industrial world. Only in so doing will they become qualified to advise Negro youth. It must be pointed out to him as well as to all youth that the economic chaos of today must not deter him from a wise consideration of the vocational careers that lie ahead. Though the future seems destined to be fraught with many difficulties, each individual has the responsibility of finding his own place in the vocational world of tomorrow. He must be taught that industry is placing increased emphasis upon technological improvements, which foreshadow the death of many old occupations and announce the birth of new ones. Business has eliminated some jobs, but has created many new ones by following industry's example and striving for greater mechanical efficiency. The Negro youth must constantly be stimulated and encouraged to train and prepare for the jobs of tomorrow, and in conclusion, friends, I wish to again emphasize the desire of the new Negro to assure his rightful and deserved place in this America society. Daily he is sending men and women among you to plead his cause. These agents of good-will sing upon your stages, help to make the laws of our land, educate your children, help to lead men and women to Christ, work in your homes, stores and factories, and produce commodities that are essential to our happiness. These men and women are pleading for those millions who have not been so fortunate as to have seen life in the true sense of the term. He is wise who will think of others in their plight. As Negro youth stands before you today in the midst of strife and turmoil, wondering what tomorrow has in store for him, must he look out upon an indifferent and unsympathetic world? You are to determine largely what his next move will be. Yes, he has the inspiration and will inherited from a god-fearing parentage, but he needs you to be a living encouragement, your guidance, and above all he needs you example of that character Christ would have us be. He needs to help him rid this land of all racial prejudices and discrimination. The Negro youth desires to be a credit to his country and a contributor to the advancement of civilization.
EVALUATION CONFERENCE
JULY 11, 1963
9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
ST. JOHN FISHER'S COLLEGE

Morning Session - 9:00 a.m. - - -

Commissioner Donald A. Gaudion, Presiding

I. Background
   A. Brief history of Commission, present procedures, areas of emphasis.

II. How do we justify our existence?
   A. What have we done to accomplish the objectives for which we were created?
   B. Have we made a significant contribution to improving human relations in Monroe County?
      1. Have we been our weak points?
      2. Have we been our strong points?
      3. Would it have made any significant difference to the community if we had not been in existence?

Lunch -- Noon

Afternoon Session - 1:00 p.m. - - -

Commissioner Alan J. Underberg, Presiding

III. What do we do about it?

Overall program

A. Re-examination of objectives in problem areas—emphasis and priorities.
   1. Long range
   2. Short range—how specific?
   3. Should there be a change in emphasis?
      a. We have been operating of necessity on principally an individual approach basis. Should we attempt more of a group approach? Advantages and disadvantages.
      4. Should we have a master plan? a la D&C editorial?
      B. Re-examination of functions in specific areas
         1. Employment
         a. What should our function be in this area?—What standards do we apply?
         b. Utilization of NYSES—need for closer liaison.
         2. Housing
            a. Effect of new state legislation
            b. Liaison with Real Estate Board
         3. Education—High Horizon Program?
         4. Public relations
         5. Other areas of concern
      C. Organization of Commission and role of Commissioners
         1. Function of staff—what should they be doing?
         2. Role of an executive committee—how active?
         3. Need for additional Commissioners? How many?
         4. Should each Commissioner be assigned a specific area of responsibility?
      D. Negro leadership problems
         1. Lack of centralized leadership—what do we do about it?
         2. Existing factions among Negro community—what are they?
      E. Utilization of existing community relations organizations and for what purpose?
         a. Effective utilization of Negro groups and organizations—extent of participation.

THE ROCHESTER VOICE - TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1963 - PAGE 3
OPERATION GRASS ROOTS '61, '62, '63

"Operation Grass Roots '61, '62, '63" was the proposed Monroe County Greater Coordinating Center.

For the past two years, this plan has been in the meeting, talking and investigative stage. A series of meetings have been held with Gordon A. Howe, County Manager and other state, county and city leaders to determine the availability of funds. We discovered that there are no funds from any governmental agencies, nor have there been since the Lanham Act of World War II.

The Citizens Coordinating Committee believes that this plan is not especially a master plan. However, this plan does recognize the source of the disease, diagnose the symptoms, regretfully, that as the thermometer rises, the condition will erupt with even greater speed and violence than previously.

This position is endorsed by the signatures of some 3,200 citizens at the grass roots level, representative of the city and county as a whole.

Enclosed herewith is an organizational chart which we feel is self-explanatory as to the details of the plan. We have also enclosed a map of the areas in which migratory workers are found, since it is from this source that comes the people with - and for whom this plan is proposed.

The Coordinating Center would be the focal point from which these activities would be directed and through which affiliations with the various city and county and state agencies would be contacted. We feel it is imperative that the newcomer to the area should be met with concrete plans for his well-being and for whom this plan is proposed.

The Coordinating Center would be located in 8 area churches to be located in 8 area churches, planned for - whom this plan is rooted from familiar surroundings, finds solace in their churches and in this same setting, may more easily be persuaded to learning. Naturally, these churches should receive remuneration. This is included in the total ($46,500 - $45,000) that will be needed to finance this operation.

We would make, also, the following suggestions:

1. That the Rochester Chamber of Commerce consult with the Retail Merchants Association, representing the stores in the downtown area, to insure that the Negro be allocated 8% of all employment. This applies as well to the Joseph Avenue Business Association, the Hudson Avenue Business Association, and the Retail Merchants Association. We feel that some sort of plan also should be put into force amongst the unorganized business in the Southwest area of the city.

2. If some attention were given to "upgrading" the Negro employees already holding positions in stores, banks, etc., this would allow more room for the employment of other Negroes in the vacant positions.

Our program of entertainment in the form of movies using on of the city's discarded ambulances as mobile equipment.

(Continued on page 4)

Do You Have A MONSTER In Your Home?

We don't mean just any monster -we mean a particular one -an octopus.

It starts so innocently -just a two-way electric outlet plug. But then it grows -one "two-way" attached to another, and another, and another, complete with electric tentacles just waiting to trip you up.

Result: -a full-fledged "octopus" threatening you with fire hazards, poor lighting and blown fuses.

WHAT TO DO: -Usually an "octopus" is a sign that your electric wiring is not up to the demands of 1963. If this is happening at your house, see your electrician or call us at LO 2-7000 and ask for the Residential Wiring Bureau. We'll be glad to prescribe the proper treatment.
**W & T Co-op Market**

**10c SALE**

Thurs., Fri., Sat.

on

**MANY OF THE MOST POPULAR CANNED GOODS**

some BAKED GOODS

372 Hudson Ave.

General line of

MEATS and VEGETABLES

DAIRY PRODUCTS BAKED FOOD

AT ALL TIMES

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**My Neighbors**

Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live. (Amos—5:14).

We should bend every effort toward magnifying God’s good by living an exemplary life. A faith-filled heart will enable us to avoid evil and hold to the good.

Enjoy that REFRESHING NEW FEELING you get from Coke!

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