

LET'S BE HUMAN

HARRY FLESHMAN NATIONAL LABOR SERVICE

We Open The Gates

We have been delighted by the flood of orders for our new pamphlet on labor's fight for job equality, **WE OPEN THE GATES**. But we must admit we were surprised at the request for **WE OPEN THE GATES** which came from the California State Prison at San Quentin. We wonder if it is from the same fellow who, a few years ago, wrote for the American Jewish Committee's historical sketch entitled, **THE PRICE OF LIBERTY**.

Remember Pearl Harbor?

When the Japanese warplanes treacherously bombed and sank most of our fleet at anchor in Pearl Harbor, they also, unfortunately, sank some of our good sense — particularly concerning our own citizens of Japanese ancestry. During the early months of World War II, some 110,000 persons in the U. S. of Japanese blood were rounded up and thrown into "relocation centers." Because they were herded virtually overnight, many of the evacuees lost their homes, farms and businesses.

The racist basis of this action was clear. We were also at war with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, but no one seriously suggested that Americans of German or Italian ancestry be placed in detention camps — even though it would be harder to spot them, if they chose to serve as spies or saboteurs than the Nisei (Japanese-Americans).

In 1942, only a few American groups, like the Workers Defense League, the Postwar World Council and the Quakers opposed the relocation program. (I still remember meeting on the subject, chaired by Norman Thomas, which Communists tried to break up, on the ground that it "hampered the war effort.")

When the war ended, many Americans, sobered by the magnificent contribution of the all-Nisei 442nd regiment, the most decorated U. S. Army outfit in World War II, repented of their lapse into racism. In 1948, Congress passed the Evacuee Claims Act to help restore some of the wartime losses suffered by Japanese-Americans, estimated by the Justice Department at some \$400 million. Under this act, some 26,000 claims have already been settled during the past ten years for over \$35 million, an average of \$1,365 each.

The public change of heart has also helped reduce racial discrimination on the West Coast. Professions, trades and skills once closed to Japanese-Americans are now open to them. Before the war, 70 per cent of the Nisei worked for Issei (Japanese-born) employers; today 80 per cent are employed by whites. There are at least ten times as many Nisei lawyers, doctors and dentists as there were before the war — nor do they serve only clients and patients of their own race.

As a very punny friend of mine put it, Uncle Sam is finally doing right by his Nisei — and nephews, too!

Attention, Textile Workers!

Harry Golden, editor of the *Carolina Israelite*, is at it again, this time with a plan to revive the depression-ridden Southern textile industry. A few years ago, he points out, a Negro reporter wore a turban when he visited a half-dozen Southern cities. Thinking him an Asian, Southern whites allowed him in "white" busses, movies, restaurants and hotels.

Suggests Golden: Give every Negro in the South a turban.

Twelve million turbans would mean at least 20 million yards of finished cloth, plus the need for constant replacement. Kids would forget their turbans, or they would get spoiled in the rain, etc. And so we would not only solve the entire racial problem, but we would restore prosperity to the Southern textile industry and put most of the thousands of textile workers now unemployed back to work.

The Agitated Canary

Stewart Meacham, of the American Friends Service Committee, says the pupils of Little Rock and Virginia, buffeted between governors, federal courts and school-boards, remind him of the canary who got home late from work. The poor bird's feathers were badly ruffled and he was staggering about as if he could scarcely fly.

His wife said to him, "Oh, George! You have been drinking again and you got into a fight."

"It's a lie!" chirped George. "I was flying along toward home, just minding my own business. Then all of a sudden I was in the midst of the darndest badminton game!"

It's A Bargain

One of the commonest complaints we hear nowadays is that "they don't make things to last,

the way they used to." Remember the model-T Ford and how long it lasted? Modern cars, the plaint goes, are built to wear out fast and need replacing.

Which reminds me of the youngster who asked his mother, "Why don't we have a baby?" The mother answered, "Because they cost too much." The kid questioned further, "Yeah? How much?" The mother said, "Oh, about three hundred dollars." The kid then replied, "That ain't much . . . considerin' how long they last!"

Homes For All

Pittsburg, Pa. in January became the second city in the United States to ban discrimination in private housing. New York adopted a similar ordinance a year ago. The new law is designed to assure equal opportunity for decent housing regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin. Violations can lead to fines up to \$100 and/or imprisonment up to 30 days.

Precaution Might Prevent Theft Of Automobile

In Mississippi last year, about 2100 automobiles were stolen, which averages something like 107 car thefts per 100,000 population. Even this ratio is low when compared to surrounding

states. Just a few simple precautions might prevent theft of an automobile.

Drivers should remove keys from the ignition, place everything of value out of sight and lock the car doors before leaving it. These simple measures will not stop a professional car thief but will act as a preventive means for some young individual who may have a tendency to steal.

After New Mexico became United States territory, President Abraham Lincoln presented Pueblo chiefs and governors with ebony, silver-headed canes to signify their authority.

The world's first offshore sulphur mining plant is being built on a steel "island" seven miles off the Louisiana coast. Miners will commute to work by helicopter.

The Petal Paper

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The Daily News

Associated Press (AP), United Press International (UPI)

SUB FREEZE HITS AREA!

ICE PERIL
Precipitation spread in Northwest, with snowfall into the Pacific mountains. Along the coast, snow piled.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A blast of elements spawned a tornado, thunderstorms, dense fog, freezing rains and a sea of ice slick Mouley from Colorado to the middle of the Gulf Coast.

RIGHT OF EXTREME COLD
Low temperatures of, early morning, included 34 degrees below zero at Newport, Vt., and Saranac Lake, N.Y., and 27 at Bismarck and Grand Forks, N.D.

ICE CARS IN CHAIN
One chain-reaction, crashed Ford Eagle, Detroit, involved other multiple cars in Illinois.

WOW! What a Winter We've had!

But you and your family — and many thousands of other folks enjoying natural gas service — were comfortable and cozy during the "cold spells." At your fingertips were adequate supplies of natural gas to keep you warm, cook your meals, furnish plenty of hot water, dry your clothes and perform other big jobs around the home.

You use more gas, of course, during cold weather. And when you consider ALL that natural gas does in terms of solid comfort and convenience, we think you'll agree . . . dependable natural gas service is the biggest bargain in your home today.

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