

The Mississippi Enterprise

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NOTHING GOOD IS LOST: Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.—Eccl. 12-13.

NOW IS THE TIME

Because we are always desirous of sharing with our readers, everything that we consider uplifting and of benefit to our race, this week we use for Editorial comment, the following excerpts from the topic, "Now Is The Time," an article we read recently.

Every day some space and time is used in our daily papers on the daily Radio Programs for plans and programs for the post-war world. And because this is true, we feel that the following is especially timely and should be of the greatest interest to all Negroes:

"Negro people the country over—and in every city, town, hamlet and in rural communities—should start to work NOW on a seven point post-war program. We, above all races, should be down to the business of post-war planning NOW. Our post-war planning should include seven definite points:

1. Acquisition of real skill for our job and the right attitude towards work of all kinds.

2. Purchasing of all the War Bonds we can so that we will have a financial stake in this government.

3. Locating a little available land for proper living as near as possible to the kind of industries in which we can get employment. Negroes must stop piling up in cities and going off to work.

4. Laying by a little with which to make necessary repairs or to recondition our homes. We must learn to take much better care of the property in which we live and we must stop running down communities. NOW IS THE TIME to put much emphasis on the standards that will be set up for rebuilding the world.

5. Help our young people to become more interested in making a life than in merely making a living.

6. Study the Cooperative Movement thoroughly and be ready to join the right kind. Remember the Cooperative movement is going to have a great big place in the economic scheme of things when this war is over.

7. Take definite, intelligent, practical interest in Causes that promote human betterment.

"We are making a little money now, but there is every reason why we should not get excited and buy up all of the frills and furbelows that our eyes fall upon. Some of us live in perpetual WANT. We want this and we want that, and as soon as we get this we want something else. Carnal minds and eyes flit from one desire to another. Nothing satisfies us long though we often say, 'If I get this I'll be satisfied.' 'I want' has become our National Anthem. We have not yet learned to get what we need first. 'I want' takes all the joy out of living for many. We want things that we are not able to buy and could happily do without, if we only had common sense and self-control. 'I want' manages us and all of our affairs. She presses the life out of 'I need.' We should know the things that are necessary to give balance and comfort to our lives and get those things first. We feed our eyes and not our minds—our judgment—our common sense. Our faces, our stomachs, our feet and our bodies have absolute control over our minds. The mind is the standard of man, if our minds are weak, our standards must be correspondingly low. That is why many people buy face powder or perfume when they actually need soap and a good wash cloth.

"The home and school should spend much time teaching people to put first things first. We have never given sufficient emphasis to this in our teaching and uplift work. Because we are making a little money now, the majority of our people are cloth-mad—peacocks on parade. Too many of them do not know what to buy—the practical—the becoming—the necessary. Yes, we should all be well-dressed, but being clean and free from body odors and being properly dressed

are first.

"There are millions of Negroes who are spending and investing wisely. They are not stingy. They are not hoarding. They are not excited. They know what they need and what is necessary for comfort and happiness and they get it. But we are interested in the great army of Negroes who have never been taught and do not, therefore have the kind of sense that they need in a time like this.

"While we are talking about clothes, it might not be amiss to say that we must spend much time improving our conduct and controlling our voices. We should not forget to dress up our manners while we are dressing up our bodies. We are afraid that Negroes do not sense the fact that millions of 'new people' from other lands will be looking for opportunities and jobs after the war is over. We need not be surprised if we are dislodged. Efficiency and common sense are our only hope and even with these we must watch subtle, deeply entrenched race prejudice. Remember, too, that the day of living on 'relief' is gone forever. The let-down and the let-out are coming just as sure and just as soon as Hitler is licked.

"Every home, school, church and welfare organization should devote their time to selling the seven-point post-war program suggested herein to Negroes everywhere. If the race has any real leaders, NOW is the time for them to lead us into the right way to think and act on these vital problems. Big meetings and big talk will not do it. This is not the

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