

# Michigan Chronicle

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## PEACE AND CHARITY

With tremendous military operations already underway and the eventual conquest of the Nazi horde assured, sober sense dictates that we plan, and plan well, for the days that must follow tomorrow's victory. It is true that many experts in industry are building a bright new world in their laboratories and many technological miracles are awaiting the peace. Nevertheless, no great new designs for social living have come to public notice. No matter what our scientists say, we know that men cannot live by gadgets alone.

If we are to enjoy the fruits of our industrial genius we are going to need international, inter-national and inter-group peace. The big three conference at Yalta, for all its merit, had of necessity to concern itself with the relationships between the vast land blocs and between the great national groupings of the earth. The relationships between minorities and the infinite groups which comprise a nation have not yet won widespread attention. Nevertheless we shall not be able to go very far toward a permanent world peace until these intra-national difficulties are intelligently appraised and justly resolved.

These so-called minor social problems are the little acorns from which the big oaks of world conflict and violence eventually grow. Thus world peace like charity must begin at home. Some conception of the magnitude of the problem which confront us may be gleaned from the concluding paragraphs of Walter White's latest book "A Rising Wind." Says Mr. White:

"The United States, Great Britain, France and other Allied nations must choose without delay one of the two courses — to revolutionize their racial concepts and practices, to abolish imperialism and grant full equality to all of its people, or else prepare for World War III. Another Versailles Treaty providing for "mandates," protectorates," and other devices for white domination will make such a war inevitable. One of the chief deterrents will be Russia. Distrustful of Anglo-American control of Europe, many and perhaps all of the Balkan states may through choice or necessity ally themselves with Russia. If Anglo-Saxon practices in China and India are not drastically and immediately revised, it is probable and perhaps certain that the people of India, China, Burma, Malaya, and other parts of the Pacific may also move into the Russian orbit as the lesser of two dangers.

"As for the United States, the storm signals are unmistakable. She can choose between a policy of appeasement of bigots—which course she gives every indication now of following—and thus court disaster. Or she can live up to her ideals and thereby both save herself and help to avert an early and more disastrous resumption of war.

"A wind is rising—a wind of determination by the have-nots of the world to share the benefits of freedom and prosperity which the haves of the earth have tried to keep exclusively for themselves. The wind blows all over the world. Whether the wind develops into a hurricane is a decision which we must make now and in the days when we form the peace."

## A TIMELY CALL

Last week a committee of Michigan citizens representing organizations of importance throughout the state, colored and white, left a calling card at the Governor's office in Lansing. Unable to meet with Governor Kelly, the committee conferred with his secretary and politely petitioned for some action on fair employment legislation for Michigan. This cross-section of the citizenry asked that the Governor consider seriously the problem of job discrimination and that he send a message to the legislature urging the enactment of a sound fair employment practice law for Michigan.

It is interesting to note that the good Governor has squarely committed himself to support such legislation and that the Republican party, nationally and locally, has gone on record in support of FEP legislation. The committee which called on the Governor's secretary was seeking to prod the Governor's memory and to remind him of his pledges to the people of Michigan. Somehow our good citizens still continue to take campaign promises seriously, despite many disappointments.

We believe that Governor Kelly has an excellent opportunity now to overcome the growing criticism which is greeting him from so many quarters by taking a forthright position on an issue

which will affect the peace and progress of the state in the post-war period. The right to work is a civil right which should be taken for granted in a democracy. Nevertheless, popular prejudices have led to discriminatory practices among employers, and these practices have put a ceiling over the economic advancement of minority groups. This is a palpable injustice, and it leads to unfortunate racial conflicts.

We hope that Governor Kelly will rise to the demands of this circumstance and call upon the legislature to outlaw employment practices which, if unchecked, are bound to stimulate racial strife and destroy the unity we will need to win the war and the peace. In taking this position the Governor will be acting in best interests of all the people in Michigan, regardless of color.

## THE CHRONICLER

By CONFUCIUS

That noted admiral of the ocean fleet, Adm. William Halsey of the U.S.N., although a great fighter, sure diminished our respect for him and the navy blue by those remarks about the "Japs" who, he says, will have to be crushed forever. He's not heard any such said about the Aryan Nazis.

FIREBALL REP. RANKIN of the House is going to go too far one of these days, practically did when calling Rep. Hook names. Speaking of experiment (which some Representatives did about Hook), he said against putting Rankin out? Fraud of Johnnie, boys?

The Children's Bureau of the Labor department has set up work standards for young boys working for railroads, as many have had dangerous jobs as firemen and track men, etc. How come the P.T.S. can't get around to hire-able-bodied Negro men?

International Latex corporation has done it again. One of this country's few liberal and public-spirited advertisers, Latex has had a page-length 2-column ad in the New York Times several times lately giving questions from Henry Wallace, and analyzing his reactionary opposition. Some time ago, they had a good one on race.

Dr. Homer Rainey, former president of Texas university, is out because of his liberalism, but he is not forgotten. The American Association of University Professors is making a full study of the situation, and has already made a preliminary statement supporting him against the big-business regents. We'd like to see some enterprising writer really make a point-by-point comparison of the South and its practices with Fascist Germany and Italy — education, labor, government, etc. This business of Georgia and Texas rulers running the state like a plantation, where they were privately-owned grocery stores is straight out and out fascist.

Speaking of Dixie, Mark Ethridge, liberal Louisville publisher, spoke recently in Atlanta on "The South—A Citadel of Reaction."

INDIA'S MAHATMA GHANDI is predicting a new and "bloodier" war unless the problems of India and like states is solved. As usual, the little seer is serving as the conscience of the world, and is all too right.

If Police Commissioner Ballenger gets his social club legislation and enforcing power about gambling, it's going to play hob with the "recreation" of some of our "best" people. As Winchell says, "Ha!"

New York Times war correspondent, Milton Bracker, made a statement in Editor and Publisher, from the Italian front, that "The Pittsburgh Courier 'distorts' the war news from that front."

A justice of the New York Supreme court upheld Katherine Danham's right to acquire her new property, and will decide soon whether she may use it for a dance studio (zoning).

WALTER WHITE'S daughter, Jane (a Smith college grad) was one of five young people who spoke in a forum sponsored by the N. Y. Times. W. W.'s new book is out too, "A Rising Wind."

Richard Wright's "Black Boy" is

"GUARD AGAINST CARELESS TALK—PARTICULARLY NOW WITH SO MANY THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS HOME ON FURLOUGH FROM OVERSEAS. HARMLESS FRAGMENTS OF INFORMATION MAY BE OF VALUE TO THE ENEMY."



IF YOU HEAR IT—DON'T REPEAT IT!

## THE FACTS IN OUR NEWS

By HORACE A. WHITE  
SETTING UP STRAW MEN

A few students from the various university and college sociology courses have been writing papers on Negroes Attending White Churches.

The subject has become a popular academic activity because some "liberal" whites and some misleading Negroes have been harassing the mental comfort of white clergymen on the subject. The mental comfort of all clergymen needs to be disturbed and greatly disturbed, but this is not the subject (Negroes attending white churches). The subject of Negroes attending White Churches is an academic and will be nothing more for many years to come. The reasons are not far to seek.

(1) Negro churches give the masses of Negroes a sense of unity on the basis of race. Whether this is desirable or not makes no difference. People have to have a sense of unity. The thwarting of a feeling of unity with one's fellows on the basis of being an American, because of race discrimination, is denied the Negro American. The churches provide an acceptable and workable basis of unity for Negro people in America.

(2) The Negro's mode of worship as carried on by the masses is interesting in that it blends a strong African motif with new world symbols. This is as it should be. To about this magnificent development just to see some Negroes sitting beside some white people in a church non-responsive church would be tragic for religion generally.

(3) A group of people feel secure only when led by their own leaders. In other words, Negroes know that white leaders, as ignorant as they may be, cannot at this point in our national life feel the real throbs of the Negro's struggle. To take away the leadership that Negroes have produced for themselves through their churches would be to throw the Negro masses into the civilian arms of emotional insecurity. In addition, churches dominated by white leadership will have to take tremendous strides before these churches will assume their leadership with Negroes on an equitable basis. Negro laymen know this, they are afraid of this. They are afraid of this because any academic demand made by any group of Negro clergymen for white churches to go out and recruit Negroes, is only academic.

Lets harassing of white clergymen in this society may be so many people, both white and colored, feel that churches generally have not lived up to their obligation on more fundamental issues.

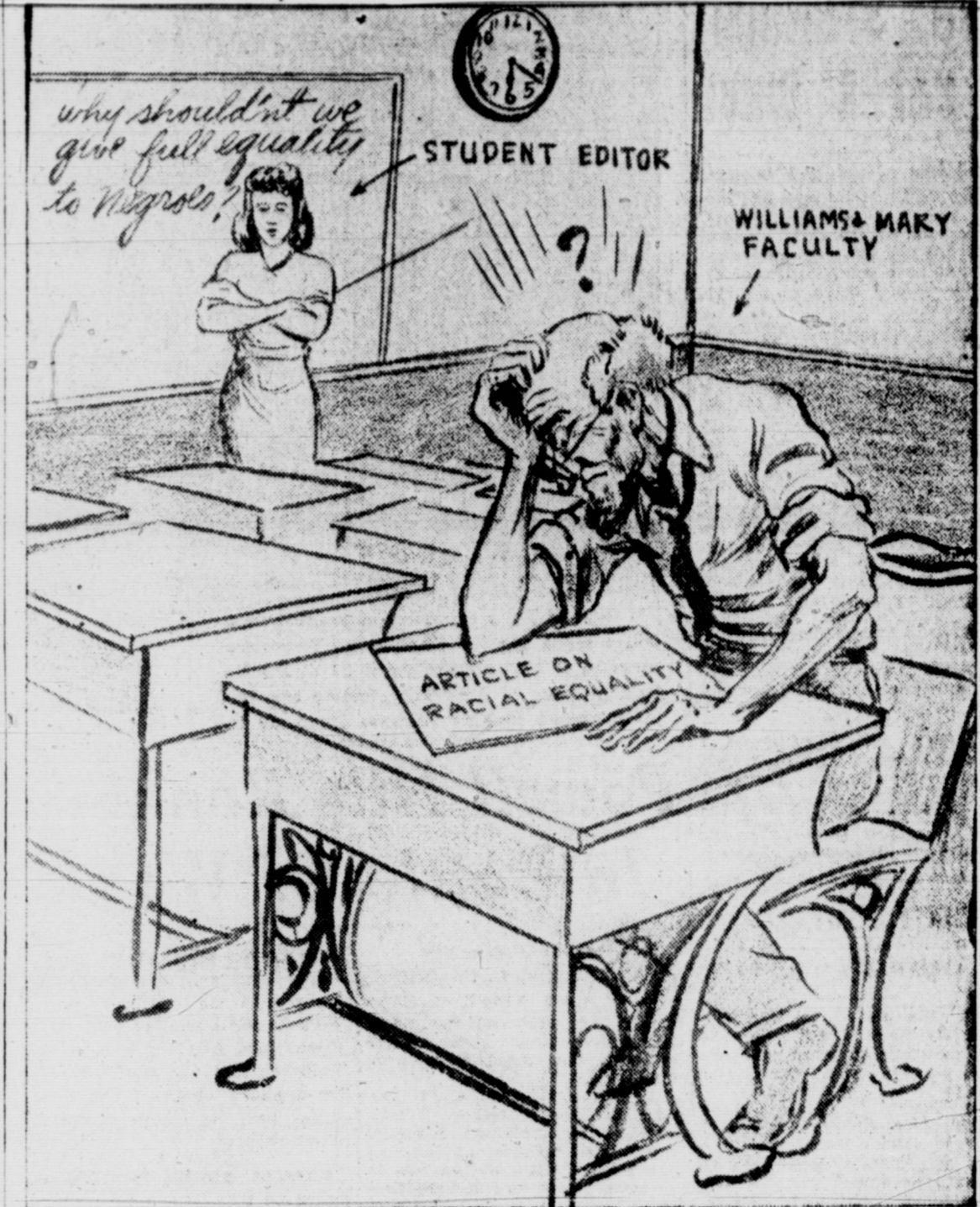
(4) The Negro masses have no desire to being to white churches. Why should they? The Negro churches are much more vital and meaningful in our national life than most white churches. Negro churches are fighting with backs to the wall and the churches reinforce the fight. White churches for the most part have a sense of well-being in a chaotic world. Negro churches have a sense of cause, destiny, and struggle even though the world is apparently going to hell.

If one could be so completely out of line with the facts as to plan for any meaningful exodus of Negroes to white churches, such a person would be substituting religious warmth and vitality for a sterile make-believe religious activity.

The Negro is becoming of age in the next world of ours. Its time we stop harassing innocent white people with non-essential academic debates. The things that are really important to the masses of Negroes give us plenty of subject matter over which we can talk, devise ways and means. The problems of food and enough food, housing and good housing, jobs and on a basis of equality and fitness, education and the right kind of education for all our people, and justice and equal justice before the law are enough to over-power Negro leadership and our friends.

Frightened men and women who feel that the enemy has them permanently "fenced in" turn to squabble over "straw men."

## THE PROFESSORS FLUNKED THIS ONE!



## Enquiring Reporter

Question: Do you think that the Negro press is an effective crusader for Negro rights?

The Reverend Mr. Carlisle F. Stewart, pastor of Ebenezer A.M.E. church, "Unquestionably, there is no way to estimate the tremendous power wielded by the Negro press. They have been uncompromising champions of our rights. I believe that our newspapers can apply even more pressure than our churches where whites are concerned."

Mrs. Mattie Brown, director of Peter Pan Nursery, "I certainly do. The Negro press is doing a good job of educating the public to our needs, our wishes, and our demands. I do think, however, that there is still much more to be done. Less criticism and more educating on the part of the press would help. I find the press progressive and open-minded."

Mr. Oliver B. Healy, principal of Lincoln school, "I think the Negro press fulfills its purpose very well. It is fair and educational. I put it on the same level with our daily papers. I am more familiar with it here in the Chronicle than any other Negro weekly and I have always enjoyed reading it. I find the Chronicle very well-constructed."

Mrs. Laurette Tyus, 284 Elliot, "I certainly do. The Negro press brings the Negro problem to the attention of the whites and of the Negroes themselves. It lets everyone know what's going on. Negroes make the mistakes heard through their newspapers. It is our most effective means of letting other groups know what we expect as a race."

Milton Monjoy, junior accountant, Brewster Homes, "I find the Negro press effective. I think that fewer crime stories and more stress on pertinent issues would make it even more powerful. I have noticed that the war has caused the Negro press to assume a firmer, more belittled attitude. I think that is as it should be."

## Dr. Frazier Speaker At Marriage Clinic

Dr. F. Franklin Frazier, head of the sociology department at Howard university, Washington, D. C., will be the principal speaker at the Thursday morning, March 8, and the Wednesday evening, March 7, sessions of the Marriage and Family Life Institute to be held March 6-12 in the Rackham Memorial Building, 60 Fernhurst avenue. Dr. Frazier will speak on community influences as they affect the family, and the role of the family in creating intercultural understanding. He is nationally known as an author of important works on the Negro family, his best known being "The Negro Family in the United States."

WILLIAM LOVING, area worker of the Council of Social Agencies in the Alford district, will be one of the speakers in the Friday evening session on "Marshaling Community Resources to Defeat Juvenile Delinquency." Other prominent speakers scheduled to appear at Institute meetings include Lawrence K. Frank, department of family life at the New York Academy of Medicine; Dr. Margaret Mead, author, lecturer and noted anthropologist; Dr. Henry A. Bokman, department of family life at Stephens college, Columbia, Mo.; and Capt. Dorothy C. Stratton, director of the SPARS. A SPECIAL SERIES of three monthly lectures on marriage problems are scheduled from 12:20 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. March 6-8, so that working people may attend. Capt. Stratton will discuss marriage prospects for girls in service Tuesday noon.

## BOOK NOTES

By GERTRUDE SCOTT MARTIN

"BLACK BOY" Richard Wright has done another job of shock writing; in this case the impact is in some respects stronger than in "Native Son" which was fiction. This new book is an autobiography in which Mr. Wright probes into his own memories and experiences from his earliest childhood to the time when he leaves the South behind him and takes a train for Chicago.

"BLACK BOY" is a bitter indictment of the South and all it does to frustrate and dehumanize Negroes, but it is also an indictment of a family so warped by religious zeal that it made the life of a sensitive boy miserable. Richard Wright grew up in a hostile society and in a hostile household. His grandmother in whose home he lived with his invalid mother for many years was a Seventh Day Adventist who after failing to convert her grandson to her faith treated him like an outcast. The combination of a hostile home environment with the hostility of the white South made Richard Wright's youth an unhappy succession of incidents in which he was pitted either against members of his own family or someone in the outside world. Too independent to knuckle before his autocratic household and too proud to humble himself before the whites, he rebelled early against the sort of discipline his relatives attempted to assert over him. He describes himself as a drunkard at six who possessed a formidable vocabulary of filthy facts some of his early experiences stretch the credulity of the reader; one of these was the time he went out armed with a heavy stick and after much prodding from his mother