

A Negro Takes a Look at NAACP'S 'Northern Big Shots'

(This article by Webster McClary in the Williamsburg, S. C., Record was published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch. It is reprinted here by special request of a Middleburg reader of The Blue Ridge Herald)

TO THE PEOPLE of Williamsburg County:

There are times to speak and times to keep quiet and this is a time to speak.

I am a Negro who was born and raised in your county. At present I am serving as local preacher in St. Paul M. E. Church near Kingstree, S. C. During the week I farm my own land and also run a licensed taxi service in town. I belong to the Free & Accepted Masons, to the Grand Order of Odd Fellows and to the Joint Stock Society. It has been reported that I belong to the NAACP also.

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FIRST, let me say to my white friends that I have never belonged to the NAACP and never expect to. I'm too free and happy praising God, working hard and living in the friendship of both races.

I ask you to show this to your colored friends.

Second, let me say to my colored brethren and sisters:

You are doing a lot of talking about White Citizens Councils. You say they are not like a bunch of young drunks whooping and hollering on a possum hunt. You say councils are springing up quiet as mushrooms in the night. And you say right. Those are smart, steady men and they mean business. They have told you there won't be any mixed schools hereabouts and I'm telling you you can depend on that. You can quit your secret worrying and fretting about mixed schools, for most of you don't want them any more than whites do. You just didn't know how to keep from having them.

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I CAN SAY THIS to any Negro who has it sticking in his craw that he can't be happy without trying mixed schools. All you have to do to get your heart's desire is buy a ticket to Philly or other points north where they are already mixed. Nobody has to tell you that colored children don't learn books as fast as whites. But see

for yourself how pitiful your big colored children will look in the same grades with smaller white children. Have you got enough money to dress your brood in clothes they won't be ashamed of? Go ahead and try it if you must. But don't be fool enough to slam the door in your white friends' faces before you go. You might want to come back like I did after I had lived up there a-while.

How if you come home and find the door locked? Your old key won't be much good in a door fastened with a dozen ten-penny nails. Who is going to help you then? Will the NAACP give you a handout? Laugh, folks, laugh!

* * *

THE YEARS I lived in Philly and New York I made big money as a house painter, but it took it all to keep going. When I finally came back home I hardly had one dime to rub against another. What did I do? I went to my white friends and got a job. Later, who lent me money to start farming? Who sold me seed and fertilizer and mules on credit? When dry weather ruined my crops, who let my debt ride till the next year? Who let me have groceries and clothes on credit when I needed them? When I was sick, who fed and clothed me free? Not the Red Cross, not the Welfare Department, not the NAACP, but my own white friends. I say God bless them and their seed.

Now don't take the notion that I'm talking against my own race. I am not. I'm trying with the help of God to lead my people right. I'm warning all you Negroes not to be misled by a few NAACP folks you see strutting their stuff in your community. Remember the old saying, "Give a calf enough rope and he will hang himself." Just keep an eye on the calves around you and you are apt to see a show turn into a circus.

If you are one of the calves,

cut the rope now. Come out into the open and throw your weight for equal but separate schools where Negro children can learn to take pride in their own race instead of being ashamed of it.

Did you read in the papers about councils in other counties "exercising economic pressure?" Do you know what that means? I didn't either till I had it explained to me. In our kind of talk it means getting fired from a job or having your credit cut off. Be fair. If you were paying wages to a fellow and found he was doublecrossing you, what would you do? You would fire him so quick it would make his head swim. He would be lucky if he didn't get a kick in the pants for good measure. As for giving him credit, who? You?

* * *

IF YOU THINK the NAACP will get those lost jobs back, get somebody to explain the meaning of the news from Washington in the papers with big print in the top line saying, "Justice Department Lacking Interest in Economic Pressure."

Listen, my colored brethren and sisters: Come out into the open and tell the world it's equal schools you want, not mixed. If you are too bashful, get somebody else to speak for you. Get on the winning side while you can. Forget the NAACP and the Supreme Court before they forget you. How long do you think they are going to stay in a lather trying to force mixed schools in South Carolina with all the whites reared back on their hind legs saying, "We won't have them!" and threefourths the Negroes slipping around to whisper, "We don't want them!" Take an open stand with your white and colored friends so things can settle down.

Let's all work together again on the program to build equal schools so your children can get a good education before they get gray-headed. Beg your Christian leaders to furnish you with good leadership. What this country needs is more Christian leaders on both sides who will teach their people to pray more and work toward friendship and peace and prosperity instead of mixing breeds against God's plan.

* * *

MY FRIENDS, let all the nit-wit talking about mixing races go in one ear and out the other. It was God Almighty's plan to have a white race and a Negro race and when Gabriel blows his last trump, the two races will still be on earth to answer. The sprinkling of mixed breeds will only show that both races were human and sinful and standing in the need of prayer.

If I were a betting man I would bet you that you'll see the day before too long that North-

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