3-2-1951

Advocate Register-March 2, 1951

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FIRST CITIZEN BANQUET IS IMPRESSIVE AFFAIR;
MAYOR DOROTHY MCCULLOUGH LEE PRESENT

The banquet honoring Mrs. E. W. Smith and Raleigh Washington held at the Nortonia Hotel, Tuesday, Feb. 20. Among the 100 or more guests present were Mayor Dorothy McCollough Lee, who spoke saying Mrs. Smith and Raleigh Washington were "the type of citizens we wish all citizens to be."

Many of the friends of both were present to honor them. Many church, YWCA, NAACP, League of Women voters, Republican and Democratic party members, Oregon Association of Colored Women, and other organizations' members that we were not able to get all wished Mrs. Smith congratulations.

Mr. G. H. Oberteuffer, Portland Area Council Boy Scout executive praised Raleigh Washington saying, "as a tenderfoot scout, Raleigh didn't really want to learn to swim," and now he was an Eagle Scout, the second Negro to win such rank in Oregon. The knowledge of life-saving is required to attain this rank.

Mrs. Smith said "Three things give me the inner drive to keep working on so many things at once even when they seem in vain... I LOVE GOD, I LOVE PEOPLE, I LOVE PORTLAND."

Mrs. Maggie Morrison was Toastmistress and presented the Advocate Register award to Mrs. Smith. Caley Cook, ex-Jefferson High School Student body president and classmate-friend introduced and presented Raleigh with the Junior Award.

Mrs. U. G. Plummer presented for the Oregon Association of Colored women a separate award to Mrs. Smith.

Two out of town speakers brought messages of vital importance. William Tunstall, radio announcer from Seattle (who said, he too would like to live in the atmosphere of Portland if this assembly was representative, and that Negro loyalty to America was not questioned at any degree of length, until the Korean conflict.

The Chief Speaker of the Evening was John H. Binns, Tacoma attorney and Rhodes Scholar who said, "The battle for complete Negro suffrage is nearly won, even in the South."

Binns, a former regent of Washington University, said "Three things give me the inner drive to keep working on so many things at once even when they seem in vain... I LOVE GOD, I LOVE PEOPLE, I LOVE PORTLAND."

State college, declared that with the realization of complete Negro suffrage, no other form of discrimination can last long because "the people who have votes and know how to use them won't allow it."

"With every election, more Negro votes are cast," the speaker said, "and the more progressive states in the South practically have given up the fight to maintain the exclusive white vote?"

Discrimination in this country has harmful effects in foreign countries, Binns declared.

He warned that the time may come when the very existence of the United States may depend on "our ability to convince the world of the value of American democracy."
IN MY OPINION

My dear Oliver,

I hereby submit with a great deal of pleasure and honor, my views for your publication.

"WHENCE EQUALITY"
By Owen J. Card

Now it is obvious to all that the poor paralectic and cripple are not equal in physical endurance to the athlete. Nor is the immoral man equal to the moral man. That is, the physical handicaps limit the cripple and the intellectual overwhelms the moron in the pursuit of knowledge, while the moral man is superior in his practice of virtue.

In one degree or another men are unequal ... some are faster, more agile or talented than others, but there is one place where all men are equal and this is before the natural law; that is the law of God, the law that is necessary to follow to keep within the dignity of the individual as a creature of God.

This law is inherent in the soul of man and this soul is what makes a man a man. No color, creed, or nationality changes the spiritual essence of the human nature; that is the soul of man.

All men and I mean all men who inhabit this earth, are creatures of God, made to God's image and likeness, and are therefore God's highest creation on earth and are deserving of their proper dignity and respect as creatures of God.

At the same time men are held responsible for their actions. If any man breaks the natural law, he is held responsible before man and God. Thereby being subjected to justice and mercy.

To sum up: Equality exists in the nature of the human soul. Equality is spiritual and not material. Further to deny equality is to deny God.

Yours,
Owen J. Card.

February 9, 1951

Dear Oliver:

It was good to receive your card today. I had written you right after I received a copy of the Advocate Register but evidently the letter went astray. I like the paper very much and am more than glad that you are in the midst of things there in Portland again. I shall never forget the valuable counselling you so generously gave me when I first came there. I know that I would not have fared so well without it.

We have a very sound coordinated movement going here. It was tough at first. Only 11 agencies out of a possible 45 or 50 came in. Now we have 32 members. As a result we have been able to get a housing—or rather redevelopment ordinance passed by the city council prohibiting discrimination in public housing. Also we have been able to get the state commissioner of real estate to investigate the activity of realtors in the matter of arousing residents when Negroes move into the neighbor-

hood. The Calif. State Employment Service has undertaken to revamp its practice of accepting discriminatory orders and we are now in the process of working out a system whereby this can be achieved. We are working with the police and sheriff's offices in setting up a police training program. So you see with just a few items we are making progress.

I am mailing you some material on our set-up. About two months ago several put on a concentrated effort to scuttle the County Conference. Franklyn Williams, NAACP Regional Director, stepped in and knocked the props from under our adversaries. He told them that the LACCCR was the only organization of its kind in the country and that we were in a position to give invaluable assistance to agencies like the NAACP and the Urban League. He urged that we prepare to expand on a state-wide basis. That sort of hushed them—or maybe ran them "under cover".

Best wishes in your new venture. We'll keep stuff coming your way.

Sincerely,
George Thomas.
Dr. Bunche on Democracy

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner, speaking at a dinner given in his honor by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spoke some unpleasant truths about the American system of democracy.

There is, he reminded us, still a contradiction.

In this critical time, he said, “All that the American Negro asks is that he be treated like every other citizen—that he be accepted or rejected, not collectively, on the basis of his color, but individually, on the basis of whatever merit he may command.” The fundamental justice of this statement is inescapable; yet, as everybody knows, it expresses an ideal rather than a fact. But is it too much to think that the ideal is unattainable? This country, after all, is dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now perfection is a difficult thing. But the American people could do a lot better, and the challenge is now at hand. If there is any doubt about what is meant, listen to Dr. Bunche: “All that the American Negro asks is that he be treated like every other citizen—that he be accepted or rejected, not collectively, on the basis of his color, but individually, on the basis of whatever merit he may command.” The fundamental justice of this statement is inescapable; yet, as everybody knows, it expresses an ideal rather than a fact. But is it too much to think that the ideal is unattainable? This country, after all, is dedicated to the proposition that “all men holds. Let us practice our democracy as are created equal.” That principle still vigorously as we profess it. There is no better way to prove the American cause around the world. — New York Herald Tribune (Sunday, January 28, 1951).
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