



VIEWS AND REVIEWS

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

(This column represents the personal opinion of Mr. Schuyler and in no way reflects the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

No sooner does the welkin cease to ring with the strident denunciation of Warren Brown's apostasy than a new indignant clamor arises over the torpedoing of the FEPC. Judge Hastie resigns after discovering that like the bear "he ain't nowhere" and Dr. MacLean, having alone approved the McNutt move, goes over to the Navy reportedly to advise them how to handle Negroes.

These are days of disillusion for the Sons of Ham. It is the "morning after" ten years of wishful thinking intoxication. The painters of roseate dreams who trooped around the country at government expense proclaiming the imminence of Utopia because "liberal" New Dealers shook hands, clinked glasses and attended conferences with them, have now become bitter and vituperative.

It seems to be definitely the end of the long honeymoon between the New Deal and the Negro. I can sympathize with the understandably gullible Senegambians who saw the interracial Paradise "just around the corner." It did look to the superficially-minded as if the marriage of convenience would be one of permanence, what with the plethora of jim crow officers in Washington and the provinces under the Black Cabinetees and their subalterns.

From time to time in this place I have sought to indicate the base metal underneath the film of gold by pointing to the disgraceful discrimination against the Negro at Boulder Dam, in the NRA, WPA, TVA, ROTC and Citizens' Training Camps, to name just a few. But doles and desk jobs blinded many to the truth. The stage was then being set for the streamlined, ruthless segregated set-up from which we are vainly attempting to escape today.

It was clear as soon as selective service became effective that the Administration was set on a strictly jim crow army with more "efficient" discrimination than embittered us during the last crusade for democracy. Remember, there was no organized demand from white Americans *against* mixed units, so if the Administration had had the intention, vision and courage to establish a democratic army to fight for democracy, there would be a different situation in every direction, in and out of the Services. What has happened was not unplanned. Jim Crowism has been a consistent New Deal policy. And it is important to note that it has been the policy of all Administrations from 1776 to the present. Unless I am historically uninformed, jim crowism is the oldest American tradition. If the Republicans had been in office, they would have handled the Negro in the same way. Judge Hastie was doomed to fail.

The New Deal, so "friendly" to the Negro, had sufficient votes in the last Congress to pass a law punishing war contractors who discriminated against Negro workers. Mr. Roosevelt could have made one of his eloquent speeches urging passage of the measure as a war necessity. Instead, he issued an Executive Order which was never more than a moral directive, so the FEPC was doomed to failure before it started. Its ineffectiveness was demonstrated as soon as it tried to do something important and significant. Mr. Randolph, who lauded the Executive Order as just what he ordered, was soon criticizing his own set-up as toothless and ineffective, and talking about "another" March on Washington, which took place about as much as the first one did.

With reaction more firmly in the saddle in industry and the war machine, jim crowism is more bold and adamant. It rules the roost from Coast to Coast, and has followed the Army and the Navy wherever they have carried the gospel of our way of life. It is not only the rule in stations of all Services in sections where there are State jim crow laws but also in States where there are none. It forces colored officers to sit in jim crow sections away from other officers and amongst colored enlisted men. It prevents fraternity between colored and white officers, and between colored and white enlisted men, barring Negroes wherever possible and using terror to "keep them in line."

Faced with this menacing situation in the armed forces, in war industry, in the maritime service and elsewhere, those so-called Negro leaders are more confused than ever. The white "friends" upon whom they counted to run interference for them have lamentably failed or been shoved aside by the Kluxers. Their only tactic so far is to beseege the authors of jim crowism with telegrams protesting against jim crowism, or to threaten the launching of a suicidal civil disobedience campaign.

With a war to fight and win, the government will not countenance any interference with war effort and will crush such interference promptly, especially if it is colored, and use it as an excuse to kill forever the Negro's dream of equal citizenship rights, duties and privileges. So what's the next step?