

Dawn of Tomorrow

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HOW I BECAME INTERESTED IN RACIAL JUSTICE

By Samuel Goldwyn
The title of this series of articles is, in a sense, a reflection of a tragic state of affairs. For it carries the truthful implication that there are many people of good will who have not always been interested in racial justice. It brings out all too clearly the fact that such a feeling may have been dormant within many of us until aroused to action by some specific catalyst.

We all know that injustice and intolerance flourish best in surroundings of ignorance and prejudice, but we must also realize that indifference to the effects of conditions based solely on differences of race can be almost as dangerous as active persecution of the victims.

If we sit idly by when fellow Americans, because of their color or creed or origin, are discriminated against in employment opportunities in educational facilities, in housing, in the right to vote, in the right to "Freedom from fear," then we are really participating in these denials of rights. Because failure to fight against the evils of intolerance is—in its effect—the equivalent of condoning such injustices.

It would be impossible for me to date the beginnings of my interest in racial justice, for this is a belief which has been virtually instinctive with me. It goes hand in hand with a recognition of the dignity and self-respect that is the rightful heritage of every individual who has not cast them aside, and the obligation to respect his rights as a human being and a fellow member of society.

I would be less than candid if I did not say frankly that there have been times when my interest was more passive than active, but the fact is that it has always been abhorrent to me that a person's race or color should be a factor in his right to live a life on a plane of full equality with his fellow men. I feel strongly that there is no more important task before us in this country—and in fact, in the world at large—than that we strive to bring into reality the letter and the spirit of Article 55 of the United Nations Charter which provides that the United Nations shall promote "universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.
Having been reared in an atmosphere of liberalism, I have always been more or less aware of questions of racial justice. But the horror of the situation did not burst upon me with full impact until the early years of the war.

In 1942 the Office of War Information sent me on a tour of Army camps in the South. This was part of a coast-to-coast survey to investigate the wildly exaggerated rumors about drinking conditions around Army camps. I had never been in the South before for a very extended period, and I had never before seen the miserable and hopeless conditions in the Negro sections of Southern towns. As I went through these sections with the Military Police, I realized for the first time the sense of bitterness and despair which a Negro

might so well have in America. Later, when serving in the Army overseas, I was impressed by Negro readiness to serve the country which, in some respects, promised so little to them. After the war in Washington I occasionally spoke at the local Negro high schools and at Howard University. Every time I saw the serious, intelligent faces of the students, I felt again how imperative it is to end this wretched business of discrimination and to make America truly a land of opportunity for all. One hundred and twenty-eight years ago John Quincy Adams called Negro bondage "the great and foul stain upon the North American Union." It is still the most urgent challenge to the American conscience.

by Agnes E. Meyer

My first comprehensive insight into the social injustices meted out to the Negro in our country came to me during the second World War while I was studying the impact of our industrial mobilization upon family life. In every war centre the hardships endured by the white population were bad enough but for the Negro they were doubled and trebled, whether it was a question of health, housing, food or education.

The frightful neglect of the war workers, whether Negro or white, was due to the fact that our badly organized community services broke down and that our Federal, State, local relationships were not and are not geared to function efficiently.

In trying to remedy these basic weaknesses of our social structure I have never isolated the problems of our Negro fellow citizens except to see that their needs are given special consideration in drawing up legislation, in planning new facilities, or in the measures being taken all over the country for better integration of local community services.

For I am convinced that the normal, natural functioning of the Negro in our society cannot be achieved through superficial means such as race relations committees and the endless talk in which they dissipate their energies. I believe that we Americans can know and understand and respect each other only if we work together shoulder to shoulder to solve our social problems. That is why my endeavours are directed toward stabilizing community and family life and toward creating a society in which the individual can function as a participating citizen to bring about the common good. If people could once more feel firm ground under their feet; if they had decent housing, good schools and a chance to bring up their children in health and happiness, most of our post-war tensions would be softened.

In all of these efforts to accelerate social progress throughout our country, I find a very general awareness that the disadvantages from which the Negro has suffered in the past must be wiped out. A new sense of a more genuine, more honest, more conscientious democracy is abroad in the land. The whole battle of equal rights has not been won. But the signs are manifold that a new day is dawning.

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Mr. and Mrs. F. I. turned from their v other cities Mr. and ited in Detroit for a

A very successful and weiner roast was day, October 2nd. large number in at all who participated thoroughly enjoyed

Misses Letitia Burl et Morton of Chath of Misses Marion Jenkins over the v

Messrs. Walter Cl ris, Austin and Ja Toronto visited with don over the week

Congratulations Melvin Hackett on born Tuesday, Octo wish you all many come.

There were a Londoners present services held at th in Woodstock.

Mr. Floyd Smith home for the week stay he visited m relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Ja guests of their siste in Detroit, Michig end.

Mr. and Mrs. B Stacey visited frie