

WHY NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL?

As one of the countries responsible, through its support of Palestine partition, for the establishment of the provisional government of Israel, Canada has proceeded with perhaps too much caution in taking the logical next step, recognition of the new state. The Canadian government's arguments against recognition at this time may seem strong, but they are not strong enough to outweigh the fact that in the United Nations Canada supported the decision which gave birth to a Jewish state in Palestine.

Canada's chief arguments are first, that Israel is not yet a member of the United Nations and secondly, that although a truce now exists in the war between the Arab League and Israel, the situation has not clarified itself sufficiently to warrant recognition of Israel. For example, the frontiers are not yet defined, serious fighting might again break out, Israel might be overwhelmed by superior forces, and the new state wiped out entirely.

Neither of these arguments will bear close examination. A number of countries with which Canada maintains formal relations are not members of the United Nations. Eire is one of these. Moreover, the fact that the frontiers of the new state are not yet set, and that war might destroy it altogether, has been true of other countries which Canada recognized. Eire, again, is an example, with the question of the frontier and partition still a live issue. Italy is another; the loss of Trieste and the colonies has by no means been permanently accepted by the Italians. And who can with certainty describe the boundaries within which the government of China holds sway or forecast how long that government will last? Further, without the intervention of the United Nations, is there any small country surrounded by large neighbors, as is Israel, which is not in danger of destruction?

On the other hand, if Canada's external affairs department is taking its lead from the British foreign office (which has advanced similar arguments against recognizing Israel at this juncture) a reconsideration of our stand might well be timely. In view of the results of British policy in the Middle East, which Mr. Winston Churchill himself has criticized for its "ineptitude," it is doubtful whether we have a great deal to learn from the "experts" in Whitehall. Their views and policies are neither sacred nor all-wise, and the record indicates that all they have been able to accomplish in the Middle East is to embitter everyone concerned against Britain. Britain and the Commonwealth have been done a disservice by these "experts," and if our own foreign policy makers are following their advice, they should by this time know better.

About the best that can be said of Canada's hesitation to recognize Israel is that it is a "safe" policy. But it is neither logical nor courageous.

COMMITTEE TO FETE US NEGRO LABOR LEADER

The Montreal Labor Committee Against Racial Intolerance will tender a luncheon to Lillard S. Townsend of Chicago at 1 p.m. Monday at the LaSalle Hotel. Mr. Townsend, well-known Negro labor leader in the U.S., is international president of the United Transport Service Employees.

Among those present will be O. Renaud, president of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council; W. J. Smith, president of the Montreal Labor Council; M. Rubinstein, president of the Jewish Labor Committee; B. Shane, Jean Marchand, H. A. Reiff, M. Silcoff, C. Jodoin, S. Linds, R. M. Bennett, P. Pichette, K. Kaplansky and Romeo Girard.

COMMUNITY S.W. ASH AND SYCAMORE STS.

Mrs. C. E. Howson, 95 Glenwood Ave., Mrs. C. Heath and A. C. Robinson appeared before the board with regard to the proposed Ward Three Community Centre.

Ald. Calder seconded by Mrs. Albright, moved that the city-owned property at the south-west corner of Ash and Sycamore Streets be held by the City for the possible enlargement of Silverwoods Park, that the Council be informed that it would not be inconsistent with park use to have a community centre built upon this property and that, if so desired by Council, the Advisory Committee will give further study to the suitability of this and other sites for the erection of the proposed Ward Three Community Centre. Adopted.

DR. RALPH J. BUNCHE

It is interesting to note that Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, who has been appointed acting United Nations mediator in Palestine, following the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, is a Detroit-born Negro.

When Dr. Bunche was 12 years old his family moved to Los Angeles. There he became an honor student and star athlete at the University of California. After taking his master's and doctor's degrees at Harvard he became professor of political science at Howard University in Washington.

Appointed to the U.S. State Department in 1944, Dr. Bunche was active in the formulation of the United Nations organization at Dumbarton Oaks and the San Francisco conference. When the U.N. set up a secretariat in Palestine in December, 1947, he was placed in charge of it.

The task to which Dr. Bunche succeeds is a tough and thankless one, as evidenced by the murder of Count Bernadotte. That he will perform it to the credit of his country and his race may be confidently predicted on the strength of his record of past public service in his homeland.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

BIASED PASSPORT FORM BLAMED BY U.S. BUREAU

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 — After protest by Leslie Perry, Washington Bureau, NAACP, the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization has abolished the practice of reserving the passport designation "American" for white citizens alone while requiring Negro Americans to designate themselves as "black."

The Bureau had sent out the following instruction for forms required of all Americans seeking foreign travel:

"Native-born citizens of the United States of all Caucasian or white races, departing for permanent residence in a foreign country, should be recorded by race as 'American'."

Other native-born citizens of the United States, viz: African (black), Chinese, Japanese . . . should be classed under their respective designations."

In a recent letter to Mr. Perry, the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration, John Boyd, wrote: "You are advised that this form together with the above-mentioned instruction appearing thereon has been abolished."

COLORED VOTES

Four million Negroes, nearly four times as many as voted in 1944, will take part in the presidential elections in the United States this fall. At that the situation leaves plenty of room for sardonic reference to the alleged "land of the free." Despite pious proclamations, men are a long way from being either born equal or treated as such.—Brantford Expressor.

SOUTH'S OWN PROBLEM

(Toronto Telegram, Sept. 1948)

Editor, Telegram:

Sir,—As I have spent over 25 years in the south as a priest of the Episcopal Church, while still remaining a Canadian citizen, may I comment on the experiences of an American reporter who spent some time in the southern states masquerading as a Negro.

In the first place it is difficult, if not impossible for two races, fairly evenly balanced in numbers, to live together without major frictions developing, and that is especially true when the two races are of a kind that make assimilation a major stumbling block. Witness the attitude of California and British Columbia in regard to Orientals—the Japanese in particular. That attitude is largely condemned by the eastern provinces and states, but if an easterner took up residence in Vancouver or San Francisco I venture to say he would come to share the popular opinion of the people of those cities, and resent quite keenly the criticism of outsiders who had no Oriental problem. I am not saying this attitude would be correct, but I am saying it is natural.

Now the Oriental, while he cannot be assimilated, is yet a member of a race whose intelligence is as great as the Anglo-Saxons and such is not the case with Negroes. There are of course outstanding members of the race—Marion Anderson, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, etc., but the Negroes on the whole are a primitive people as anyone is aware who knows them well, and is very fond of them—as I do and am. They have made great strides in the last half century and I am sure as a race have a real future, but I am not discussing what they will be centuries hence, but what they are now, which is quite a different matter.

So, the south has a race problem. It would have been a difficult one to handle under any circumstances. It was made doubly difficult by the Civil War, and the terrible reconstruction period which followed it. If there had been no war between the states, slavery would have died out naturally before the close of the century as it did in Brazil for it was not an economical system. There would have been no bitterness engendered and there would have been no carpet bag and Negro Rule, regime, from which latter much of the bitterness of the white south is derived.

It would, I am sure, be much better to let the south handle its own problem. Contrary to general opinion there is a deep affection between the Negro and southern white as individuals. White people feel responsible for their care in a way which would be quite incomprehensible to a northerner. I recall on one occasion the old colored woman who came in each week to give our rectory a cleaning, took sick. I did not hear about it for several days, but when the news reached me, my wife asked a basket to take round to her. Instead of gratitude, however, I got a fine dressing down. It was about time I came round to see her. Hadn't I known she'd been sick most a week. All her other white folks had been in long ago, etc., etc. I had quite a time to make my peace.

Most of the criticisms of your reporter are true enough. Things are very far from ideal, but the southern white man realizes it, and matters are changing for the better and rapidly. There is a wonderful improvement in the present status compared to the time I first took up residence in the South.

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CAP HAYNES LIVES

Cap Haynes works dawn to dark on his 34-acre farm at Liberton community in M. Texas. Last year, his \$1,000 and that does own time as part of ought to be full of he isn't. George Sessi in the current (Oct. 2 Evening Post.

"He doesn't owe a one, and pays cash for purchases," Mr. Perry children are helpful k dispositions. Cap Ha life is as foreign to t dustrialized Negro wo the slums of the grea eastern cities as any differs from any city comes about as near know to leading a ha . . .

Mr. Perry's article, is the fourth in the "Y series by the Rocklan or. The purpose of tell, in neighborly fa diverse religious and which make up the A lation live today.

Cap Haynes believ gro in the United S clear-cut strides tow izenship and full opp ised so long ago in Fourteenth and Fifti ments to the Constit to Mr. Perry.

"To Cap, that prog able," Mr. Perry writ father was a slav throughout his boyh hood, has meen an ov ly literate farm han his 10-year-old-son passed him in educa

Although Cap Hay ily—wife, Ressie, the Mary, Pearl Mae, ior and Cap's widow cinda Goff Haynes— itive conditions, th their self-respect, an their neighbors, Mr When they go to sh ten miles from thei the people treat the and respect.

"They are known ple, have many frie whites and Negroes Perry declares. "It wariness is necessa avoid the corners w and ruffians hang o are compartmented colored sections children must sit in is reserved for Negr . . ."

Cap lets Bud Gib Negro farmer of 72 Mr. Perry says.

"With only mode since he's a wise ol some actual impati virile one, a pionee Bud Gibson, unask less than 100 years his people were ig and unfit to exercis Perry writes. "Lik ants driven to the U Europe by pogrom they were in need sistance, guidance more than anythin he feels that the ti the full liberation Bud is certain that struggle for equal the law and in the traveling with a him . . ."