

Say Lincoln's Vice-President Was Negro

By Les Fuller

One hundred years ago, Hannibal Hamlin, former Governor of Maine and U. S. Senator, was elected Vice President of the United States along with the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States. Hamlin was said to be of Negro heritage, and as far as can be gathered from authoritative sources, this fact hasn't been discouraged.

Hamlin, the son of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, a physician of old New England stock, was born in Paris, Maine, Aug. 27, 1809. He was educated in the various schools of New England and was highly respected as a scholar and a man well versed in government. He later gained the reputation as an able lawyer and excellent public speaker.

Hamlin entered the political scene as an anti-slavery Democrat and was elected to the Maine House of Representatives, serving as presiding officer of this body from 1840 when he was elected to the U. S. Congress.

In 1843, he was elected United States Senator from the State of Maine and served in the U. S. Senate until 1856.

Because he did not approve of the Democrat's endorsement of the Missouri Compromise, he withdrew from the Democratic Party and joined the newly organized Republican Party.

He was elected Republican Governor of Maine in 1856 and inaugurated in that office on January 8, 1857.

Hamlin was nominated to the Vice Presidency of the United States in 1860, and along with the election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States in 1860, came the election of Hannibal Hamlin as Vice President.

To many, this was a crowning "insult" to the South and the press showered their dis-

gust upon him by way of editorials, quotes from Southern legislators and the description of his "dark skin, black blood and the dire effects of electing a free Negro to the Vice Presidency."

In Washington, the Southerners resented his dark skin and many of them vocal in their fury against his complexion and rumored Negro background.

The South had reason to fear him for he was much more outspoken against slavery than Abe Lincoln.

"The Chicago Democrat," a white daily, said January 4, 1861:

"The constant theme in the South for the last two months has been the election of the free Negro, Hamlin.

The Republicans vigorously denied that Hamlin was a Negro and Hamlin always answered the critics of his color by saying: "I take my complexion from nature."

Hamlin became one of Lincoln's chief advisers and his persuasiveness finally caused Lincoln to state: "You have repeatedly urged me to issue a proclamation freeing the slaves. I have concluded to yield to your advice."

Howard Carroll says of Hamlin, "By reason of his efforts, nearly four million chattel slaves became Americans."

The Encyclopedia Britannica says: "He was one of the chief advisors of President Lincoln and urged both the Emancipation Proclamation and the arming of Negroes."

Hamlin was again elected to the U. S. Senate in 1869, serving until 1881 when he was appointed Minister to Spain.

In 1883 he retired from public life and died at Bangor, Maine, on July 4, 1891.

MARCH 30, 1870 — The Fifteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was declared ratified in Congress, stating the the right to vote shall not be denied to any-

one on grounds of "race, color or previous condition of servitude."

MARCH 31, 1806 — Great Britain abolished African slave trade by law.

APRIL 2, 1796 — Toussaint L' Ouverture appointed Commander-in-Chief of French forces in Santo Domingo. The gallant Negro general and liberator led Haiti and Santo Domingo to freedom and independence. Generally

considered an indirectly responsible for the Louisiana Purchase, he was born in 1743, and died in captivity in 1803.

APRIL 3, 1826 — James Madison Bell, Negro poet, born. Feast of St. Benedict the Moor, Negro Patron Saint, celebrated in Catholic Church.

APRIL 4, 1589 — St. Benedict the Moor died a holy death. He was born in the little Sicilian village of San Fratello on Jan. 25. He was canonized on May 25, 1807

by Pope Pius VII. One hundred and fifty years before his canonization Pope Benedict XIV had declared the Negro "Blessed."

APRIL 5, 1856 — Booker T. Washington born at Hales Ford, Virginia. He was founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and a graduate of Hampton Institute in Virginia in 1875. In 1896, Harvard University conferred on Washington an honorary degree, the first ever offered a Negro by an American University.

Film Treats Racial Bias

Providing athlete-turned actor Woody Strode with his biggest role in a 10-year movie career, Warner Brothers' Sergeant Rutledge is a tense, exciting post-Civil War film blending a murder trial with enough love interest to make a warm and inviting historical drama. Focus of the controversy, Strode, as Sgt. Rutledge, is accused of raping and murdering the teen-age daughter of his post commander, and fatally shooting the major. His defense is undertaken by Lt. Thomas Cantrell (E. Jeffrey Hunter), with the story moving toward climax on the testimony of witnesses, chiefly that of beautiful Constance Towers, who was saved by Rutledge after attacking Apaches murdered her father.

Though the factor of racial prejudice is not treated in depth, it is faced frankly through the problems of Negro soldiers, members of the famous U.S. 9th Cavalry Regiment, which, composed largely of ex-slaves and officered by white men, overcame official skepticism to carve a lasting record in the Indian campaigns following the Civil War.

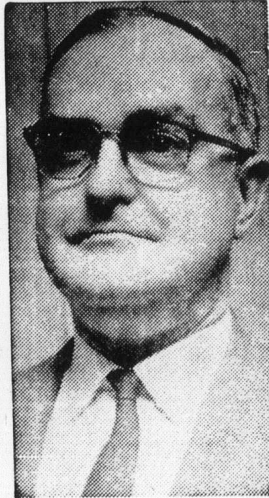
Reaching climax in case, Lt. Cantrell displays evidence which proves innocence of Sgt. Rutledge. Film is Woody Strode's biggest part since he began acting after being college, pro football star, and professional wrestler for some seven years.

Church Will Seek Doctors For Congo

TORONTO (CP) — A plan to recruit doctors for one year's service or more in The Congo to replace the 400 who left when the country gained independence was announced yesterday by the board of overseas missions of the United Church of Canada.

Before The Congo reached independence 700 doctors served a population of 14,000,000. There now are only 200 including all missionaries and those on international teams under the World Health Organization.

Rev. T. E. F. Honey, overseas missionary secretary, said travel expenses and a living allowance of \$1,500 per year will be paid each volunteer and doctors whose families would suffer economic hardship will be given a maintenance grant.



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