

Dawn of Tomorrow

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NOW A TICKLISH RACIAL PROBLEM IN BRITAIN

Britain, which outlawed slavery throughout the empire in 1833, has long been proud of its record in race relations. Isolated from its possessions and their dark-skinned inhabitants, the island homeland never had a color problem. Now Britons have suddenly awakened with alarm to the fact that a wave of Negro immigration is upon them. The Negroes are Jamaicans from the British West Indies—British subjects and therefore free to move to the mother country, just as Puerto Rican citizens of the U.S. have flocked to the mainland. The Jamaican influx, which began as a trickle of 3,000 or so a year at the end of the war, reached flood proportions in 1954. Robert Haeger, chief of Newsweek's London bureau, sends this report of Britain's color problem, and what the future holds:

Outwardly, the uniformly dull smog-stained rows of flats just off Coldharbour Lane are indistinguishable from the miles of South London house fronts surrounding them on every side. But these close-packed blocks in East Brixton constitute a little Harlem-by-the-Thames, a new home for hundreds of Negroes, many of them fresh off boats and planes from Jamaica. They have been moving into once white communities in the mother country at the rate of 1,000 a month.

The same Britons who once were free with criticism of the U.S. for its handling of the color problem now have reason to fret about their own performance. On the whole, the absorption of droves of colored immigrants has gone off smoothly. But in some ways the record is spotty. For example, although there is no segregation in British law, there is a color bar in practice. It shows up in many ways:

Some of the fashionable London hotels, once open to all, now refuse to accept Negro guests.

Pubkeepers decline to sell drinks to colored customers, in spite of the requirements of the licensing laws. Dance halls which have been sites of interracial fights now ban colored men who come stag.

In one Midlands city with a considerable Negro population, prostitutes draw the color line.

Rooming houses which have always taken coloured students refuse the laborers of the new immigration wave.

Vandalism against Negro-owned property, and small-scale race riots have broken out in the new "black belts" in London.

Conditions and incidents like these have generated an epidemic of soul-searching in print. The august London Times delved into the problem with a two-part survey. Tabloids and magazines have played up the sensational angles under such headlines as Would You Let Your Daughter Marry a Negro?

Intermarriage is probably one of the most trivial aspects. There has been little of it. But there are many informal inter-racial liaisons. The London County Council is now responsible for 300 unwanted children of such temporary arrangements. The collective uneasiness about the

new Negro population already has been voiced in the House of Commons. A group of Labor M.P.'s is seeking to "regulate" the flow from Jamaica. They represent working-class districts where the Negroes are getting a toe-hold.

The chief cause of alarm is housing, already in desperately short supply in Britain. The newcomers automatically flock to the industrial areas where job opportunities are best and housing tightest. Their coming aggravates the problem and sets property owners to grumbling about shrinkage of real-estate values. Many are forced into flop-houses, run by both Negroes and whites, where ten men may each pay 1 pound (\$2.80) a week to share one room.

Today's housing troubles are matched by fears of tomorrow's unemployment. At present there are 382,000 jobs unfilled in Britain and only 267,000 unemployed. So the Jamaicans have no trouble getting work—usually unpleasant tasks that most white workmen refuse. But Britons are concerned with what might happen if the scourge of joblessness ever descends again. Their fears are mirrored in the ranks and leadership of the trade unions.

In Nottingham and London bus garages, white crews have refused to work with colored conductors. By contrast, their fellow transport workers in the London Underground have accepted the Negroes without complaint.

In Birmingham, 250 Negroes work the buses but with the tacit understanding they never will be promoted.

A top union officeholder in the Midlands officially proposed for colored transport workers (1) a quota system limiting the number employed, (2) no appointment of Negroes to supervisors.

—Courtesy of Time Magazine

NEGRO CAGE STARS PICKED FOR LOOK MAGAZINE ALL AMERICA

NEW YORK, March 7 — Four Negro cage stars have been named to Look Magazine's ten man All America Basketball Squad, it was announced today.

The All America, selected from the ballots of 632 leading sports-writers and sportscasters, is led by San Francisco's defensive ace, Bill Russell. According to the new issue of Look Magazine, the rangy Russell "is one of the greatest defensive specialists in the history of the college game."

"Ricketts, even when hobbled with a bad ankle, still posed a scoring threat and directed offensive traffic," Look says, "while his Duquesne teammate, Sihugo Green, is a fine all-around operative, noted especially for his astonishing rebound spring and his fantastic guarding ability."

Maurice Stokes of St. Francis (Loretto, Pa.) totes 235 pounds, yet he moves swiftly, "passes off slickly and behaves under the boards like a bounding octopus."

This year's Look team constitutes an innovation. Instead of first, second and third teams as in years past, there are ten players, each enjoying equal first-string rank.

"With 163 college teams playing major schedules, the idea of naming a first five and categorically shunting all other candidates to an inferior rating has become less and less tenable," Look said.

The All America: Ed Conlin, Fordham; Frank Ehmann, Northwestern; Tom Gola, La Salle; Sihugo Green, Duquesne; Dick Garmaker, Minnesota; Dick Hemric, Wake Forest; Bob Patterson, Tulsa; Dick Ricketts, Duquesne; Bill Russell, San Francisco; Maurice Stokes, St. Francis, in Loretto, Pennsylvania.

ELECT FIRST NEGRO**INTO PRESS CLUB**

WASHINGTON — The 47-year-old National Press Club today elected by secret ballot, its first Negro member, Louis R. Lautier, by a vote of 377 to 281.

Lautier, 56, correspondent of The Atlanta Daily World and the Negro Press Association, has lived in the capital 33 years.

The 12-man board of governors had previously approved Lautier's application by controversy developed and a general membership meeting decided to hold the recent ballot.

PLACES IN SENATE**TO EX-PRESIDENTS?**

WASHINGTON, — Former presidents of the United States would become non-voting members of the Senate under a bill introduced today by Senator Harley Kilgore (Dem. W.Va.) Judiciary Committee chairman.

The bill would create the office of senator at large for ex-presidents. Except for voting they would have all senatorial rights and privileges, including salary and allowances.

Only two former presidents are living — Harry S. Truman and Herbert Hoover.

NEW ANTI-NEGRO GROUP**THREATENS SOUTH WITH KKK TYPE TERROR, EDITOR SAYS**

NEW YORK, March 7 — A secret vigilante group, dedicated to the prevention of desegregation at all costs, has risen in the deep South and now threatens to become a modern day — u Klux Klan, it was revealed today.

This white supremacy group, called the Citizens Councils, was founded in July 1954 to combat last year's Supreme Court decision against segregation in the public schools. It is currently under investigation by the F.B.I. for possible violations of civil liberties.

These disclosures of the power and activities of the Citizens' Councils were made today by Pulitzer Prize-winning editor Hodding Carter in an article in the new issue of Look Magazine entitled, "A Wave of Terror Threatens the South."

Mr. Carter, who is the editor of the Greenville, Mississippi, Delta Democrat-Times, revealed that the Councils Movement has spread unchecked through the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina and northern Florida. It has met no organized opposition, Mr. Carter said, and claims 25,000 members in Mississippi alone.

In addition to its anti-Negro bias, the Councils are spreading anti-semitic and anti-Catholic propaganda as well, Mr. Carter charged in his Look article.

The group was founded in Mississippi in July and has its permanent headquarters in Winona in that state, Mr. Carter revealed.

While no direct physical violence has resulted from the Councils' activities to date, the group has won each fight it has entered in the last six months, Mr. Carter said. It operates by exerting economic and social pressures on recalcitrant Negroes and whites.

The greatest danger posed by the Councils, Mr. Carter found, was the possibility that "the extremist fringe, the 'viciously uncontrollable,' and the 'hoodlum element' would take control of the organization and lead it to 'widespread, organized and racially motivated terrorism.'"

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