The Book The South Is Talking About

"An Epitaph For Dixie"

CHAPTER 4

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In THAT GRIM time when the great depression underscored the habitual poverty of the South, I carried a newapaer route that passed through a size-able Negro neighborhood in Greenville, South Carolina. One boundary of my daily round was the embankment of the South-Limited thundered by in remote grandeur and the long freights crawled past with a burden of the dispossessed covering the cars like roosting birds. The other was a festering creek that in occasional flood carried away that considerable portion of swage the primitive outdoor plumbing could not, or did not, accommodate. There was no pavement here, and in truth no streets; the still-legged shot-gun houses were set along muddy Track that began, and ended without perceptible pattern. My youth, and the satched of papers.

curvec, and ended without perceptible pat-lern.

My youth, and the satchel of papers that slapped my thigh in the early morn-ings, or the route list in my hand on collection days, gave me innoent passage in this alien community. I came to be are the puting life went on around me with-out the sudden dead pause that usually greeted the appearance of a pale face. I was, as I came to understand many years later, thus afforded a view denied to most whites; since it was understood that I could do its residents neither harm nor good, my presence did not disturb the community's natural rhythm.

A Song Always Sounding

one race is morally superior to another, but whether privation produces aubstrantially different centils when back rien are subjected to it. The statistics of comparison are not much help; among Americans only the Negro has been held back by the restraints of alsavery and segregation and there is no way to tell what he might have done witout his special handledges. This robs the standard arguments for white supermancy of logical validity; the racists have to reach the subject of the superman of the subject of t

Like Southern Speech

Linguists still journey to the isolated Atlantic sea islands to look for traces of Guilah in the speech patterns there, but their finds are no more than museum pieces. For generations the talk of Southern speech are generations the late of Southern speech and the speech pattern to the property of standard Southern speech. A case of sorts can be made for Africain fillence on spirituals, lowland Southern speech. A case of sorts can be made for Africain fillence on spirituals, lowland Southern folk music, and jazz; but I am not certain how much of this basic rhythm was transmitted from the steep's whiging of the white man's axe, pick, and how. In any event, in those temples where the jazz cult gathers these days I have noticed that the side man on the drums is likely to be white, with the darker brethren getting in their best licks on the reeds and the brass.

I am not dismissing the importance of I am not dismissing the importance of I am not dismissing the importance of they are urgent, since, as I have noted, they loom large in the white Southern mystique— and have produced its counterpart among the new Negro leadership. But it is important to understand that the separate society in which the Negro has lived took little, if anything, from the exotic to live up to them, the standards that were set for him were nevertheless those of the whites. He is Christian, not pagan. His language is American English, and given a chance to learn, it properly he handles it as well as anyone else. He carns his living in a free enterprise economy. His dress, his fiel, and his tentertainment had no communication with the black god of Africa for a hundred years and more. Periodically the dream of repartiation has bemused Americans, white and black. White neighbors. He has contributed something to the American Colonization Society which founded the Republic of Liberia in 1220 as a respectory for freedmen who myeth disturb the slave system. The Society had no more lasting success than did the megalomaniae project of Marcus Garvey, w

The men who really disturbed me were the so-called "moderates", the new weeping Willes of the South. who seemed willing to contribute so little to progress and so much to the stagnation of the ideals of the nation. Sure it is unpopular nowadays to attack "moderation". The cliche peddiers have put it who are these "moderates"? For what are they "moderates" Are they moderates the progress of the stagnation of the stagnation

and it is noteworthy that the young Negro journalist does not limit his condemnation to the South. He is equally stern in his indictment of the Elsenhower adminished to the South. He is equally stern in his indictment of the Elsenhower adminished the South. He is equally stern in his indictment of the Elsenhower adminished the South of the South of the Converties of the South of the Converties of the South of the Converties and Republicans.

This is the traditional view of the crustader, who sees the hosts of righteousness buddled, rumps together, horas out, in a hostle world. The new Negro leadership, indeed, has progressed in a few short basel with the South of the South of the South we figure a man who's not for us must be against us, This reaction by the Negro leadership is as understandable as it is inevitable; in the nature of human conflict excesses on one side beget excesses on the other, I do not, however, share the dim view of those — and so dispassionate and professional a pains-feeler as South we figure that the second control of the Negro leadership countered against the surface adamance of the white South has produced an impasse that will not be resolved this side of widespread violence. The issue will turn finally, I think, upon the question of how many. Southern Negroes presently

Heart Of The Negro

he late Charles Johnson of FISK Univertify, who came as close to serving his
ecople as an elder statesman as anyone
have known, turned the coin over when
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most river and the service of the

This inertia is the great frustration of the new leadership. The statesmen of the Uran League and Ralph Bunche of the League and Ralph Bunche of the League and Ralph Bunche of the League and League and Ralph Bunche of the League and Le

Political Lethargy

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Political lethargy is only one manifestation of this unpleasant truth. The Urban League, which is primarily concerned with the economic advancement of the city-dwelling Negro, has found that in the nation at large there are more skilled jobs available to Negroes than there are Network of the new properties of

- - The Other Side Of The Coin

facilities which compound the ignorance which created the environment in the first place, which created the environment in the first place, and the comparatively small infusion of Puerto Ricans who have come lately to the Eastern clites. But it was not always peculiar to the colored races. The Negroes who have journeyed forth from the South in the last two generations have come by a different route to the point reached before them by earlier immigrants from the old countries of Europe. Indicates from the old countries of Europe. Indicates as they were vacated by Poles, Italians, Jews, Germans, and Irishmen moving outward into the clitics and upward in the social structure. The Negro's status as a member of America's "visible minority" may make his further Journey more difficult than it was for those who were set apart only by language, custom, and religion; it impossible.

responsibilities to match. And in the difficult adjustments that lie ahead the Negro leadership can no more afford to flee from reality than can the white.

For the white leaders the reality is that the South cannot expect to stand long against the tide. Their practical problem 14 to bring the peculiar institutions up to 16 to bring that the surbitrary limits of segments of the surbitrary limits of the surbitrary limits of segments of the surbitrary limits of the surbitra

A Peace Conference

A Peace Conference

Samuel Lubell has suggested that race relations in the South have deteriorated to a point where there should be a great gathering of withe and Negro leaders, perhaps under presidential auspices, not for peace conference. He may be right, but I have an idea the practical result would only be to provide another forum for grandiese proclamations by both sides, But certainly there are going to have to be many bargaining sessions on the local better than the session of the session

Next Sunday - To the manner born

OPPONENTS WARN AGAINST DROPPING GUARD

Natural Gas Bill Down But Not Out

with natural gas coming to the St. Petersburg area in the sear future. Times readers will' want to read this article on the natural gas bill which promises to affect prices of gas throughout the nation.

By Congressional Quarterly
WASHINGTON — The natural gas bill which not ut in the eyes of lobbyists on both sides of it.

Mayor Richardson Dilworth of Philadelphia says as much emphatically in a letter to the romanyors who banded together to flight the bill. "We must not let down our guard." he warms them about energh and the sever to get the bill through in sever." to get the bill through in sever. We get the bill through in sever. We get the bill through in sever to get the bill through in sever. We will the propose of this bill are amazing." Gonther says.

No GUNDU Person, Suppose the propose of the bill of the sever to groups wroking for interest to no any these president in the public amount. The recuperative powers of this bill are amazing." Gonther says.

No GUNDU Person, groups wroking for interest to the sound and then sell it to conscious the public in the sex of the search will are amazing." Gonther says.

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ner left in the public's mouth.

NO GIVING UP

Even so, groups wroking for its the natural gas bill in Washing for the natural gas bill in Washing rote na say they will not give up.

Russell B, Brown, general county of the ones who take the gas out dimer.