

"UNCLE TOM STILL TALKS"

by

Frank R. Crosswaith.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AVERSE to becoming involved in controversy with any grown up Negro who possesses the mind of a moron. In the first place no good and useful end could possibly be served by so doing, since, as is generally known a moron is tragically unable to follow the logical course of argumentation, his undeveloped mentality prevents him from so doing. And in the second place no intelligent Negro takes seriously the weekly dribble that this particular moron imposes upon the good natured readers of an important and increasingly influential Negro newspaper.

AT TIMES I HAVE BEEN IMPELLED to criticize the opinion of Negro leaders and others, when in my judgment such opinions merit criticism. In this I have not stood alone. With increasing frequency and ferocity those who dare to "think out loud" on problems with which we are all vitally concerned, have been subjected to criticism. However, it should be noted that most of the criticisms have been on a plane, high, courteous and in the main constructive; while the critics have generally disclosed a reasonable degree of familiarity with the subject they dared to criticize. This is especially true of such renowned critics as Professors, Kelly Miller and Gordon B. Hancock, of George S. Schuyler, Eugene Gordon, Lewis, Jones, Calvin, Bryant, et al.

I AM OF THE OPINION THAT CRITICISM, whether constructive or destructive, is a useful implement in the search for truth and toward perfection, and therefore should be encouraged. Until recently Negro leaders considered themselves beyond the reach of criticism; especially were they inclined to treat with contumely those critics who were younger men. Happily for all concerned a more tolerant attitude prevails. The young Negro who today ventures a criticism of a leader is less likely than heretofore to be considered as an interloper. This I repeat is a healthy sign.

NEVERTHELESS, CRITICISM when it becomes the self-appointed role of a low grade moron, loses much that is good and valuable in the art. Because a man has developed the peculiar habit of opposing every new idea which his limited mentality is unable to comprehend is no excuse for verbosity; because a group of intelligent Negroes recognize the importance of economic power thru unity and seek to organize their fellows in a modern trade union as against a company union which receives the benediction of the bosses, is no reason why an irresponsible half-wit should be permitted to become loquacious and hurl torrents of abuse at everybody; because a Negro possesses enough courage, information and self-respect to leave the old, barren, political pastures of his ancestors, is no reason why such a Negro should be constantly attacked by an insignificant, intellectual worm; because a Negro places group-interest before self-interest is no reason why he should win the opposition of an illiterate scheming Negro politician and alleged labor leader. And lastly, because a kindly editor permits all shades of opinions to be expressed in his paper is no reason why that privilege should be so regularly abused.

AS AN INDEX TO THE MIND (or absence of one) of the brother being dissected we quote the following from his latest copia verborum: "The Negro is the least affected by what's now going on, if for no other reason than he had in the mass least distance to fall. The greatest group suffering presently is among the upper middle-classes". To dignify this sort of dribble by scooping it out of the low swamps of moronia and enthroning it upon the heights of serious consideration would be to lose one's sense of humor, as well as to grossly offend the thinking men and women who read Negro newspapers. I call attention to it only because in my opinion it should serve as a sort of negative index to the thought stream of the emancipated and intelligent section of the race. Otherwise, some people always ready to measure the entire race by the antics of such as this brother might be induced to the notion that he reflects the intelligence of his race.

IN THE FACE of the exhaustive and impressive report which the Urban League has recently issued, dealing with the problem of unemployment as it affects the Negro, the purile prattle of this mentally bankrupt parrot becomes ludicrous. For the good of himself, and for our racial self respect some one ought to introduce this man to the luxury of thinking, take him by the hand in a fatherly way and lead him onto the uplands of knowledge and thought and not permit him weekly to be buried in the quicksands of ignorance. For the sake of its own growing reputation Negro Journalism ought to silence this heir apparent to the tattered toga of Uncle Tom.

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#### GAS MASKS WORTHLESS

Every cent spent on protection against poison gas is thrown away, according to expert opinion expressed during debates on the German nationalists proposals to raise a huge sum for this purpose.

General von Deimling asserted that there are gases which creep thru the pores of the skin, gases which sink into cellars and remain for days, and others that are so fine a vapor that no mask can stop them. There are others, irritating gases that make one tear off the mask and then get a whiff of the deadly gas that has been laid near the ground previously.

"Science can invent a new gas almost every day, which will always be one step ahead of the best protective devices," warned the General, who is quoted in the New York TIMES.

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Frank Crosswaith, editor of this service, is going to make a nation-wide tour, speaking for trade unions, churches, forums, etc. Those desiring to arrange meetings are asked to write to the -

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