

ON THE ALERT

Todd George Essay

(Transcribed by Trisha Fowler Arcuri)

There was no comedy to enter the picture that confronted our nation at the close of the Civil War. Having been Commander-in-Chief of the John B. Gordon Camp Sons-of-Confederate Veterans here in Eastern portion of Jackson County, Missouri since the year 1910, I am now often referred to as the "Old Kentucky born Rebel". Sometimes I find in my mail suggestion that I hold on to all of my old Confederate money and my gray uniform that since some of high up officials have so encouraged the negro freedom riders, including some radical white associates go into the extreme southern states and demand integration and social equality with the negro race—all of which has erupted into an increased social problem and more intensely bitter among authorities in various locations while all comedy in this little quip fades into an increasing problem far from being settled.

The difficulties arising in the state of Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, and now in the state of Mississippi over school and social integration has in no way met the demands of the negro leaders and their present organizations to force the issue on the white citizens in these states and in other locations throughout the U.S.S. Not only schools, restaurants, hotels, recreation centers, residence subdivisions and neighborhoods, in fact our present negro population is demanding social equality in every private or public operation whether his presence is desired or not. My father and some of his brothers, having served three years as officers in the Confederate armies, and from my very youth lived for more than four generations in that atmosphere of southern sympathies and proud ancestry, can ever accept them as our social equal. To compare any member of the negro race that can only date his ancestry back to that date when his ancestors, a naked, uncivilized or trained creature, was captured in the jungles of uncivilized Africa and brought to our shores by dutch traders and sold as animals to the white population of this nation to be used as slaves when the real first sin can only be charged to our Federal government for having ever permitted slave trade on our precious soil. Other than slave ancestry on what page of history can we trace one reference to any African negro ever mentioned as having been among the brave and cultured soldiers on the three sailing ships that brought gracious Christopher Columbus to kneel in prayer having discovered a shore line of our continent and just how many from the black African that made history for his race that appeared with that all white religious group with their grace and culture that came by way of the Mayflower to adorn our east shore line to establish our first colonies; just home many of his race, no demanding social equality ever made history for his race, that bore arms in the Revolutionary War, or hung any lanterns in the belfry while assisting Paul Revier? Just how many African negro patriots subscribed his nationally known name to the

Declaration of Independence, and how many African pictures or Bible scriptures appear in our early religious fields beginning with centuries before the birth of Christ and how many African negroes took part in any historical event to our present date? Booker T. Washington and Dr. Carver, from humble back, but possessed with ambition and energy made for themselves only true history that brought respect and due credit for their accomplishments that is no way made their success by force. Not all was well as between the days of slavery and their having been released due to events and conduct on the part of slave owner-and the human side of the situation. Many slave owners were cruel, while slave traders broke up many negro families much to their distress and the disapproval of many white families and one of the most objectionable and embarrassing facts that very much disturbed some white families was the mixing of white youth and negro slave girls that always produced a mulatto child that the mothers in every case gave the family name of its sires. On one occasion I was told by a descendant of a once slave owner that his father had related to him that he on one occasion had heard a slave owner try and induce this slave driver to mix with the slave women that a mulatto made a more intelligent slave. Such as those true horrors, no doubt did begin to cause a divided feeling among the respectable white families with all of the horrors, heartbreaks, bloodshed, property and financial loss with broken family ties; in rare cases a father against son, brothers against brothers, cousins against cousins, with mothers and sisters to battle with the results.

When some quotations are referred to as mentioned in the constitution "That all men were created equal" it surely could never be accepted other than his right from birth to grow up with an equal choice and that also should include his race surrounding and location. At this point we enter into problems and various versions almost too deep for human conception and the very best of authorities could only relate their personal views. Following all of the true history of that useless and avoidable terrors of the Civil War Abraham Lincoln then holding the office as President of the U.S.A. did make a declaration that all negro slaves be free-with no other demand that he immediately be placed in white society on social nor interracial equality and some years later our then Supreme Court so ruled and later years as the biggest political leaders begun to use their influenced, thereby inducing our same Federal Supreme Courts to over rule and destroy many of the former decisions and much reducing their standards of universal confidence and respect by a large majority of our citizens. For many years the negro citizens in this country and without force had made much progress in the way of most every advantage of education and much human assistance in our various states. In our most recent years our population has resolved themselves into two only political factions to serve our nation and battle for political dictation and power. With most of that heartfelt sympathy for the negro situation leaning most heavily for that opportunity to obtain the negro vote. Otherwise, the present effort by force would not be so very interesting to either faction. With

this effort to force social and racial equality I am going to insist that just an average of a true American white father and his gracious wife accept my invitation to attend any one of the social events where food, music and dancing are the main features and sit on the sidelines and watch their beautiful, golden-haired, blond daughter appear on the floor and dance with a coal black, thick lipped, flat nose, moppy hair, blue gum, sluefoot negro and accept this as social equality and fully qualified integration. To all of us having lived in southern states through the past four or five generations, having grown up in communities where the population included a large number of negroes and with our full knowledge of the typical African negro with all of his features, characteristics that all history would hold him in his own inherent class. To all of us that know the typical real negro always carried a very distinct bodily odor not common in any other race. This odor to such a degree that a home once occupied by negro families for any length of time became so impregnated with that odor on the very walls, ceilings and floors, that when vacated it took some length of time with deodorant and fresh air to ever eliminate it.

At this date with our nation much distressed by disputed problems as dividing us with other nations and further being disturbed by would-be big negro political leaders hoping for big publicity with all attempts to force themselves into a white society that they are in no way acceptable to a mass majority of the average thinking American white families and with all of the big political leaders Federal supreme or local courts including Kangaroo Courts will ever be able to force our big American white majorities to accept the typical African race in this or any other country as our social and interracial equality.

While the title of this little story was first obtained as amusing it can also be just as useful in dealing with all of the problems by which our nation is now confronted. So, I ask you, dear friends, to accept my suggestion, may we always remain On The Alert?

Had our Federal Administrations including our Supreme Courts with all of the their unlimited power had been as much on the alert while numerous atomic missile bases were being constructed all over the face of the Cuban Island as they were at the time of wasting more than a million dollars of our tax money to disturb the traditions of our southern states in the attempt to force social and racial equality by the example of one negro student force until military guard with the University at Oxford, Mississippi. Not only would it have been much safe for our lives and the saving of multi millions of dollars of our tax money. Unfortunately both of these issues are far from being settled at this date.