

America His Home

Editor of the Daily News:

In regard to the letter on April 28, entitled "Back to Africa," I would like to clear up a few points which are pertinent to the present-day situation. Let me first point out this factor: The Negroes of America were born in the United States; therefore they are citizens of the United States. The Negro of the United States belongs right here in America and nowhere else.

It is true that the Constitution is the law of the land and that the Supreme Court is not a law-making body but an interpreter of the laws and applies it to the given situation. The legislative branch is the law-making body.

In Article XIV, Section 1, of the Constitution of the United States it states that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the states wherein they reside. No state shall abridge the privileges or immunities of any person of life, liberty . . . nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

When it states, "all persons," it means just that—all persons born here; not one or the other, Negro or white, but both races or anyone born or naturalized here are citizens of the United States and the states wherein they reside. "A state shall not deprive the citizen of life or liberty," means that he shall not be deprived of freedom because of his race, color or creed.

A Negro has as much right to be a part of the public as the white man. Being a part of the public means being treated as the public—everyone is treated equally, whether it be at the polls to vote, on the bus, or at a restaurant to have a snack with friends. He is a member of the general public, therefore, is entitled to equality.

The state is not to deprive any person the equal protection of law. In some states such as Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee and even in South Carolina, the Negro has had the unequal protection of law. He has been beaten by mobs of police. The states are to have "police powers" which are to protect all people and not just a few. The police are for the protection and not for the provocation or the propagation of brutality which is unlawful under the Constitution

of the United States and the State Constitution.

In Article XV, Section 1, it states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of race, color, or previous servitude." There are still some states that do not permit the Negro to register, let alone voice his opinion by casting his vote.

The Supreme Court was within its right to declare that segregation in the public schools was unconstitutional and unlawful, and it is up to the states to abide by that law.

Negro students are within their rights to ask for equality. They are entitled to it by the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. The Negroes are not merely asking for a 10-cent cup of coffee. It is the principle which is undergirded in the idea of segregation which they are seeking to abolish. The idea of segregation is the root of all the inequality that exists today in the South. Negroes are seeking equality, and they intend to get it—soon. They are tired of being shoved under the seat of segregation.

The Negro, being a citizen of the United States, wants to be treated as a citizen of the United States. How can one own a store, open it to the public, and then out of the "clear blue sky" say that the lunch counters are private? It does not even make sense. The businessman is not using good intelligence or intelligence at all. Therefore, it is unlawful to rule that the Negro is trespassing if he enters the lunch counter. If this be so he is trespassing in the entire store.

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