

11/18/65

LIFE WITH LYNDON IN THE GREAT SOCIETY, Vol. 1, No. 42

Copyright by Jack Minnis,
1965.

The real depth of Lyndon's dishonesty with the people of the United States is beginning to come out. The New York Times reports what Lyndon and his gang were really doing back a few months ago when they said they were sending troops into Santo Domingo because they wanted to protect Americans there. In the first place, Lyndon asked the military dictators of the Dominican Republic to request U.S. troops. Naturally, the dictators, being completely the creatures of Lyndon, complied. So, in effect, the U.S. troops went into Santo Domingo because Lyndon wanted them there; not because any kind of representative of the Dominican people wanted them. It also comes out that Lyndon had no intention of permitting Juan Bosch, the legally elected president of the Dominican Republic to return. Bosch had been overthrown by the Dominican military with the help of the U.S. military. Lyndon approved of that fascist takeover and wanted to be sure that the fascists remained in power. He is now spending about \$5 million per week of your money and mine to keep the U.S. troops in the Dominican Republic to ensure that the Dominican people will not have a chance to elect their own government. He calls this the "extension of freedom."

It also comes out now that back in 1964 the North Vietnamese government offered, through U.N. Secretary General U Thant, to negotiate an armistice in Vietnam. Lyndon, and his pack of liars led by Rusk and McNamara, have been saying all along that the North Vietnamese have never indicated an interest in negotiating an end to the fighting there. This has been an out and out lie every time it's been said, and the highest and most respectable (supposedly) officials of the U.S. know it. And remember, it was months after the North Vietnamese government offered to negotiate that Lyndon said he was going to start bombing North Vietnam in order to force them to negotiate. This means, of course, that he had some other reason for bombing North Vietnam--it couldn't have been force them to negotiate, because they had already offered to do just that. So he's been bombing and killing and destroying the people of North Vietnam all these months and justifying the carnage to the people of the U.S. with a flagrant pack of lies. His purpose? One can only suppose; but it seems likely that what he wants to do is entice the Chinese into some kind of reaction, so he can destroy their nuclear capability. Certainly, he and his military wanted to test out all their pretty new equipment and their new technique for mass slaughter. Too, things were beginning to look not so rosy in the economy before Lyndon

page two

"escalated" the war. Now, things are really booming with the \$2 billion or so that's already appropriated for spending on the war, and the \$10 to \$15 billion that can be expected for next year.

*

*

*

We wanted to review briefly Lyndon's record of dishonesty and fraud, because he's now making some promises to the civil rights movement which need to be considered in the light of that record. When he spoke Tuesday night about the opening of the Great planning session for the White House conference on civil rights, Lyndon said he was going to ask Congress next year to pass legislation ensuring that Negroes will be able to serve on Southern juries. He said he had asked Katzenbach to "prepare jury legislation that is clear in its purpose and specific in its aim." He didn't say why Katzenbach is not using the legislation that's already on the books, which is just about as "clear in its purpose and specific in its aim" as anything imaginable. Title 18, Section 243 of the U.S. code makes it a federal crime for any official to participate in the selection of a jury by discriminatory means. The U.S. Commission on civil rights has just issued a report severely criticizing the Justice Department for not enforcing laws like this. So what does Lyndon do? He ignores this criticism, and says he's going to pass more laws.

Now we can expect that all the influence of the White House will be directed toward getting civil rights groups to lobby for such new laws, and the energy that might have been spent in making Lyndon enforce the existing laws will just be thrown away on getting more laws passed that will never be enforced.

You might call this the great game of civil rights. Except that, ordinarily, a game involves a chance for each of the participants to win now and then. In the civil rights game, the winner is always the same. And, of course, so is the loser. We think the reason for this is that Lyndon plays the game according to one set of rules-- he lies, he cheats, he distorts, he misrepresents--and he requires that Negroes play according to another set of rules according to which everything is supposed to be honest and open and above board.

When Negroes wise up, the game may turn out differently. It certainly won't until they do.

*

*

*

And what about Rhodesia? Lyndon had his man Goldberg make a big, fine--sounding statement in the U.N. about how the U.S. is going to back up Britain in imposing sanctions against Rhodesia because that country declared

page three

its independence from Britain. We think it's just a little bit late for this kind of concern to be very convincing, from Lyndon, from Prime Minister Wilson, or from anything else.

Let's take a look at the conditions in Rhodesia, and remember that these conditions certainly can't be blamed on the racism of Ian Smith, or any of the present politicians of Rhodesia. The conditions developed under British and American rule during the many years when Smith and his racists were just a gloomy cloud on the horizon.

According to the latest figures at our disposal (1959) there were 2,670,000 Africans and 218,000 whites in Rhodesia. There were 609,953 black workers. Of these, 71,578 were employed as domestic servants. Thus, there was one black domestic servant for every three white people in the country. Certainly, then, the whites were well supplied with servants.

Agriculture is the principal industry of the country. In 1960 there were 3,103,547 acres of land under cultivation. Whites owned 853,400 acres. Thus 28% of the cultivable land was owned by the 7% of the people who were whites. But this does not begin to tell the story. The best and most productive land is included in the white-owned portion. For example, in 1960, the whites produced 179,821,000 pounds of tobacco on their land. Africans were able to produce only 48,000 pounds. Whites produced 3,589,600 200-pound bags of corn. Africans produced only 2,847,000 200-pound bags on theirs. And it should go without saying that the Africans do the work on the white-owned land. All the whites do is just own it. There were 248,346 Africans employed in agriculture in 1960. Fewer than 3,000 whites worked in agriculture.

The next biggest industry in Rhodesia is mining. Asbestos and chromium and gold are the principal minerals mined. The asbestos is controlled by the Johns-Manville Corporation. Much of the raw material that is used in Johns-Manville plants in this country, such as the one in Natchez, Mississippi, is mined by Africans in Southern Rhodesia who work for about \$9 per month. The chromium in Rhodesia is partially owned by the Vanadium Corporation of America. This is one of the industrial companies in the empire created by old J. P. Morgan. One of the directors of Vanadium is presently the director of the Pierpont Morgan library in New York City. Another of the directors is Lewis B. Harder, who is also Chairman of the International Mining Corporation which owns the gold and platinum deposits in Columbia and Bolivia. Still another is Samuel F. Pryor, Jr., vice-president and director of Pan-American Airways. W.S. Renchard, of the Vanadium board is president of Chemical Bank New York Trust Co. and a director of the Borden Co.

These chromium deposits in Rhodesia are among the richest in the world, and more than 20% of the total world supply of chrome comes from Rhodesia. Chrome is a very strategic metal, one of the necessary ingredients in the manufacture of stainless steel.

While Africans in Rhodesia are being worked at slave wages to grow crops for the whites and to mine the asbestos and chrome for them, they are being taxed unmercifully. The "native tax" which the Africans must pay is the third largest revenue produced in Rhodesia. The largest expenditures of the government of Rhodesia are instructive too. The second largest expenditure is for maintaining the police force, which, of course, is needed for keeping the Africans workers in line. The largest expenditure is for paying interest on money the government has borrowed to build railroads, electric power facilities and roads, so that the white-owned farms and mines can be exploited more profitably.

Another firm prominent in the mining of Chromium and other minerals in Rhodesia is Union Carbide and Carbon Corp. Union Carbide is the largest operator, in the U.S. of the plants and facilities owned by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. It is deep in the extraction of profits from the nuclear arms race. It's board of directors reads like a who's who in American industry, finance and politics. Union Carbide directors include:

Morse G. Dial

Continental Ins. Co., Prerdential Ins. Co., of America, Putnam Trust Co. (Greenwich, Conn.) trustee, Mfg. Hanover Trust; N.Y. C

John W. Drye, Jr.

partner, Kelley, Drye, Newhall, Maginnes & Warren; dir., Brooklyn Union Gas Co., Continental Ins. Co., Grocery Store Products Co., Niagara Ins. Co.,; Pres., Julliard Mus. Found.

William M. Haile

born 1903, dir., of general industrial equipment div., War Production Board, 1942-1945 (at the same time, he was sales manager of the Linde Co., div. of UC, in Chicago and N.Y. between 1935 and 1955. Thus, he was an employee of UC while he held the above position in the WPB. He was 39 years old at the beginning of this service.

Zenneth H. Hannan

American Brake Shoe Co., (dir.) N.Y. Life Ins. Co., Fed. Res.

Bank of N.Y. Eurofund, Inc .

J. Victor Herd

Chmn. boards and chief executive officer of the companies comprising the America Fore Insurance Group which include Continental Ins. Co. and Niagara Fire Ins. Co.; dir., mem. ex. com. AT&T; trustee The Bank for Savings; dir., mem. of trust com., Mfg. Hanover Trust Co.; dir., IBM world Trade Corp. Mutual Benefit Life Ins. Co., Dominick Fund, Inc.; dir. Brooklyn C of C; mem., National Industrial Conference Board.

James M. Hester

dir. (Moody's); President New York University; dir., Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc.;; dir of various educational (official and quasi-officials) associations and of the council on foreign relations.

George H. Love

Chmn. Consolidation Coal Co., dir., M.A. Hanna Co., Mellon National Bank & Tr. Co., The Pullman Co., general electric Co., national steel Co., Chmn. ex. com. Chrysler Corp.; tr . princeton Univ.

Birny Mason, Jr.

dir., Consolidation Coal Co., Fidelity and Casualty Co., of N.Y. (part of America Fore Group), dir. of Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.

Robert E. McNeill, Jr.

Chmn. Chf. ex. off., Mfg. Haover Trust Co., dir., Fidelity and Casualty Co., American Smelting and Refining Co., Northern INS. Co., Assurance Co. Ame., Auto-Plan Ins. Co.; Chmn. finance com. dir., Chrysler Corp.; dir. Continental Ins. Co.

John Harris Ward

Chmn. Commonwealth Edison Co.; dir. No. Trust Co., International Harvester Co.; New York Life Ins. Co., Edison Electric Inst., Tr. Univ. of Chicago; Director of compliance div., War Production Board, 1940-42

The Standard Oil Company and Texaco are the principal supplies of petroleum products in Rhodesia. They have built a large refinery in the country in which the petroleum products are made. These companies, too, are the major suppliers of oil to the racist Republic of South Africa. They have ignored the pleas of the African nations in the U.N. to curtail their supplies to South Africa in order to try to pressure that regime to relax its oppression of Negroes.

Are we to suppose that, after having carefully built up the structure of laws in Rhodesia which permit the cruel exploitation of Negroes, these companies are going to turn right around and tear down what they've built up, just because the racism is coming out into the open? Their records indicate just how foolish it would be to have any such hope.

And are we to suppose that Lyndon is going to force them into boycotting Rhodesia because of the racist regime there? Hah.

*

*

*

The Gallup poll has come up with some figures that really lay it on the line about the Great Society. You see, we've got this congress in Washington, and it passes laws for the people to live by. Now, it wouldn't dare pass any laws that the people didn't want passed, because, if it did, then the people would get angry, and they'd refuse to re-elect the members. The Gallup poll decided to find out just how much connection there was between the people who elect the congressmen and the congressmen who get elected. So they went around the country asking people if they knew the name of their congressman, and if they knew when his term of office expired.

They found out that less than half of the people even know the name of their congressman. Now, if they don't know the name of the man who represents them, they could hardly check on whether he votes right or wrong on a given issue could they? The poll found that only 19% of the people knew how their congressman had voted on any of the major issues that were before the congress this year. Less than 30 percent of the people could even tell the interviewer when the next congressional elections are to be held.

So the next time Lyndon or some other flannel-mouthed politician gets up before an audience and begins talking about how he's the great representative of the people, you'll know that he's representing some people all right, but that the ones he's representing are not the ones he's claiming to. The ones he's representing are the ones who pay to get him elected, not the ones who vote for him without ever bothering to find out what his name is.

And those who pay the piper, call the tune.

Or so we've been told.

Jack Minnis
November 18, 1965