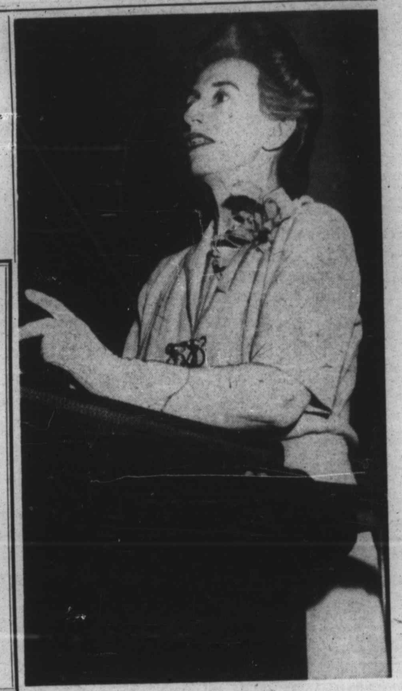
Brainwashed Americans

By Lillian Smith

Author of "Strange Fruit" and many other books and articles. This is an excerpt from an address delivered before the Arkansas Council on Human Relations.



You don't have to live in a Communist country to be **brainwashed.**

It can happen here at home; and has been happening to Southerners for nearly 80 years.

We have heard on this subject of race—at least at home—only what the White Supremacists have told us.

And there are too many people in other parts of our country who are **brainwashed,** also. They use the same old defenses, ask the same irrelevant questions, give the same answers.

Even the President of the United States said in a recent speech on the Little Rock question that you can't **"legislate morals."**

His variation was, I think, that **"laws won't change men's minds."**

Now: who ever thought they would?

* * *

LAWS ARE to protect the rights of people—from those whose minds can't change; they are to protect the security of people from the criminals, who have no morals.

But the implication of this statement (most popular among highly educated) is: laws are ineffectual, because they do not convert men.

Yet what alternative is there to the rule of law, save the rule of dictators? Unless we are willing to sink into anarchy and chaos.

And which of these speakers who talk about the futility of "legislating morals" would be willing to do away with traffic laws, etc., etc.

(We might say, just here, that while laws cannot change minds and have no such purpose, they do condition men to behave in a certain, semi-automatic way, sometimes good, sometimes bad).

Of course: When people speak like this, their reason is sound asleep.

Yet, these same men, on other subjects, often speak with good sense and, sometimes, with extraordinary intelligence and wisdom.

This is what brainwashing does to a people.

We talk like fools in Dixie — and north of Dixie, too — about race and segregation.

The Russians talk like fools about capitalistic imperialists, etc.

Look What The Army Did To Him!

Major Douglass Hall, Army chaplain recently assigned to Fort Sheridan, Ill., has been given overseas duty in Paris. A former AFRO reporter, he has been decorated for service in Italy, Berlin, Paris, Okinawa and Korea. Wife Evelyn; Harriet, 6; Douglass, 10; Adrien, 3, and Karen, 10 months, have been accumulated since he worked for the AFRO before joining the army during World War II. The family, now living in Brooklyn, will join him in Paris next June.

The Case For Dry Cleaning

In the January 21 edition of your AFRO Magazine Section, we printed an article on "How To Buy A Suit." The article contained a statement: "The less you have a suit dry cleaned the longer it will last." The National Institute of Dry Cleaning disputes this statement.

By John Jay Daly

If a suit has been worn enough to require pressing, it undoubtedly contains soil that should be removed and not pressed into the fabric.

Pressing an unclean garment can set stains and make them difficult, if not impossible, to remove.

In our analysis laboratory, we receive scores of garments every month in which stains have become set because they have been pressed while soiled.

* * *

AS FOR the contention that cleaning wears the clothing out, the Institute has just completed 35 successive cleanings and pressing of two men's suits and two women's suits.

A report on this test will be made when it is completed.

So far, no apparent deterioration of the garments has taken place. We intend to clean them 50 times before making a final report.

We feel that this is surely more than the normal number of cleanings the average suit receives in its lifetime.

It wears out — not from cleaning or pressing — but from the hard use it receives between dry cleaning. At least this conclusion would seem logical at this stage in the tests.

* * *

THE FLEXING clothing gets in wear is far more violent than any it receives in dry-cleaning where it is gently tumbled while immersed in solvents.

In cleaning, it does not receive the stretching and rubbing and creasing it gets while being worn. It is this violent action plus the cutting action of gritty dirt and the chemical action of stains that causes fabric deterioration.

Clothes wear out first in the seat, the elbows and the knees where they receive the most abrasive wear and the heaviest concentrations of soil.

This serves as additional evidence that it is the wearing —not the dry cleaning — that deteriorates the garment.

It is demonstrably true that clean clothes last longer.

Although there is evidence that people suffered cataracts 3,000 years ago, scientists still know little about the cause of this eye disease. They are probing into a new theory that the presence of certain sugars in the system may be responsible.

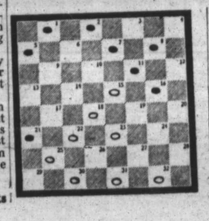
* * *

The average church in the United States has about 300 members . . . and just about that many seats.

* * *

In a recent year, 18 million fishermen and 15 million hunters bought licenses in the United States.

Spanish Pool Checkers



WHITE MOVES AND WINS!

Here's how:
23-19 plus 27-17! WW!

SPANISH POOL CHECKERS

Book 11, $2.50. Mail directly to Archie Waters. Spanish Pool Checkers, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md. (Copyright, 1958 by Clyde Black and Archie Waters).

HERE IS MILDRED

Crime and the Youngsters

If anyone can straighten out a budding juvenile delinquent, it's our girl Mildred. Today, she delivers a few choice words of advice to a friend's teen-age son. Might be well for all parents to listen in.

By Alice Childress

Hi, Marge! May I come in and chat with you for a while? . . .I guess I do look strange, just got through talkin' with Henry.

Henry is Martha's son and he is quite a handful of trouble no matter which way you look at it.

He has been in and out of detention homes faster than the doors could open and close!

He has been in gang fights, he has stolen things, he has smoked marijuana, he has played hookey from school, he has . . .well, I guess you get the general idea, Henry is a screamin' mess!

* * *

MARTHA HAS had him talked to by police, social workers, preachers, teachers, doctors and everybody else you can think of; but Henry keeps goin' on his way just like the Mississippi River.

The boy is sixteen years old and his mother says that nobody needs a crystal ball to see that he's headin' straight for some penitentiary like he was shot out of a cannon.

* * *

WELL, SHE asked me if I would have a talk with Henry. No, I was not too eager to chit-chat with him but she begged me so hard that I finally gave in.

To tell you the truth, when that boy rang my bell, I didn't know whether to hide or open the door! I read so much 'bout these children shootin' up folks and knockin' them in the head . . .I had a life-size picture in my mind of Henry tryin' to do me in for the dollar and sixty cents that was in my purse.

* * *

THAT BOY came struttin' in like the cock o' the walk, at first I thought he was lame in one foot.

No, he's not, it's just stylish to walk that way in his circle.

He's got eyes that look right on through you as if you really ain't there. He glanced straight up at the ceilin' and says,

"Ma, said you wanta talk to me 'bout bein' bad, I promised her I'd come. Everything's cool with me but you see . . . I come from a broken home . . . my folks they never dug me . . . that's how it stacks, see?"

* * *

MARGE, I decided to speak my mind since I didn't see no axe in his hand.

"Henry," I says, "You heard somebody say that but don't bring it to me. I got news for you, nobody's folks understand 'em.

"We don't even understand ourselves, so how we gonna expect other folks to 'dig' us? Your home is broken up and it looks like it's gonna stay that way, so there's no use in you going to jail about it.

"The real reason you mad with folks and beatin' up everybody is because you don't rate, you ain't nobody, you're nothin' and you mad about it!"

* * *

MARGE, THAT got a rise out of Sam.

He bats his eyes real fast and says, "Guess I rate as much a you, I'm not aimin' to be no square. Maybe you go for what you're doin' but it aint sayin' nothin' to me. If I dont rate it ain't 'cause I don't want to. Yeah, sure, I want to score.'

"Well,' I says, ". . . I'm for that. You be just as big a man as you're able. What do you want to do?"

He sat there as quiet as a piece of cotton, so I went on.

"Do you want to be a movin' picture director, or a plane pilot, or a deep-sea diver, or a prize fighting, or a newspaper man, or a sports announcer, or a jockey, or any one of a million other things? What you got in mind?"

He started rubbin' one foot against the other and says,

"They ain't gonna let nobody like me be them things."

"Ha!" I said, "You too chicken to fight your way to something like that or maybe you figure you don't have the brains for nothin' that takes some thinkin'.

"Henry, you will have to admit that you will never get rich off of snatchin' handbags.

"Now, if you think that killin' somebody is gonna throw you on the front page, I want you to remember this . . .the day after the judge passes sentence, everybody will forget all about you.

"Now, you go home and think of what you'd like to do, when you've got that straight, you come back and talk to me again. We'll see if you can find another way to fight besides usin' your fists."

* * *

MARGE, I don't know if I'll see him again.

I watched him go struttin' down the street and it made me think. I wonder if the movies, the television, the comic books, the segregation, the wars, the ratty slums and things like that . . .I wonder if those things made Henry this kind of boy?

I'm wonderin' if Henry is going to wiseup and decide to fight to keep those things from turnin' him into an animal? There's an awful lot of boys who should fight for their rights 'stead of fightin' each other.

HARRY S. TRUMAN
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

January 16, 1958

Dear Mr. Chinn:

People are forever arguing on the subject of your letter of the tenth.

In my Library here there is ample evidence to support the fact that I wrote my own speeches. For instance, in our display of the Point IV program, there is the message of 1949 written in my own hand. I always wrote them out, sometimes from an outline I had dictated previously. My re-readings prompted revisions, of course, in an effort to make the speeches completely understandable to everyone. When I was satisfied, I had them checked for facts.

No matter what evidence you may produce, however, there still will be arguments. Those people who do not want to believe the truth about a man cannot be convinced, particularly if that man has been President of the United States.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Truman

Mr. Harold B. Chinn
Morgan State College
Baltimore 12, Maryland

THE RIDDLE OF THE

Truman Speeches

The controversy over whether or not Ex-President Harry Truman wrote his own speeches still goes on. A Morgan State College economics class joins the fray.

BALTIMORE, Md. — Ex-President Harry S. Truman hasn't lost his touch!

He's still controversial. . .he's still a firebrand. . .and he's still a convincing letter writer.

If you'd like concrete proof of this, check with Harold B. Chinn, instructor in English and Speech at Morgan State College.

* * *

MR. CHINN has the proof in the form of a letter from the "Man from Independence," in which Mr. Truman, referring to his Presidency, asserts, "I wrote my own speeches."

Correspondence between Truman and Chinn is the result of a controversy that developed in this way:

In assigning model speeches for analysis in a speech class at the college, Chinn selected one delivered by Ex - President Truman at the lighting of the National Community Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., on December 24, 1945.

* * *

DURING THE classroom presentation and analysis, the instructor appraised the speech, which is entitled "The Spirit of Peace," as "a great inspirational speech" and called it a "perfect model" for classroom study.

He further pointed out elements of style which he identified as "characteristic" of the former President and indicative of Truman's deep religious background.

* * *

ON THE POINT of style and composition, the teacher was challenged by members of the class on the issue of authorship. Whether or not Truman really wrote the speech himself was so heatedly debated that Chinn, holding on to his conviction that Truman was indeed the author, "rashly promised" the class that he would write to the former President and find out.

He did, and in characteristic Truman style, bristling, forthright, convincing, came the reply. It read:

* * *

"Dear Mr. Chinn:

"People are forever arguing on the subject or your letter of the tenth.

"In my Library here, there is ample evidence to support the fact that I wrote my own speeches. For instance, in our display of the Point IV program, there is the message of 1949 written in my own hand. I always wrote them out, sometimes from an outline I had dictated previously. My re-readings prompted revisions, of course, in an effort to make the speeches completely understandable to everyone. When I was satisfied, I had them checked for facts.

"No matter what evidence you may produce, however, there still will be arguments Those people who do not want to believe the truth about a man cannot be convinced, particularly if that man has been President of the United States.

"Sincerely yours,"

And of course, there's the famous signature, "Harry S. Truman."

-Lawyer

(Continued from Page 3)

usually its after 6 and more often later.

Her sorority is AKA — her church, St. George's Episcopal in Brooklyn; her clubs, the Bar Association, the Brooklyn and Long Island Bar Association and the UN Lawyers group — which latter has an international flavor.

"We are just plain ordinary people" Mrs. Marr said, "In fact, so plain, I drive a 1956 Pontiac."

But good looking, modest Carmel Carrington Marr is no ordinary person. In the UN Mission, she is a power, interpreting her government to a chaotic world, giving her colleagues the benefit of her extensive legal wisdom. That's the lawyer from Brooklyn, the lady with the long title and the big job.