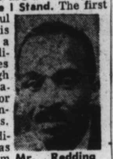
Book Review

By Saunders Redding

HERE I STAND, By Paul Robeson. Othello Associates, Inc., Box 283, Manhattanville Station, New York. 128 pp. $2.50.

Two things are made crystal clear in **Here I Stand.** The first is that Paul Robeson is inheritor of a family tradition that goes back through four generations and for nearly 2 hundred years. It is a tradition that is as vital in him as it was in his great-great-grandfather — that Cyrus Bustill who played a part in the American Revolution and who was one of the founders of the first mutual aid society of colored people.



Mr. Redding

It is a tradition that embodies all one means when one uses such phrases as "patriotism," "freedom" and "human dignity."

And as a logical consequence of this embodiment, it is a tradition that, in its purest strain, imposes the responsibility of leadership.

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THE SECOND thing that is made clear is that Paul Robeson has been persecuted for living up to his heritage; to his responsibility.

But **Here I Stand** is not a complaint, and most certainly it is not a complaint of a personal kind. Simple and sincere, it is primarily a statement of principles and convictions.

Robeson believes in human dignity and that no station in life is so low as to diminish one's right to assert his human dignity.

Robeson believes that racial segregation and discrimination are plunderers of dignity and that they must be done away with by law, aided by force if necessary, everywhere.

Robeson believes in what might be called the equality of cultures — Eastern to Western, pagan to Christian, African to European — and that colonialism not only vitiates this equality but perpetuates habits of thought that have brought untold suffering to a majority of the human race.

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ROBESON HATES suffering. He believes that the development of human society can begin to attain its splendid potential only when the aspirations of the so-called "backward peoples" are recognized as the aspirations common to all mankind.

Robeson believes in human brotherhood.

His principles and convictions should find response in every heart and will find response in many.

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SECONDARILY, Here I Stand is a program of action for colored Americans.

It is a program based on the postulate that "Freedom can be ours, here and now: the long-sought goal of full citizenship under the Constitution is now within our reach."

It is a program designed to operate on three levels:

The moral level, which involves not only the moral pressure that the American creed exerts, but also the pressure exerted by America's assumption of the moral leadership of the world:

The economic level, which stipulates a recognition of the fact that there is a powerful body of white Americans who realize that their basic economic interests — more and more dependent on good relations with a world three-fifths "colored"—are further jeopardized by every instance of prejudice and discrimination:—the political level, which presumes a recognition of the "power of organization" and which, in order to utilize that power, would temporarily erase all superficial differences (of party, of economic background, of social class) and "place the interests of our people, and the struggle for those interests, above all else."

It is a program of "common action for colored Americans."

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BUT NO American of whatever color can really quarrel with Robeson's principles and his program.

Undoubtedly though many Americans will quarrel — and especially those who will **hear about** and **not read** his book.

Here I Stand is not a book for those who are unconverted or only half converted to the American ethic. It is a challenge to the wholly converted to implement that ethic. It is a challenge to "fulfill the American dream."

Our Readers Write

If you have a problem, let us help. Make letters short. Address AFRO Magazine Section, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

ADDRESS

Baltimore, Md. — Mrs. Beulah Jordan who wanted to get in touch with Rajah Raboid, can contact him at 7745 Noremac Ave., Miami 41, Fla.

MRS. EMMA FRANKLIN

Baltimore, Md. — Rajah Raboid's address is P.O Box 4292, Miami Beach 41, Fla.

UNSIGNED

WITCH FINDER

Boston, Mass. — I have been doing some reading on the persecution of so-called "witches" during the 17th Century. There was some reference to a "trial by water" of suspected witches.

The articles didn't say whether the woman on trial was guilty, if she floated or sank. Which was it?

MRS. K. BUTLER

If the woman sank, she was innocent — but she generally drowned anyway. This "tails you lose — heads I win" formula was practiced by Matthew Hopkins, 17th Century witch hunter, who accounted for some 300 witches hanged between 1644-47.

Ironically, he was himself denounced as a wizard and tested by his own rule. He didn't sink and was hanged.

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FOOLING

Somerset, Pa. — Who is credited with originating the saying: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but cannot fool all of the people all of the time?

ROSALEE WELLS

Those words were said to have been spoken by Abraham Lincoln in a speech at Bloomington, Ill., on May 29, 1856. Some people, however, credit them to P. T. Barnum, the circus showman.

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TOMATO

Philadelphia, Pa. — There's an argument raging at the office where I work. We're about evenly divided. Half of us say that a tomato is a fruit; the other half say it is a vegetable. What is it?

RAYNOR BROWN

A tomato is the fruit of a plant which is now cultivated as a vegetable. Take your choice.

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CALENDAR

Washington, D.C. — It recently occurred to me that the calendar repeats itself. This being the case, how many years will elapse before this year's calendar can be used again?

A. D. JONES

Eleven years. It will be "the same again" in 1969.

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EXECUTION

Baltimore, Md. — I know that they now use a gas chamber for executions in Maryland, but they used to use hanging. What I want to know is have any women been witnesses at a hanging?

MARILYN JACOBS

Ruth Jenkins, then city editor of the Baltimore AFRO became the first woman to cover a hanging in November 1944. Reason — three AFRO City editors were off to World War II.

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SIAM STORY

Newark, N.J — Not too long ago, I went to see the movie "The King and I." The one about the King of Siam and the English governess.

Can you tell me if there is such a kingdom as Siam? I can't find it in my atlas, and if so, was there ever such a governess?

VALERIE HIND

You will not find Siam on any modern map, Valerie, because the name was changed in 1939 to Thailand.

The governess of the film story was based on Anna Harriette Crawford Leonowens, government of Chandalongkorn, King of Siam 1860-1910. His father was King Maha Mongkut.

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SALARIES

New York, N.Y. — I am a native New Yorker, but still don't know how much salary the Governor, Mayor of New York City, and Borough Presidents earn. Can you supply me with these figures?

ABRAHAM HARDING

Gov. Averill Harriman, $50,000 and executive mansion. Mayor Wagner, $40,000, borough presidents $25,000. These figures are as of January 1, 1958.

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TELEVISION

Richmond, Va. — We are always hearing the rating surveys talk about millions of people watching television. Just how many tv. sets are in us in this country today?

JOHN JAMESON

At the end of 1957 there were over 46 million sets in operation, or in 83 per cent of the homes. There are over 95 million radio sets in use in this country.

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FRATERNITY

Washington, D.C. — What is the oldest fraternity, and when was it established, and how many members does it have?

JEAN DUPLESSIS

Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor fraternity is oldest, established in 1776. It now has 163 chapters, and 150,000 members.

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STATUES

Newbern, N.C. — In what state is Mt. Rushmore where they have those heads of four ex-presidents carved in the mountain side.

A. O.

'Tis in South Dakota.

Your Prayers Are Asked

For a very sick woman who needs understanding . . . For a sick daughter whose mind may be healed. . . . For Marie Smith. . . . For Willis who is sick in the mind. . . . For Annie and Lottie. . . . For my daughter Ida that she will feel better from her leg trouble and kidneys. . . . For Oletho Edward. . . . For a Brother Robert that he may gain weight and be healed. . . . For Kenneth and Chris that they may be reunited for the sake of their daughter. . . . For Loretta and Puddin that they may prosper as entertainers in show business. . . . For a mother that she may be completely healed and be able to return home. . . . For the removal of evil influences. . . . For a son's life. . . .

And for all sick and suffering people wherever they may be, that it may please God to heal them. And that Peace may prevail in the world.

Looking For Someone

If you want to locate missing friends or relatives, enclose $1 in an envelope along with a description of the person, where and when he was last heard from. Send it to Missing Persons Editor, AFRO-AMERICAN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Persons with information concerning these missing people address all correspondence to Missing Persons, c/o AFRO-AMERICAN, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore 1, Md.

Freddie Ferrell of Philadelphia, Pa., is looking for Robert Griffith who left New Castle, Del. in the 1920's and went to New York.

His home is in B.W.I. His father's name is John D. Griffith. Mother, Mary E. Griffith.

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Valerie Watkins of Earleigh Heights, Md., is looking for her uncle, William Watkins. His last known address was Ellsworth St. He is dark brown-skinned, small in stature and was an amateur artist. He should be about 25 years old. He is the son of the late Alexander (Pat) Watkins.

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Willis B. Burleson of Philadelphia, Pa. is looking for Charles and Louvenia Barnett about 72. They resided at 837 N. 11th St.

They also operated a Sundry store at 11th and Reno Sts. until 1937 when the neighborhood was torn up to make projects.

Florence Johnson of Richmond, Va., is looking for John Henry Younger. Last heard of he was employed at the Maryland Insane Institution.

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Lillie Norman of McCormick, S.C. is looking for her son, Carl Norman. Rumors are that her son is dead but she has received no notification of his death. He should be about 35 years old, light brown-skinned, black hair, 5'11 and weighs about 165 pounds.

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Annie Andrews of Charlotte, N.C. is anxious to hear from her son, Willie J. Andrews who was 49 years of age in December. He is dark brown-skinned, one leg and a native of Newberry, S.C. Last known address Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Hysymathe of Brooklyn, New York is looking for Thomas Chinn whose last known address was Cincinnati Ohio. Father of Solomon B. Chinn.

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Hazel Seay of Newark, N.J. is looking for her first husband, Gilvert Leatherward who left home in 1944. He was last seen in New Jersey. He should be around 48 years old with wavy black hair and a dimple in each cheek. Weighs about 135 pounds, height, 5'7". His son who has never seen him would like to see him.

Legal Advisor

By ROBERT WATTS
Baltimore Attorney

With my application for my Maryland 1958 tags, I see that I have to pay an additional $8 for the new law since I don't have liability insurance. If I pay the $8, am I covered with insurance?

Ans. No. This is not a charge for insurance and if you have an accident and do not pay for the other parties' damage, you will lose your license.

This $8 goes into a fund to compensate those who are involved in accidents where the other parties are not insured.

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I AM married and separated from my husband. I want to buy a house and since only my money is going into it, I don't want my husband to own any part of it. Someone told me a husband automatically gets one-half of all your property.

Is this true?

Ans. No. This is not a Community Property State where that is true. If you buy a house where there is a ground rent, you can sell it and exchange it without giving your husband a half interest. If you die and there are no children, he will inherit one-half, but he doesn't have it before death.

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I OWED a bill at one of the department stores, because I was out of work several months. I finally paid the bill in full. I found out recently that there is a judgement against me which hurts my credit. How do I prevent this?

Ans. Call the store and find out if they used an attorney. Have their attorney or manager send you an Order of Satisfaction. Take this to the Court where the judgment is, and file it. You will, of course, have to pay the Court cost.

The TV-Radio Scene

Another housewives' special "Matinee Theatre," NBC-TV, 3-4 p.m. daily, is skating on thin ice. Trouble is strictly economic. Part of the tremendous tab for the show has been written off as promotion for color TV, but the sales boys are taking a hard look at the balance sheets. Only 300,000 color sets have been sold.

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WONDER WHY the television bigwigs always see fit to schedule the programs designed for the same audience at the same time. Remember Perry Como vs. Jackie Gleason, Steve Allen vs. Ed Sullivan. Now it will be "Disneyland vs. "Leave it to Beaver."

Beaver will go to the 8 p.m. time slot on Wednesdays effective March 26 when Patti Page's "Big Record" is cut to a half hour. In the Friday Beaver spot will be "Dick and the Duchess."

IT'S almost summer replacement time again, and as usual the perennial "Pantomime Quiz" will be back. This year it will replace "Telephone Time," 9:30-10 Tuesdays, ABC-TV. Last outing for "Telephone Time" will be April 1.

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HORSE racing fans will again be able to see telecasts of the triple crown (Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes). The same razor company has signed to sponsor the events.

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THE comic strips are coming to life. Television rights to the strip "Mary Worth," have been acquired and plans are underway to make it a daytime serial. "Rex Morgan" is also being planned as a night-time series.

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FOR the first time, the singers responsible for movie tunes becoming hit records will sing the songs on the March 26 telecast of the Academy Award presentations.

Singers named thus far are Frank Sinatra, "All the Way," Vic Damone, "An Affair to Remember;" Johnny Mathis, "Wild is the Wind;" Debbie Reynolds, "Tammy;" and Pat Boone, "April Love."

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RUMOR currently going the rounds insists that Ed Sullivan has asked to be relieved of the weekly chore of putting on a show. Wants a once-a-month airing. It's a question of personal health.

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THE VIDEO disc jockey has taken such a hold on public fancy that a new innovation is being tried at WAVY-TV, Norfolk. Modeled after the teen hops, this one will be "Dancing For Grownups."

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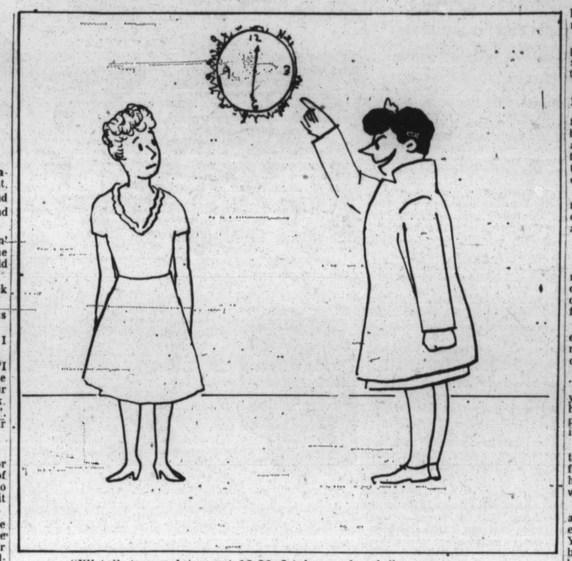
HERE IS MILDRED

About The Lunch Hour

Factory and office workers get a lunch hour — and so does our girl Mildred. Her employer for the day thought she was just going to grab a sandwich on the run. That poor misguided lady.

By ALICE CHILDRESS



"I'll talk to you later—at 12:30, I take my lunch."

Marge, I'm tired, wore-out and awful short-tempered but I'll try to fix you a cup of coffee in good grace.

I worked for a new woman today and if ever anybody was beggin' to be straightened out, she was the one!

The whole time I worked she stood about two feet behind me watchin' and sighin'!

When the clock said twelve thirty, I took off my apron, washed my hands and put on my hat and coat. Her mouth flew open and she says, "Oh! Are you quitting?"

"No," I says, "I'm goin' out to get my lunch, this is lunch hour.'

You woulda thought I had hit her!

"That's not necessary," She went on, ". . . I can bring you a sandwich and some coffee right here."

I informed her that it was lunch time and I was goin' to the restaurant on the corner and buy myself some hot food.

• • •

SURE, I went on out while she stood there lookin' like there was no tomorrow.

Well, I got back at five minutes past one, took my newspaper out and sat down to read it.

She came in the kitchen and jostled a few empty pots and pans and cleared her throat.

I didn't pay her any livin' mind but just kept on with the paper. Finally she couldn't hold still any longer.

"Aren't you ever going back to work?"

"Sure," I says, ". . . soon as my lunch hour is over."

"Well," She cracks, ". . . I thought you had your lunch!"

"Look, lady," I told her, "I had my lunch, I ate but the hour is not up. When the hour is over I will go back to work. I am now resting and readin'. You don't pay me for this hour so don't worry about it."

• • •

MARGE, folks should pay for lunch time but since some of 'em don't, the least they can do is hold their peace while you sit out your own time.

The truth of the matter is she wanted a little bit of my time for herself. She was hopin' for me to munch her ham sandwich and sip her coffee whilst I kept on ironin' clothes.

"Well," She snapped, ". . . you will only go home later."

"How is that?" I asked.

"I hired you to work from nine to five, so you will now go home at six o'clock.

I gave her a real hard look. "Just when did you think I'd eat, or did you expect me to go home at six o'clock.

I gave her a real hard look. "Just when did you think I'd eat, or did you expect me to go eight hours without eatin'?" Oh, she was hot.

"I thought you'd grab a sandwich on the side. I didn't think you'd come to a dead stop for one whole hour!"

• • •

BY THIS time I was gettin' pretty fed up with her.

"Everybody has a lunch hour," I told her, ". . . including me.

"You are now takin' up a part of that hour by arguin' instead of letin' me have my time in peace.

"This hour is mine, not yours."

She turned and swished out of the room. When the time got to be one-thirty, I put on my apron and started back to my tasks. When the time turned to two o'clock she makes a grand entrance.

"That will be enough, I don't need you for the rest of the day, I don't think we can reach any kind of understanding."

• • •

NO, I didn't argue with her. I put down the iron and got myself ready to go. After I put on my things I held my hand out for my money. She paid me for three hours.

"No, no," I says, ". . . I worked three and a half hours this mornin' and you owe me for one hour this afternoon."

Now it was her turn to holler.

"If you wish to be so exact, you worked only one half an hour this afternoon, so I will pay you for four hours, even if it isn't fair."

I shook my head. "I'm bein' too fair. I should charge you for the whole day since I'm here ready, willin' and able to work.

"However, I know I'd probably have to finish out the afternoon if I made you do that. You will pay me for a full hour because I do not work on a half-hour basis. . . and you fired me."

Sure, she paid me. I guess she could read my face and see that was the best thing to do. All that fuss just because I took a lunch hour!

Paul Robeson

(Continued from Page 1)

part of American life and history.

A half-century has passed since W. E. B. DuBois, in his classic **The Souls of Black Folks,** challenged white Americans in these words of poetry and truth:

"Your country?
How came it yours?
Before the Pilgrims landed we were here.

Here we have brought our three gifts and mingled them with yours: a gift of story and song — soft, stirring melody in an ill-harmonized and unmeledious land,

A gift of sweat and brawn to beat back the wilderness, conquer the soil, lay the foundations of the vast economic empire two hundred years before your weak hands could have done it.

The third a gift of the spirit. Our song, our toil, our cheer . . . Would America have been America without her colored people?"

I ask today: What future can America have without the free and unfettered contributions of our sixteen millions? What place of honor can our country have in the new world a-borning if our heritage is still denied?

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I SPEAK as an American colored man whose life is dedicated, first and foremost, to winning full freedom and nothing less than full freedom for my people in America.

Paul's mother, Louise Bustill Robinson Her great - grandfather was Cyril Bustill, a baker who furnished bread to George Washington's army.

In these pages I have discussed what this fight for freedom means to colored people in the crisis of today, of how it represents the decisive front in the struggle for democracy in our country, of how it relates to the cause of peace and liberation throughout the world.

In presenting my views on these matters — and in one way or another all of America and much of the rest of the world is discussing it — I have sought to explain how I came to my viewpoint and to take the stand I have taken.

As with other men, my views, my work, my life, are all of one piece; for, as Frederick Douglass in his deep wisdom put it: **"A man is worked on by what he works on.**

"He may carve out his circumstances, but his circumstances will carve him out as well."

• • •

AT THE outset let me make one thing very clear: I care nothing — less than nothing — about what the lords of the land, the Big White Folks, think of me and my ideas.

For more than ten years they have persecuted me in every way they could — by slander and mob violence, by denying me the right to practice my profession as an artist, by withholding my right to travel abroad.

To these, the real un-Americans, I merely say: "All right—I don't like you either!"

• • •

BUT I do care — and deeply —about the America of the common people whom I have met across the land.

The working men and women whose picket-lines I've joined, auto workers, seamen, cooks and stewards, furriers, miners, steel workers;

And the foreign - born, the various nationality groups, the Jewish people with whom I have been especially close;

And the middle-class progressives, the people of the arts and sciences, the students—all of that America of which I sang in the **Ballad for Americans,** "the Eteceteras and the And-so-forths, that do the work."

• • •

MOST OF all I am mindful of the colored people and the questions they ask of me as I meet them in the Harlems of America.

Inevitably — since in these last years I have been the center of much controversy — many of those questions deal with my views and activities. I think of the reporter on the **Pittsburgh Courier** who made an honest effort to find answers to the questions in the title of his article — "Who, What, and Why is Paul Robeson?" — and who wrote that the picture was "complicated somewhat by the fact that Mr. Robeson has, in the minds of large numbers of Americans, two distinct personalities. One is that of the militant advocate of racial equality and human rights, and the other is that of an affectionate apostle of Soviet Communism."

And then there was the AFRO-AMERICAN writer who concluded a similar study with these words: "If there is a mystery about Paul Robeson it is this. By singing spirituals he can be popular and wealthy; by fighting for his race he becomes despised and doors are closed against him. For the answer as to why he made this choice you will have to search the deep recesses of his soul."

• • •

HERE AND there, over the years, in various articles and interviews, I have tried to explain one or another facet of my life and thinking. But these hasty snatches and fragments are not enough, and so in these pages I have sought to tell the story more fully.

In doing this, I have been assisted by my friend, the gifted colored writer Lloyd L. Brown. And I am deeply grateful for the warm understanding and creative quality of his work with me.

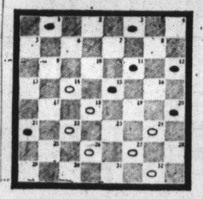
Though this book is not an autobiography, I thought it might be helpful at the outset to sketch briefly my early days and the lasting influences from my childhood.

Let that story be here, as it was in life, a prologue to the chapters that follow.

New York November, 1957

PAUL ROBESON

Spanish Pool Checkers



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Here's how:

27-23 plus 14-10 plus 22-17! WW!

SPANISH POOL CHECKERS

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