Power Bureau Posts Jim Crow Signs: Race Bias Blamed on 'Higher-Ups'

Los Angeles or Dixie?

Here are signs posted in its camps by "Your City Owned Bureau of Power and Light." Distinction and discrimination may be forbidden by law to private corporations but the municipally-owned Bureau hasn't heard about it. Other pictures on page 11.

Power Bureau Posts Jim Crow Signs

Race Bias Blamed on 'Higher-Ups'

Southern Practices Used In Ordering Separate Facilities by Workers

The Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light's "Dixie" Jim Crow.

Publisher Leon H. Washington, Jr., revealed that in Orlando, approximately 80 miles from Los Angeles, near Winter Park, the bureau camp contained separate wash rooms and separate toilets for the workers, with signs reading "FOR COLORED ONLY" which were painted in approximately three-inch letters.

Four camp houses at the extreme rear were occupied by the Negro workers, according to the watchman who also stated that the 20 Negro employees ate in the corner of the dining room. Also in the locker room the "colored only" sign appeared. The camp gas tank is located about 100 feet from the Negro quarters. A large sign on the tank reads "CAUTION, DO NOT SMOKES WITHIN SIGHT.

Explosive.

Negro workers are employed as common laborers and receive $1 per day for lodging and board.

The camp is located in the heart of the desert and according to records, the temperature registered from 100 to 100 degrees.

An interview with some of the white workers revealed that they were opposed to such actions.

Monday morning Mr. Washinton, investigated sub-station B, located in Los Angeles, where he found the sign "FOR WHITE" and the other "FOR COLORED." At this station the workers are transported to the mountains where they are engaged in remote labor.

After shooting pictures of the Jim Crow signs, Al Moore, camp superintendent, was asked for his reason for them. He stated he had absolutely nothing to do with it situation and referred the publisher to N. P. Rivers, general foreman. Rivers stated, that he had numerous complaints from some of the office clerks about the Negro and White using the same toilet. He referred his boss, A. H. Hoffmeister, superintendent of engineering, who denied the placing of the discriminatory signs.

He also stated that he was opposed to such signs and that he came from the northern part of the state and did not know that the signs were offensive until continued on page eleven.

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Jim Crow Los Angeles

Power Bureau Prejudice Hit

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he received a few complaints from the Negro workers.

When asked if there were separate toilets for Mexican workers, he stated there were none and that they used the toilets designated for the whites.

He admitted however, that if Negro workers went into the white toilets that nothing could be done.

The Sentinel learned immediately after the interview that the signs were removed but replaced later in the afternoon.

A number of protests from Negro workers who are taxpayers or whose taxes support their "Bureau of Power and Light" have been received.

Last Thursday's Sentinel exposed the tactics of the employment department under the direction of William Bowen, who refused to give employment to Lambert Green, honor student at City College, who had passed the written examination for clerk typist. Green was told in no uncertain terms that the fact that he was a Negro prevented him from being employed. Green's parents have been taxpayers for 25 years. Bowen's office was contacted by the Sentinel for his reply concerning this matter. He was out of the office, according to his secretary and would call as soon as he returned. As yet Bowen is apparently still out of his office. Neither the Sentinel nor Mr. Green has been called.

Segregation signs posted openly and in defiance of expressed public policy of this state are shown here. They were not posted by private employers but by the Municipally-owned Bureau of Power and Light in the camps it maintains for its employees. This policy is a settled one in the Bureau and it has been maintaining that policy for several years.