

BIRTH OF A NATION SHOWN IN DENMARK

Baltimore Boy Studying Abroad Finds Ku Klux Film In Danish Capital

DANES THINK FILM TRUE

Newspapers Surprised When Edward Frazier Offers Criticism

By Edward Frazier

Editors Note:

Mr. Frazier is a Baltimore Boy who won the Danish-American Scholarship in the University of Copenhagen. He is writing occasional articles of his experiences abroad for the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Copenhagen, Denmark, Sept. 15. (by mail)—Just as the Negro in America has learned that the Race Problem is bound by no section but extends as far as the Negro pursues the way, of the Negro abroad finds the Problem pursuing him from land to land. Mechanical inventions and ease of communication permit the venom of American Race Prejudice to circle the globe and revive the primitive passions of civilized men against the Negro.

This truth was impressed on me when I saw one day in large headline the announcement that the historical film success, "The Birth of a Nation," would be shown at the largest theatre in Copenhagen. I could scarcely believe my eyes for had I not helped to kill the vicious film just two months before in New York City. It seemed as if an evil deed had been resurrected to haunt me.

Nevertheless, I went to see the film with a young University student, especially to observe the effect upon the audience and find out if the film contained its worst parts. To my dismay it contained all the falsified history, designed to convert the North and turn the sympathies of men against the Negro. In short the Negro was represented simply as a rapist. All the scenes purporting historical authenticity made his efforts during Reconstruction appear a traesty upon human intelligence. In his brutal, distorted nature we see in the picture, we cannot recognize the souls of the Folk who gave the world the Negro spirituals.

But saddest of all my young friend who had seen the picture the night before believed that it was true. The audience believed it and feeling awakened in them the pride of race and applauded in American style.

During the intermission the credulous eyes were fixed upon me, deluged in a sea of white faces. They wonder- I dare not divine; but I wondered why -if there is any plan in the universe -Lies are permitted to triumphantly blight the hearts of men; while Truth, his emancipator must be humbly trampled upon. With these thoughts, I took a train the next morning for Paris.

When I returned from Paris the "Birth of a Nation" was still drawing large crowds. I determined to speak a word on behalf of Truth. With this in mind I went to the office of the Politiken and asked the editor to accept an article disputing the representations of the picture and defending the conduct of the Negro in the United States.

He gladly accepted the article because the picture had become the subject of discussion throughout the city. The next morning the article appeared in the Politiken on the front page and provoked the desire on the part of a reporter for a weekly paper, to have an interview to learn the truth about the Negro Problem.