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In South Carolina, South Africa Or Southeast Asia Prejudice Blocks Peace

"Down through the years the mighty ships of state

Have all been broken on the rocks of hate!"

Leslie Pinkney Hill

What a price the world is paying for its prejudices! What a spectacle to see the governor of a great state like South Carolina standing ready to destroy its educational system in order to perpetuate the separation of the minds of its youth!

What a spectacle to see the Union of South Africa intensify the late Premier Jan Smuts' denials of human dignity to its great non-white majority, through the even more vicious restrictions of his successor, Premier Daniel Malan.

And as we fight for a free press, how discouraging to see the unthinking attacks directed against India's Prime Minister Nehru by segments of the American press, for his reported resistance "to approve investment of private foreign capital in his country"—the foreign capital that to apprehensive peoples all over the world has traditionally carried with it the divisive and humiliat-

ing patterns of a minority disposed to arrogance.

Fortunately for my thinking, I have known, all my life, people of the American Southland, black and white, with great depth of perception and with vision that foresaw the need for the unity of all its people. I have hoped that in his heart, Governor Byrnes, who once sat on the Supreme Court of the land, and once directed its affairs of state, was such a Southerner. I shall pray that the blindness of prejudice and separatism may yet be removed, that he may help the world to realize peace and brotherhood among men.

I shall pray that King George of England, symbol of British unity, may refrain from giving needless affront to the millions of dark peoples who still live under the British flag, by becoming the official guest of the South African prime minister whose notorious race oppression is a matter of present world concern.

American editors who profess indignation with Mr. Nehru's hesitancy in welcoming private foreign capital to India need to read the Rowan-Vachon illustrated report, "How Far from Slavery?" in the January 15 issue of Look Magazine. They need to know that the daughter of an illustrious American Nobel Peace Prize winner, married to a citizen of India, remains an exile from her native land rather than subject her dark-skinned children to its race bias.

Critical writers should remind themselves that South Africa heaped racial discriminations on the cultured Mahatma Gandhi; that only recently his son has begun

challenging those same discriminations.

Private Foreign Capital at what price? Certainly other countries, "including our own" have been developed by such investments. And granted decent mutual respect, so simple in its concept, so rare in application; granted honest and just business methods, private foreign capital would be welcomed, today, without question, in many areas where, instead, it is viewed with justifiable apprehension.

But prejudice is blocking more than investments abroad. Prejudice is blocking peace. It is creating bitterness and dissension at home. It is the material of conflict and despair. We can overcome it when we face it — when we replace it with the practice of brotherhood.

"Respect begets respect, suspicion begets suspicion, hate begets hate..." "The only way to have a friend is to be one." These are the words of my friend, Senator Herbert Lehman. They are simple enough for a child to understand, and important enough for the heads of great financial enterprises and the heads of nations to understand.

Dollars do not always impress either nations or individuals. Some if the choice must be made, will choose respect. Liberia is a case in point. I think that the great countries of the world have much to learn in international relations from the little African republic from which I have just returned.

In my column, next week, I shall tell you about this rich experience to which I had looked forward for so long.