

NEGRO DIRECTION NECESSARY IN RACIAL THEATRE

Commenting on the new directorship of the Harlem Negro Theatre unit, the Amsterdam News says in part:

"It was inevitable that the WPA Theatre Project would be put in the hands of the Negro. With John Houseman in charge it was recognized that it could never be a truly Negro theatre.

"Macbeth was John Houseman's most commendable production from the boxoffice viewpoint. But it was not Negro theatre. In fact, it even threatened to start a vicious vogue in drama.

"With the Negro personnel now in charge of the destinies of the theatre there can no longer be any excuse for the Negro viewpoint not being intelligently and accurately portrayed. To be sure, there will be plenty of fumbling because of inexperience. But since any true Negro theatre, in its present stage of development, must be experimental at best, flaws in technique are pardonable.

"Any Negro theatre must suffer because there are no dramatic forms and plays bequeathed to it. In other words, the producing company at the Lafayette is starting from scratch.

"Many disliked heartily the inference from the present set-up that it takes three Negroes to do the job that one white man did. We do not believe that was intended. The present arrangement is much more desirable and infinitely better organization....The present theatre should at least be distinguished for its authenticity and audaciousness at getting to the kernel of the subjects it treats."

POLITICSGOOD OLE DAYS

The Afro-American comments:

"Up in West Middlesex, Pa., last week, Governor Landon, campaigning for the Presidency, drew a picture of what he termed the good old days:

"'When every community did things in its own way and an individual traveled from the cradle to the grave without ever feeling the coercive or directive hand of the government....'

"The governor said he felt a majority of the American people wanted a return to these good old days.

"Well, do we want a return of the old days? And how good were they?

"Government's meddling (as Mr. Landon puts it) into the business of towns and cities and individuals has brought the 44-hour week to thousands of workers for the first time in their lives, old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, cheap heat, light, and power, low-cost housing, and a WPA job or relief on the basis of absolute racial equality.

"There was nothing like this in the 'good ole days' for the poor man."