

Mr. BENNETT. Page 382, and it is the only example in this book in which black people are presented as people. These are the only Negro characters. It is the only extensive reference to Negroes and the only Negro characters in the book. A lieutenant in the Civil War, a Union lieutenant appeared at a plantation in Tennessee to tell the slaves they are free.

I will read:

The young lieutenant mounted his horse, sat up straight, and called out clearly: "I have been directed by the President of the United States to read to you slaves this Emancipation Proclamation."

He went on to tell them how President Lincoln believed slavery to be wrong and how he believed it should be done away with. He then read the Emancipation Proclamation which declared that as of January 1, 1863, all slaves in States which were at war with the United States were to be henceforth and forevermore free.

When he had finished reading the presidential order, the lieutenant folded the paper and placed it inside his tunic. To his surprise, the Austin slaves showed no joy over their new freedom. They stood still, eyeing the soldiers suspiciously. Finally old Uncle Josephus stepped timidly forward.

"Please, sir," he said, cap in hand, "may we please go back to our work now?"

"Drat it, man!" the lieutenant lost his patience. "Didn't you understand what I've just said? You're free! You can do anything you want, go anywhere you want!"

"Lieutenant," Mrs. Austin raised her hand, "they don't understand what you have just read. We've kept them pretty much in ignorance of what has been going on. I'm afraid, we haven't done anything to make them trust you. May I talk to them?"

Now, this distorts reality in several ways. In the first place these are the only Negro characters presented in this book which is used in Chicago, Arizona, South Carolina, all across the United States.

Secondly, no mention is made anywhere in this book of the 186,000 soldiers who fought in the Union Army for their freedom. No mention is made of the 200,000 black southerners who ran away from the South and helped the Union Army as laborers. No mention is made of the 29,000 black sailors serving in uniform in the Union Navy in the Civil War.

We are presented with one type of character to indicate how black people accepted their freedom, "hat in hand."

Another problem of interest, not to me so much but perhaps it should be of interest to the Pentagon, or someone. Most American textbooks do a very interesting thing. There is usually a very large color photograph of Gen. Robert E. Lee. There is no photograph of a Union general. My friend and colleague, Dr. John Hope Franklin, has even examined textbooks widely used in America in which there are two large photographs of Gen. Robert E. Lee and no photographs of any Union general.

Perhaps the moral is: It's more blessed to lead an army against your country than for your country.

How did black people accept their freedom after the Civil War? I think this is one of the truly memorable historic flights of fancy in American textbook publishing. The black people were free. What did that mean? This is how black and white children in America explain the meaning of freedom:

Suppose you were awakened from sleep tonight and told your parents were gone away and you must look after for yourself?