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THE RACES OF MANKIND

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The World is Shrinking

Thirty-five nations are now united in a common cause—victory over Axis aggression, the military destruction of fascism. This is the greatest fighting alliance of nations in history. These United Nations include the most different physical types of men, the most unlike beliefs, the most varied ways of life. White men, yellow men, black men, and the so-called "red men" of America, peoples of the East and the West, of the tropics and the arctic, are fighting together against one enemy.

Every morning in the newspapers and on the bulletin boards we read of yesterday's battles in Russia, in China, in Italy, in the Solomon Islands, and in New Guinea. One day's hop in a plane

This pamphlet was prepared under the supervision of a committee of the American Association of Scientific Workers. The committee includes the following members of the faculty of Columbia University: Prof. Ruth Benedict, Anthropology; Prof. L. C. Dunn, Zoology; Prof. Otto Klineberg, Psychology; Dr. Marion Smith, Anthropology; and Dr. Gene Weltfish, Anthropology.

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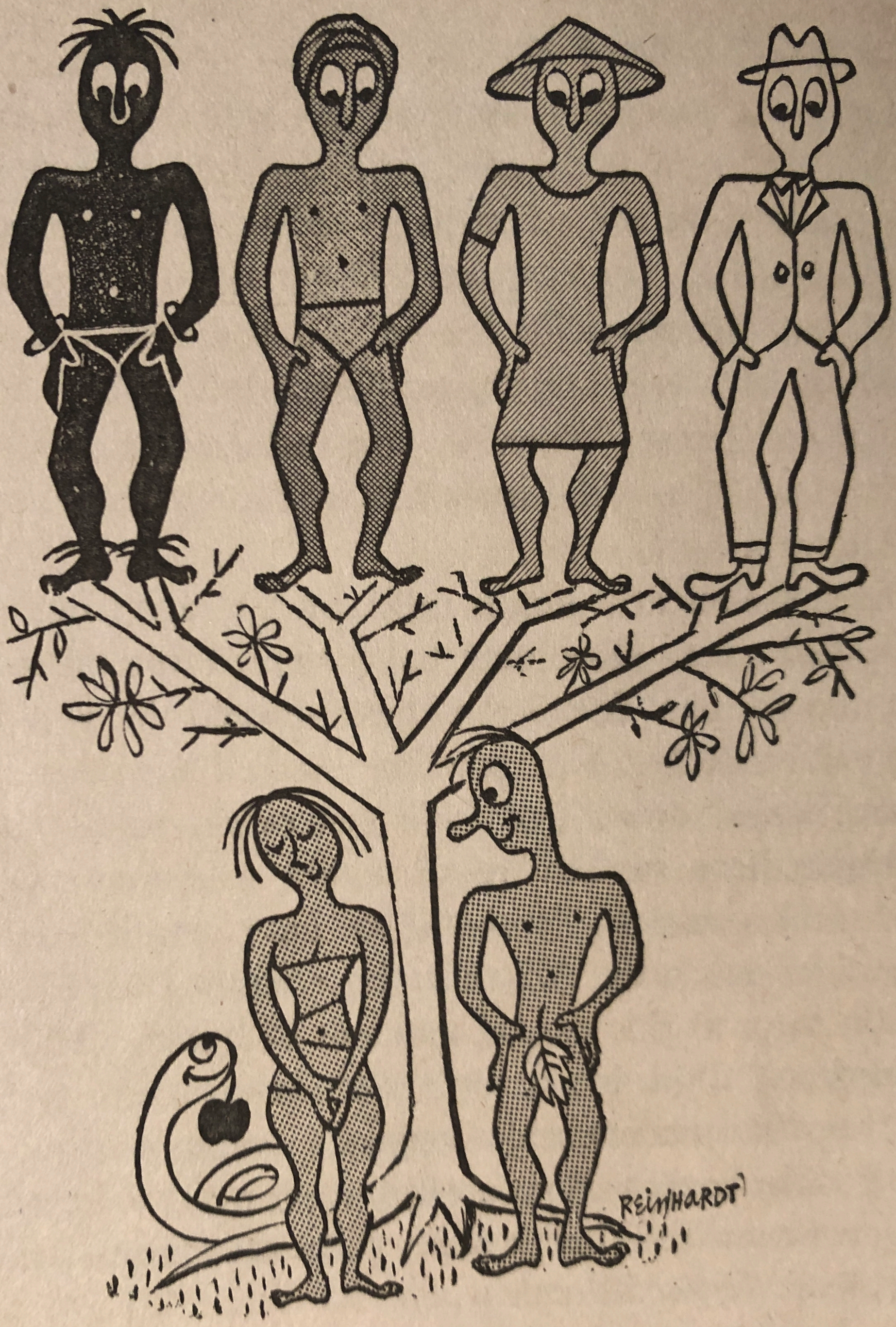
have a common origin. Take the structure of the human foot, for instance. When you list all the little bones and muscles and



THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH ARE ONE FAMILY.

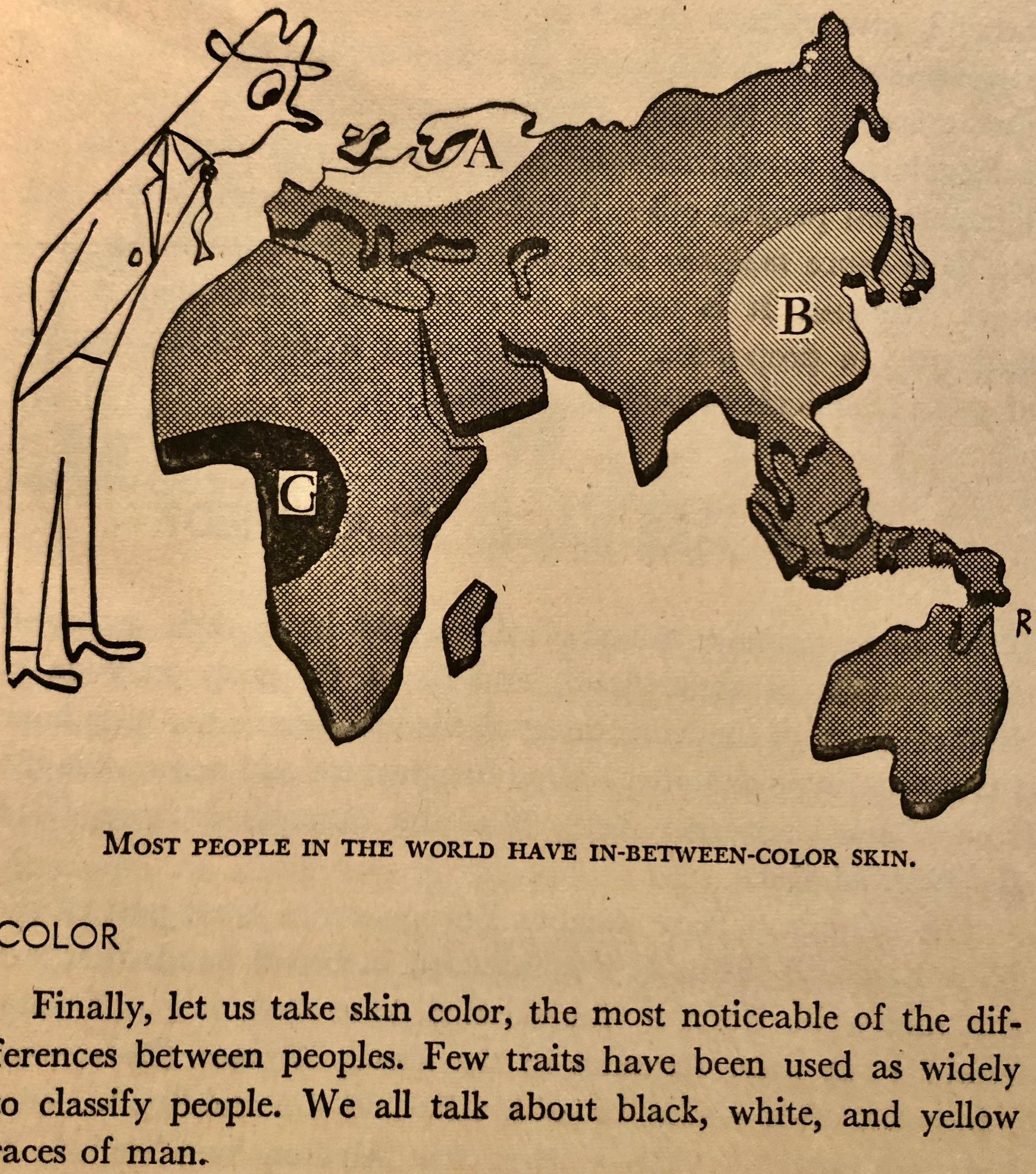
the joints of the toes, it is impossible to imagine that that would all have happened twice. Or take our teeth: so many front teeth,

In some places in Asia a fold of skin developed over the inner corner of the eye and produced what we call a slant eye.

All these distinctive traits made it easy to recognize people as belonging to different parts of the world. In each place the people got used to looking at one another. They said, "Our men are really men. Our women are beautiful. This is the way people should look." Sometimes they liked the appearance of their close neighbors. But strangers seemed odd and queer. Strangers wore funny clothes and their manners were bad. Even more important, strangers did not look the way people should. Their noses were too flat or too pointed. Their skin was "a sickly white" or "a dirty black." They were too fat or too short. Everywhere in the world men and women used the standard of their own people to judge others and thought that people who differed from this standard looked funny or ugly.

All Peoples Much the Same

is the same whatever race it comes from. The Blood Bank calls it plasma. It is dried and kept indefinitely. When needed for emergency transfusions, it is mixed with water and can save the life of any man or woman in the world. The same blood plasma is used to restore any man of any color who has been wounded in battle.



MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD HAVE IN-BETWEEN-COLOR SKIN.

COLOR

Finally, let us take skin color, the most noticeable of the differences between peoples. Few traits have been used as widely to classify people. We all talk about black, white, and yellow races of man.

The natives of Australia are a very primitive race. They are as hairy as Europeans, and yet they live in an area where other peoples have very little body hair.



THERE IS NO JEWISH "RACE."

Aryans, Jews, Italians are *not* races. Aryans are people who speak Indo-European, "Aryan" languages. Hitler uses the term in many ways—sometimes for blond Europeans, including the Scandinavian; sometimes for Germans, whether blond or brunet; sometimes for all who agree with him politically, including the Japanese. As Hitler uses it, the term "Aryan" has no meaning, racial, linguistic, or otherwise.

Jews are people who acknowledge the Jewish religion. They are of all races, even Negro and Mongolian. European Jews are of many different biological types; physically they resemble the populations among whom they live. The so-called "Jewish type" is a Mediterranean type, and no more "Jewish" than the South Italian. Wherever Jews are persecuted or discriminated against, they cling to their old ways and keep apart from the rest of the population and develop so-called "Jewish" traits. But these are

What About Intelligence?

The most careful investigations of intelligence have been made in America among Negroes and whites. The scientist realizes that every time he measures intelligence in any man, black or white, his results show the intelligence that man was born with *plus*



ANYONE CAN LEARN ANY LANGUAGE.

what happened to him since he was born. The scientist has a lot of proof of this. For instance, in the First World War, intelligence tests were given to the American Expeditionary Forces; they showed that Negroes made a lower score on intelligence tests than whites. But the tests also showed that Northerners, *black and white,* had higher scores than Southerners, *black and white.* Everyone knows that Southerners are inborn equals of Northerners, but in 1917 many southern states' per capita expenditures for schools were only fractions of those in northern states, and

housing and diet and income were far below average too. Since the vast majority of Negroes lived in the South, their score on the intelligence test was a score they got not only as Negroes, but as Americans who had grown up under poor conditions in the South. Scientists therefore compared the scores of Southern whites and Northern Negroes.

Median Scores on A.E.F. Intelligence Tests

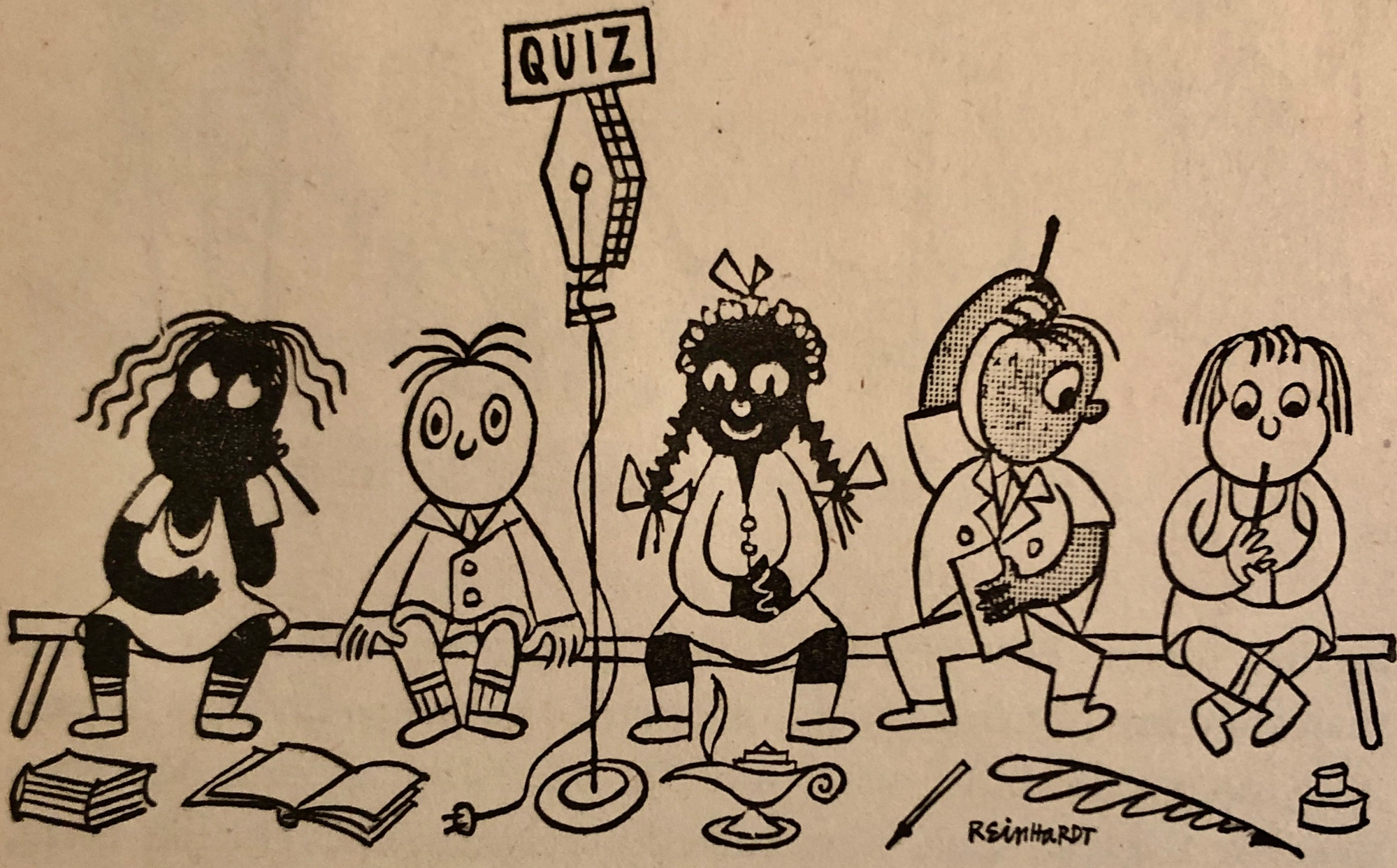
Southern Whites:	
Mississippi	41.25
Kentucky	41.50
Arkansas	41.55
Northern Negroes:	
New York	45.02
Illinois	47.35
Ohio	49.50

Negroes with better luck after they were born got higher scores than whites with less luck. The white race did badly where economic conditions were bad and schooling was not provided, and Negroes living under better conditions surpassed them. *The differences did not arise because people were from the North or the South, or because they were white or black, but because of differences in income, education, cultural advantages, and other opportunities.*

Scientists then studied gifted children. They found that chil

Character Not Inborn

The second superiority which a man claims when he says, "I was born a member of a superior race," is that his race has better *character*. The Nazis boast of their racial soul. But when they wanted to make a whole new generation into Nazis they didn't trust to "racial soul"; they made certain kinds of teaching com-



SUSIE BROWN KNOWS ALL THE ANSWERS.

pulsory in the schools, they broke up homes where the parents were anti-Nazi, they required boys to join certain Nazi youth organizations. By these means they got the kind of national character they wanted. But it was a planned and deliberately trained character, not an inborn "racial soul." In just the same way the Japanese have bred a generation of ruthless fighters. Fifty years ago Europeans who lived in Japan used to describe them as "butterflies flitting from flower to flower," incapable of "the stern drives" of Western civilization. Since 1900 the "butterflies" have fought six times overseas, and they are desperate and ruthless fighters. In a generation the butterflies have become game cocks. But their *race* has not changed. The same blood still flows



PEOPLE ARE GENTLE OR WARLIKE DEPENDING ON THEIR TRAINING.

in their veins. But spiritually they are more like the Germans

it invites violence. It is the opposite of "good character" as it is defined in the Christian religion—or in the Confucian religion, or in the Buddhist religion, or the Hindu religion, for that matter.

Civilization Not Caused by Race

History proves that progress in civilization is not the monopoly of one race or subrace. When our white forebears in Europe were rude stone-age primitives, the civilizations of the Babylonians and the Egyptians had already flourished and been eclipsed. There were great Negro states in Africa when Europe was a sparsely settled forest. Negroes made iron tools and wove fine cloth for their clothing when fair-skinned Europeans wore skins and knew nothing of iron.

When Europe was just emerging from the Middle Ages, Marco Polo visited China and found there a great civilization, the like of which he had never imagined. Europe was a frontier country in those days compared with China.

Since the beginning of history an unusual collection of fortunate circumstances have been present among one race, sometimes among another. Up to now, every great center of civilization has had its day and has given place to others. The proud rulers of yesterday become the simple peasants of another era. The crude people who once threatened the great cities become later the kings and emperors in the same country. The peoples change, but the old arts of life are, for the most part, not permanantly lost. They pass into the common heritage of mankind.

Inventions pass, too, from
people trade with each other. This has happened since the dawn of history. About 5,000 years ago, when Europe was on the frontiers of the civilized world, Asiatics came to trade in Europe



THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT "EDISONS" IN ALL TIMES AND PLACES.

and North Africa in great caravans. They followed the main

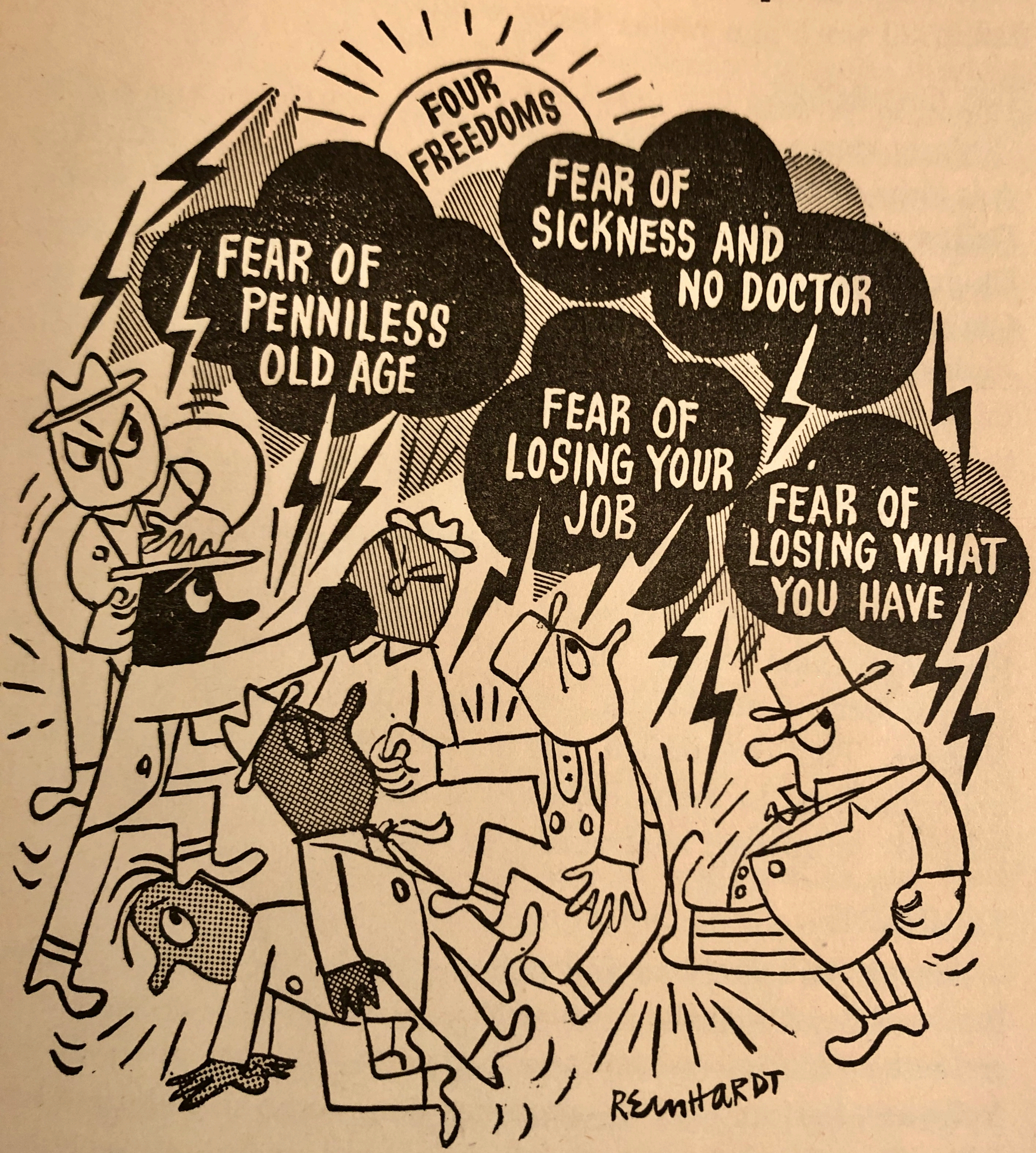
the same time, everywhere we have gone in the world, we have popularized ice cream, beefsteak, breakfast cereals, corn on the cob, and other foods that are called "American."



OUR FOOD COMES FROM MANY PEOPLES.

Industry in the United States has taken the hand-skills of our immigrants and made machines to do the work; without their skills we should not have known how. Our music, our buildings

Intercultural Education interprets the contributions made to America by many different races and nationalities. The Rosenwald Foundation has sponsored southern



FREEDOM FROM FEAR BRINGS FREEDOM FROM PREJUDICE.

Negro schools, elementary, high school, and college, in order to make up for the deficiencies of southern Negro education. They have also pressed for Negro housing and health projects in the

to do it.

The Challenge

With America's great tradition of democracy, the United States should clean its own house and get ready for a better twenty-first century. Then it could stand unashamed before the Nazis and condemn, without confusion, their doctrines of a Master Race. Then it could put its hand to the building of the United Nations, sure of support from all the yellow and the black races where the war is being fought, sure that victory in this war will be in the name, not of one race or of another, but of the universal Human Race.

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