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#6247 – “Racial Problems of the U.S., Union of South Africa Compared”

Guests: Rep. John Bell Williams, Dr. Robert Gayre, ed. *Mankind Quarterly*

Williams: Thank you very much, Dick and I assure you this is a genuine pleasure to have this privilege of introducing this guest today. Our guest today is Dr. Robert Gayre of Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr. Gayre is editor of the *Mankind Quarterly*, published in Edinburgh and it's an international publication. Dr. Gayre is former professor of anthropology and head of the post-graduate program of anthropogeography at the University of Saga (?), India. To attempt to outline all of Dr. Gayre's qualifications in the field of race would take the entire 15 minutes of this program, so I will just have to hit the highlights of his career. During World War II, Dr. Gayre, as a member of the British army, served as educational advisor of the military government of Italy. He served as director of education of the Allied Control Commission of Italy and as such, carried out the de-Nazification of that country. He is editor of numerous publications and textbooks on the subject of anthropology and other treatises on race. He is a recognized authority on all phases of racial problems and I'm very happy to welcome to the United States, a distinguished visitor, Dr. Robert Gayre. Dr. Gayre, we are very happy to have you in the states.

Dr. Gayre: It is a great pleasure to me to be here at this time and to meet all of you and learn something of your problems and if I can, to make some slight contribution towards them.

Morphew: You have toured South Africa...could you compare its racial problems to those in the United States?

Dr. Gayre: Well, primarily, of course, the racial problem is more complex because not only have you Europeans and Negroes, there is Negroes of the Bantu races, but there is

also bushmen and Hottentots and then there are Indians and Pakistanis and in addition to that, the cape colored who are of Malayan and Indonesian origin and crossed with white.

Williams: Dr. Gayre, I believe you have traveled all over Africa, haven't you?

Gayre: Well, in many parts of it.

Williams: And you are well-acquainted, as I understand it, with conditions as they exist particularly in South Africa.

Gayre: Yes, that is so.

Morphew: How is SA seeking to solve its racial problem?

Gayre: South Africa, of course, has had until recently the multi-racial society which inevitably, in my opinion, leads to a caste system and that of course means some form of color bar, but the problem today is being tackled from a different angle of separate development, so that the government is creating areas which it is designating as homelands for the Bantu and no white man or company is allowed to have property, lands or factories in these areas, and the tribes are being encouraged to have their own self-government and build up their own communities and retain their people on the land. And in order to do this and to cope with, at the same time, the big explosion of population on the part of the Bantu, they're carrying out vast irrigation schemes for example in the northern (???) and this, it is hoped, will provide the Bantu with the means of subsistence which they have not got today because of the very rapid increase of population on the part of the natives of SA, apart from the fact that this problem has been made worse by the immigration of thousands of Negroes from other parts of Africa who come in as illegal immigrants in order to enjoy the high standard of living and facilities which are to be obtained in SA.

Morphew: How does that system compare with that in India?

Gayre: Well, the Indians of course, have a caste system and that caste system arose because of the conquest of India by European peoples, the Hindus, who overran the colored peoples and so, to protect themselves, produced a caste system which is virtually the same as a color bar.

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Morphew: We here a lot here about how we should adjust our race relations to please world opinion.

Gayre: I don't think that one should set out to please world opinion because world opinion changes every 10 or 20 years, and if you're going to do that and not be guided by long-term objectives then you're simply going to be like a weather cock and turning around to every change in opinion.

Williams: Doctor, may I ask a question at this point? You are familiar with conditions as they exist in SA and as I understand it, you are familiar with the problems that they have in SA. Has the press reported that objectively, the world press?

Gayre: I would say no. Certainly, as far as the English-speaking press is concerned and the press of the most of the northern countries of Europe, I would say the reporting has been definitely partial and it has not given the credit to the SA government for the great efforts it is undoubtedly making for the welfare of the Bantu.

Williams: May I say that that's one of the problems that we've had to cope with in the South is objective reporting of incidents which occur in the South.

Morphew: U.N. sanctions...are South Africans concerned about that?

Gayre: No. I don't think anybody excepting a very small group are at all. Certainly as far as the majority Africanas are concerned and a large proportion of the English-speaking people, they are quite confident with regard to the future of their country. Their country is largely self-supporting, it is growing more self-supporting every day. Their economy is bounding forward. After all, if you're sitting on a heap of gold and diamonds, you can look any economy anywhere in the face.

Morphew: How do you account for the pressure from the "major white countries" of the world for integration?

Gayre: I think it is simply because they are really bankrupt of any policy. They are taking the easiest line of resistance, that is retreating from a difficult and intransigent problem and buying time and support, they hope, from those who are constantly assailing those white areas where there is a color problem.

Morphew: The British have lately been silent on the racial problem despite their previous judgments, is this because the influx of colored migrants to the British Isles.

Gayre: Well, I think that that is having an effect because it is very easy to be liberal and broadminded when you haven't got the problem on your own doorstep. But with race riots which have occurred at Notting Hill Gate in London and in Birmingham and in Coventry in England, it has shown many people that where you get the 2 colors coming together and where there's not adequate preparation and adequate arrangements to prevent difficulties, the difficulties will arise.

Morphew: Is the British govt. currently considering limiting colored migration?

Gayre: Yes. The colored migration, immigration is definitely limited.

Morphew: As editor of MQ, an international journal about race, does the bulk of the scientific field changing to not favor the mixing of the races?

Gayre: I think it's changing very much. In fact, I don't admit your first statement. I think the bulk of people who are most clement and noisy, favor integration or race mixture, shall we say. But that does not take any notice of the very great body of scientific opinion that remains silent, which if it were asked to express its opinion or allowed to express its opinion, would, I am perfectly certain, make it quite clear that race mixture would only make the problem worse and not better.

Morphew: Why are they remaining silent?

Gayre: Well, I think some are intimidated because where scientists have been bold and spoken boldly, they have received so much abuse of every kind, many feel that it is better to be silent and avoid having to be disturbed from their work in this way.