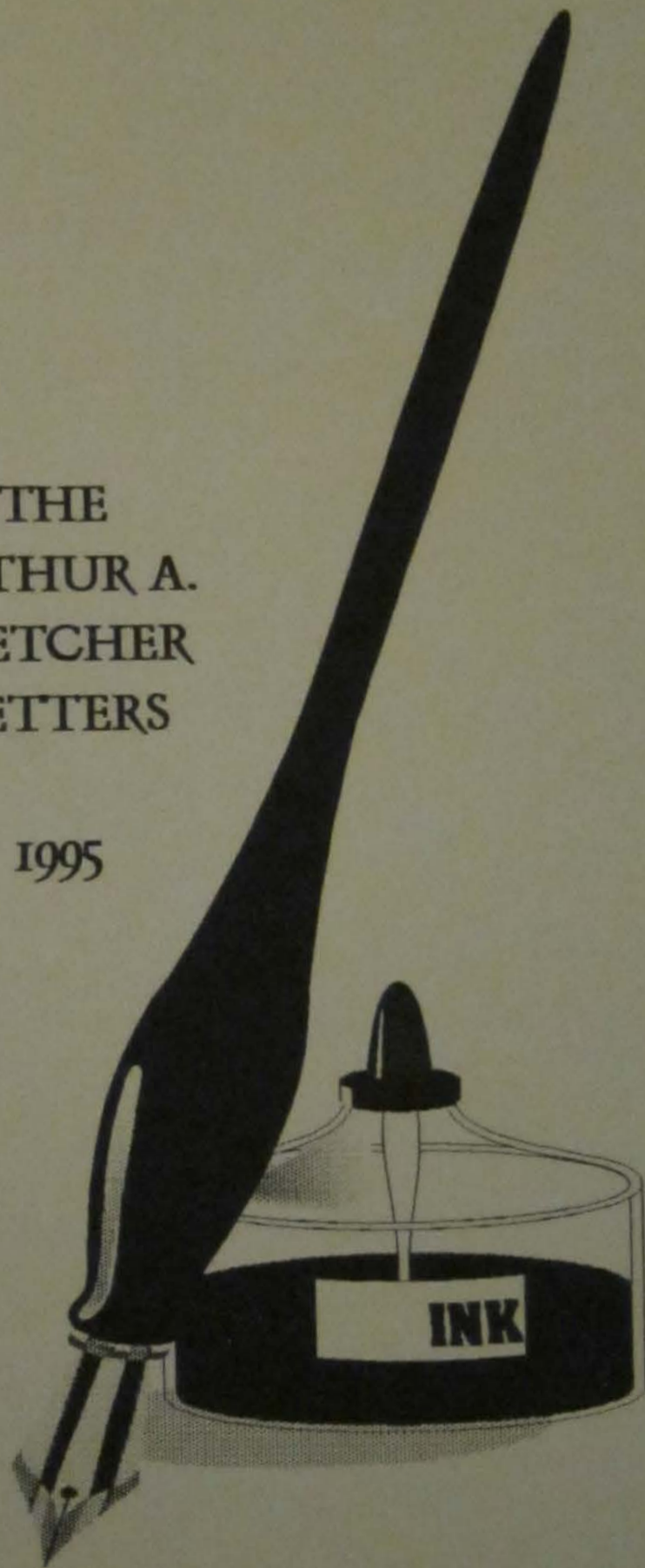


THE
ARTHUR A.
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LETTERS

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History records that Rutherford B. Hayes needed to break a tie in order to become president of the United States. He needed southern votes to accomplish that objective. Therefore, he cut a deal with southern politicians to secure their vote. The agreement was that once he became president he would pull federal troops out of the south, whereupon state's rights were re-established. The consequence was that African Americans would be left at the mercy of the Ku Klux Klan, white supremacist politicians, race-conscious organizations and individuals. For a hundred years after emancipation, former African American slaves were maintained at a level of servitude without the chains.

This decision by opportunistic republican politicians of that era kept America from becoming America and prevented its people from being free. And that is still the situation today. During the five decades that I have been actively engaged in republican party politics, African Americans throughout the south and elsewhere in the country constantly reminded me of what they called the GOP compact with the devil. They viewed it as an agreement that prevented their grandparents and their immediate offspring from becoming full citizens and enjoying everything that America's democracy and its free enterprise culture offers to all of her citizens.

The above compact, some call it treachery, was cited by W.E.B. duBois at the turn of the century as the principle reason he predicted that race would be a debilitating social issue for American society for the entire 20th century. As I write these words during Black History Month 1995, the year 2000 and the 21st century is a mere five years away. As we all know, race is still either at the top or very near the top of the nation's political, economic and social agenda. And it is perceived that certain republican politicians are playing the race card with a vengeance. As African Americans throughout the country watch the republican-led 104th Congress and republican-dominated state houses, county courthouses, and municipal governing bodies take charge of public policy and move to repeal and/or diminish the impact of the mid-20th century civil rights legislative revolution, the following is happening to me. My friends throughout the African American communities, who know of my lifelong affiliation with the republican party, are once again insisting that they are witnessing a Rutherford B. Hayes replay a hundred years after the fact.

They are further convinced that if the current anti-affirmative action process proceeds unabated, they believe that the nation's race problem prediction that applied to the 20th century will apply to the entire 21st century also. Why such prediction? Because they are convinced that the GOP anti-affirmative action advocates have a hidden agenda. They are convinced that their ultimate mission is to repeal or diminish the impact of the voting, education, employment, housing, business opportunity, and public accommodation civil rights statutes. This would nullify the entire mid-20th century civil rights legislative revolution. If they are right, race will indeed be a debilitating issue throughout the 21st century and we will experience an instant replay of the 20th century. Consequently, they have asked me to intervene and see what I can do to stop the pending disaster before it takes on a life of its own and is beyond control. Therefore, the purpose of the attached open letter to Senate majority leader Bob Dole, Speaker Gingrich and the entire GOP congressional delegation is to comply with their request and make such an attempt.