

(Lights up on SARAH and MCCABE. He looks at some drawings and plans for the town.)

MCCABE

The agents are doing a good job. Negroes are showing up in droves.

SARAH

Frederick Douglas has criticized the exodus North because it permits the federal government to forget its responsibility to protect black rights in the South.

MCCABE

Mr. Douglas will have to understand that Negroes are tired of suffering the sting of Southern racists. The Negro wants opportunity now! And he will do whatever it takes to get it.

(MCCABE holding up copy of the Newspaper.)

MCCABE

WITHOUT FEAR, FAVOR OR PREJUDICE, WE ARE FOR THE RIGHT, AND ASK NO QUARTER SAVE JUSTICE.

(Lights fade on MCCABE.)

(Lights up on Esther and Prentis, again in conversation.)

PRENTIS

I understand the idea for Nicodemus came from a white man.

ESTHER

The idea came from wanting to be free.

PRENTIS

I meant to say that the initial FOUNDING was by a white man. W.R. Hill. Oh, You're right. The IDEA would have come from you settlers yourselves. You don't travel halfway across a nation, uprooting everything, unless the idea comes from within. At least, not if I'm any judge of human nature.

Now, as I understand it, Hill communicated his willingness to sell some of his land to some of the black citizens of Topeka. And I guess it was those people who actually did the organizing.

ESTHER

W.R. Hill has never been involved in the government of our town. Our first president of the Nicodemus Town Company is W.H. Smith.