

## No Relief For Mr. Hoover

THE UNfinished business of the 80th Congress was the question of what to do with ex-President Truman. The bill to create the office of Senator-at-Large for all living former Chief Executives. Fortunately, in view of the fact that Mr. Brewster's bill was lost in the final rush to adjourn, the issue isn't very pressing as there is only one living ex-President and that one is Herbert Hoover.

Mr. Hoover, in fact, might be offered as evidence that Congress doesn't need to do anything at all to provide for the future of our Presidents after they leave office. If the Brewster measure had been in force by the time the Great Engineer left the White House in 1933, Mr. Hoover would have had the right to speak on the Senate floor through all these years. He has made himself and his political philosophy sufficiently conspicuous without that kind of special endorsement.

The Hoover performance in retirement carries on a long and proud tradition, established by numerous American ex-Presidents. Mr. Hoover was one of the most useful to the country or irritating to their opponents long after their terms in office ended. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt were some of the outstanding figures in this notable company. Although Mr. Hoover chafed for twelve New Deal years because Franklin D. Roosevelt would not call him to the White House or give him anything to do, he still was able to make himself heard often

enough to remind the voters that he was durable, forceful and willing.

After President Truman gave him a couple of assignments, Mr. Hoover began to assert himself with such vigor that he alarmed some leaders in both parties who were jealous of their influence and prestige. Now his solitary living ex-President is in line to head the commission on modernization of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government and it is rumored that he feels that this will be his last public service. However, that work will take a long time and it is difficult to believe that the Republican Elder Statesman is thinking seriously of a final retirement.

The best case for life pensions, combined with Senate prestige and speaking privileges, for ex-Presidents is made by Harry S. Truman. It has been said that the man from Missouri will leave the White House a poor man and a grateful country should do something to help him financially in his reversion to private life. Moreover, it is hard to imagine Harry Truman taking any advantage of the opportunity to sound off from the Senate floor as a Senator-at-Large or trying to get back into the Presidential office, or doing anything except adding to the geniality of the Capitol scene. However, it is by means certain that Mr. Truman will be in a position to consider a job as an ex-officio Senator after 1948. Beyond all that, he has given ample proof that he can take care of himself and that he will go on a fashion that preserves the dignity of the grand company to which he belongs.

## Gold In The Vineyards

FIFTEEN bonded wineries in the Carolinas will soon be consuming thirty million pounds of fruit—grapes primarily, but also blackberries, raspberries, youngberries, peaches and apples. The scattering of small local canneries will also consume quantities of the same fruits, converting them into jellies and preserves.

This could very well be the beginning of a major new agricultural development in the Carolinas. It is kind of grapes and other fruit in the Carolinas," the Tenner Brothers, Charlotte vineyarders, report. They are even prepared to predict that the two states will eventually rival California in the production of wine.

Increase in peach orchards in the Piedmont.

The great difficulty is that marketing facilities must be established before farmers can hope to reap a harvest of gold from fruit-bearing fields. The Hickory Record recalls a disastrous experiment in raspberry growing undertaken in its area some years ago. The yield was good, the fruit excellent, but lack of facilities for preserving the crop resulted in a glutted market and a collapse of prices. "Disgusted farmers soon turned to other crops, and instead of a bumper crop of raspberries, the Hickory berry business it is difficult for consumers today to find home-grown raspberries on the market," The Record notes.

Agricultural experts estimate that an acre of grapes will yield its crop three times as much cash return as an acre of cotton. This is not all net profit, of course, because fruit crops require intensive cultivation. But the margin of profit is sufficiently higher to interest an increasing number of farmers in fruit growing as a side-line, and to promote the spectacular

Fruit production must still be classified among the potential resources of the region. There is abundant evidence, however, that planning and research may yet make it a major factor in the South's continuing effort to diversify agriculture and create related industries. It is encouraging to note that a major trend in that direction is already underway.

## Lynchings Can Be Prevented

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, official compiler of records on lynching, presents an encouraging picture as a result of its latest study of the crime which since 1882 has taken 4,717 lives. Six out of every seven potential lynchings in the South are being prevented—usually by alert and energetic local enforcement officers.

The record shows that 17 lynchings were prevented in the first six months of 1947, while only one—the case of Willie Earle in South Carolina—resulted in death for the victim. Six Negroes were saved from mob violence in Alabama, one in Georgia and four in Mississippi. North Carolina is also credited with one prevented lynching. In this case the victim saved himself by escaping from a mob which had entered his home from a Northampton County jail.

The prevented lynching, unfortunately, rates only a few lines of local publicity against the thousands of inches devoted to the reporting of those that are carried through to a bloody conclusion. The result is that local peace officers rarely get the credit they deserve for courageously standing against an armed mob and carrying out their sworn duty.

The fact that so many lynchings are

prevented indicates, of course, that the lynch spirit still exists in the South and that the country is a long way from being free of lynchings in Ohio and one each in Kansas and Massachusetts. But the record also indicates that Southerners are no longer willing to blink at the practice.

There was a time when lynch law was so generally condoned that the peace officer who defied it ran the risk of political suicide. It is fair to say now that the trend has been reversed, those officials who passively yield prisoners to mobs, or who fail to take adequate precautions for their protection, are likely to find themselves condemned by their fellow-citizens. Lynching is no longer respectable, but is now generally regarded in its true light—as an act of brutality as indefensible as any it is supposed to punish.

This is progress indeed, even though it may be written down as a partial victory. Public opinion now demands the prevention of lynchings, but it does not yet, as the Greenville trial demonstrated, insist upon punishment of lynchers. Only when our record of convictions equals our record of preventions can we claim that the lawless spirit of mob violence has at last been curbed in the South.

## Another Voice

WHEREAS much is made of the manner in which the poll tax disfranchises large numbers of the Southern states where it still operates, little or nothing is heard from either liberals or conservatives about the way in which the one-party system, which has been hanging like a millstone round the South's political neck all these years, disfranchises in all practical purpose, the whole kit and kaboodle of Southern suffragans.

It works out by simple process of cancellation as illustrated by the nullifying vote of the Southern congressional delegation at the 80th Congress, on the Taft-Hartley Labor Bill showdown.

The liberals amongst the Southern citizenry obviously saw their votes count for naught when Congressmen from below the Mason and Dixon line voted almost to a man for passing the Republican sponsored labor legislation, and further than that, for overriding the President's veto in what was patently the projection of a definite party line with the Democratic planning to ride with labor in the 1948 Presidential race. But the liberals were not alone in

their political ineffectuality. Even as the labor bill test approached Southern leaders of the Democratic persuasion, who were in the White House where they were told of the impending veto and its political meaning and significance. Whereupon they pledged their unwavering support to the renomination and re-election of President Truman in 1948 when he will be standing for and joining other party stalwarts in the hustings to reaffirm his labor bill veto principle and ask undoing of that for which they had sworn to stand.

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Truman wheeled around, the doorman's flushed crimson, and Senator Connally was able to pay his respects to the President.

Who's Who In Congress

NOW that the smoke of Congressional battle has cleared away, it's possible to look back and do a little stinging up as to who did the good jobs and who did the bad ones since Congress took office in January. It has been seen such a bumper crop of freshmen, and the voters who elected them deserve to know how they fared.

So here is the Merry-Go-Round scoreboard on the first terms in the House of Representatives.

James T. Patterson, Connecticut Republican—A 35-year-old



## People's Platform

### "Half Safe" In Militarism

CHARLOTTE  
THE NEWS  
In an editorial, "Senator Taft and Universal Training," you say "valid objections to Universal Training" are logical only when they are advanced as part of an argument for a renewed international effort to build a "peaceful world" governed by law, and not by force.

upon us. However, from present indications we may be asked again to make a choice. In time we will be reviving and reasserting military domination without loss of self-respect.

—LEWIS AYER SMITH.

### Fairest Derby

CHARLOTTE  
THE NEWS  
I would like to congratulate you for having helped put on such a nice Soap Box Derby. It was the fairest soap box race I have ever seen and I think it had certain spontaneous and spontaneous appeal.

Would you please write me about how the boy is getting along that got hurt?

I hope there will be another Derby next year, because I'll be right back trying to win next year in the same car but overhauled for better results.

Give Drew Hearn the winner my congratulations and best wishes.

I think you have the most credit for the success of the Derby.

Friends always.

—BEN KNOX WHITE.

SALISBURY  
THE NEWS  
The only injuries sustained by Derby entries were skinned elbows and shins and complete recovery is reported in each case.—Eds. The News.

### Friends For Mercy

CHARLOTTE  
THE NEWS  
THE NEWS has been such a splendid help to Mercy Hospital that I want to send you my personal words of thanks. Of course The News has always been sympathetic and helpful but I have particular reference here to the support you have given us during our fund raising campaign.

The Sisters of Mercy thank you for the great assistance you have rendered in our efforts to be of still larger service to our people here in Charlotte. The News has made many friends for Mercy and Mercy's work in the community has been a source of usefulness here in Charlotte.

—MOTHER RAPHAEL.

### It Was Old Home Week In The Senate

WASHINGTON  
THE NEWS knew what President Truman said when he walked onto the Senate floor the other day and occupied Leslie Biffie's office just before the President decided to take this unprecedented step.

Once before, on the day of his inauguration, Biffie was in the office of the Democratic Policy Committee had talked Truman out of appearing on the Senate floor. But this time it was Biffie who dared him to do it.

Nothing sensational occurred at the luncheon which preceded the President's nostalgic return to the Senate floor. After some good-natured ribbing, Illinois Senator Lucas asked Truman's red-white-and-blue bow tie with a handkerchief to match, which Kentucky's Barkley said was not as good as his. Biffie dared the President to step across from the private luncheon and take his former Senate seat.

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"Harry! Harry!" shouted Connally as the President walked briskly out the door and down the corridor.

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## Marquis Childs

### Cozy Scandal

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THE huggumbugger of the Congressional wind-up, tempers were sharp and words were aimed. But there is at least one member of Congress who is as happy as a small boy on a Christmas morning.

That is Senator Owen Brewster of rock-ribbed Republican Maine. Senator Brewster, chairman of the War Investigating Committee, has struck pay dirt. It has the glitter of political gold, and the Senator from Maine intends that it shall be as widely advertised as possible.

Brewster looks at the world with a darling suspicion. He is always prepared for the worst, and now he has found a cozy scandal that seems to have everything.

Brewster had dreamed up the idea of the millions of dollars that went into Howard Hughes' super-cargo plane. It could not be better. The cat is out of Hollywood. As in the good old days of the Ziegfeld Follies, the billing is a girl, girls, girls.

Lavish parties were financed, presumably at the cost of the taxpayer. But names are not being disclosed. One mysterious character has gone to Cape Cod, and as far as he can get from the scene of the crime. This is a political gold that pays off in sensational headlines.

Behind the scenes of this lurid drama is a play of forces that has been little noted. Senator Brewster cannot feel sure that the character of the drama plot happens to be the principal stockholder in Trans World Airline. He recently stepped in to investigate a company which faced serious difficulties. Brewster is the champion in the Senate for Pan-American Airways. Pan-American has other friends, but Brewster has persistently and consistently on every occasion taken up Pan-American's cause.

Pan-American Airways has pushed a bill to create a "chosen instrument"—that is a single airline which with the blessing of the United States Government, would

have a monopoly on overseas operation out of this country. The Pan-American argument is that only with such a "chosen instrument" can we successfully meet the challenge of competition from other countries.

The "chosen instrument" theory is bitterly opposed by the other airlines now operating overseas. They are fearful that the "chosen instrument" would eventually be dominated by Pan-American, which is the pioneer in the foreign field, with years of experience back of its overseas operations.

PRESSURES

Behind each side of this argument, powerful pressures have developed in Congress. Now how hard Hughes, one of the chief advocates of competitive lines, just happens to be in the center of the scandal that Brewster is probing.

Let's by all means get at whatever may be wrong in this business. Those found guilty of wrong-doing should be punished, and not merely by the public's scorn.

But the investigation should not be circumscribed by politics, as it seems to be. There have been persistent rumors about Hughes' influence used to determine airline routes. A number of Senators have questioned connections with major airlines. Why not dig into the whole business and see what the facts are?

Too much has been covered up out of the lavish, free-handed spending that went with Government money during the war. We have heard a great deal of talk about the champagne parties given by shipbuilders at ship launchings. Diamond bracelets went to friends of the sponsor of the ship, and the taxpayer footed the bill.

THAT LIST

The Maritime Commission completed its investigation of the record of Hughes' expenditures. The matter has been before Brewster's War Investigating Committee to look down. But nothing has been heard of it.

Senator Brewster should realize that the target is a broad one. He need not be as selective in picking the objects of his investigative skill.

## Samuel Grafton

### Another Paradox

NEW YORK  
TODAY I want to peddle a little paradox if I may, involving our relations with the rest of the world.

There runs across this country now, like a grass fire, the tense whisper that we have started back to the business of conquering the rest of the world is making much louder headlines than it is. Here we were minding our own business, going the saying, and suddenly Europe went hungry and starved and we are being only paying the relief bill directly in the first instance, but that we are also paying a second bill through inflation at home because of the resulting scarcities.

Mr. McDonald is the Body Frank Sinatra Is The Voice and the whole rest of the world is The Mouth.

NO EXPOS

The funny thing is that if you were to walk down Wall Street and see a representative leader of the business community, and our exports, he would turn a delicate shade of green, contrasting admirably with the apple of Trinity Church.

For domestic business is in a state of collapse. The Wall Street Journal reports that extensive vacuum cleaners are being advertised for sale. The vacuum cleaner is no longer being considered a luxury item, but a necessity because prices of sales in department stores is up, but that is because prices are higher, physical volume of sales is down. And while front office happy, it takes high prices to keep the production staff at work.

In this juncture, it is our exports that are in an important degree, keeping the wheels of the world going in this field today, so that it is

hard to make computations but our exports are running from at least fifteen to twenty more billions of dollars than they were a few years ago. Most of this is not relief shipments in the Wall Street Journal. It is estimated that 224 millions of dollars worth of food and over a billion dollars worth of raw materials and the larger part of this did not go to Europe, but to countries in this continent.

So here's our paradox: The rest of the world, which is considered, the helpless slave of our modern smoking cars is to be keeping us up today in holding us up.

ITD POSITION

It is an embarrassing and in some way humiliating position in which to find oneself. For the platform on which the foreign-hating rightists are standing is built upon the rest of the world. It is built upon the rest of the world. If we were suddenly to withdraw, it would find itself completely on its knees.

It is understandably difficult to concede that one of the reasons for the present state of affairs is that the rest of the world is holding us up. This does not mean that we are always being put upon by the rest of the world, but it is one of the characteristics of our civilization that it is a fact, that it is time we smashed this legend which goes back to our baroque colonial days. It is startling to find that it persists so strongly in spite of all circumstantial change, and that it is still a part of our mental racks in putting over the map the rest of the world.

If we aren't nicer to the rest of the world we may lose that position which alone makes it possible for us to be so nice to the rest of the world.

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

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THE NEWS knew what President Truman said when he walked onto the Senate floor the other day and occupied Leslie Biffie's office just before the President decided to take this unprecedented step.

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old ex-Marine officer, courageous, intelligent, doesn't hesitate to buck the leaders when he thinks they're wrong. A-1 rating.

John A. Blatnik, Minnesota Democrat—An ex-major who three times parachuted behind Tito's lines during the war. He is a firm believer in the German. A-1 rating.

Frank Kasten, Missouri Democrat—Learned the Congressional ropes as aide to ex-Congressman Jack Cochran of Missouri. He is a firm believer in the German. A-1 rating.

Jake Davis, New York Republican—Progressive and independent, gets in the leaders' hair but one of the best operators in Congress.

Robert E. Jones, Alabama Democrat—Successor to the House seat of Senator John Sparkman an ex-Navy gunnery officer, and a chip off the old block.

John Davis Lodge, Connecticut Republican—Scholarly, conservative, Harvard, ex-movie actor, brother of Senator Cabot Lodge. Ranks high with House leaders because of his vigorous regular, is frank to admit his political career has been aided by a beautiful Florida-American wife who stomped with him in the 1946 campaign.

George Smathers, Florida Democrat—Lanky, 35-year-old progressive, a Marine Corps hero, and a real corner.

Katharine St. George, New York Republican—This lady has brains and charm and might place if she quit following the lead of her predecessor and political tutor, isolationist Hans Frank.

Carl Albert, Oklahoma Democrat—A 33-year-old Rhodes scholar, who served five tough years in the Army, rising from private to lieutenant colonel. Shows promise in Congress.

Donald Jackson, California Republican, a personable, hard-working, tough-minded, with an intelligent interest in world affairs, though needs more grooming.

John A. Carroll, Colorado Democrat, 46-year-old former Denver district attorney and two-war vet, courageous, far-

sighted, developing into a fine public servant. A-1 rating.

Omar Breuninger, 41-year-old Texas Democrat, has earned the respect of Democratic leaders for his drive and sincerity, though not always for his voting record.

Thurston R. Martin, Kentucky Republican—Hard-working, energetic, fair-minded is accounted a corner by party chiefs.

John Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat and son of the former U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain. Shows the same brilliant mind as his father, though sturdier. Should have a great future.

Glenn R. Davis, Wisconsin Republican, a 32-year-old war vet with nine battle stars, has established himself as a savvy legislator.

Now, let's take a look at the other side of the ledger—the upstart freshmen. Since more war veterans than Democrats were elected to the House in the 1946 Congress, the freshmen are in a disproportionately high number. However, the Democrats have at John Bell Williams of Mississippi, a 36-year-old, 26-year-old, 64-year-old former president of the Dallas Bar Association.

Chief Republican aspirant to the "dud" freshman class is Charles K. Fletcher of San Diego, who has won distinction as representing the real estate office much more than the 23rd district of California. Other Republicans in the dud class are:

Edward Jenkins, Thomas Owens and Richard Vail, all of Illinois; Bruce Briggs of Delaware; John Barnhart of Idaho; William M. McFadden of Kentucky; Edward T. Miller of Maryland; Burke Baker and Albert Reeves, both of Mississippi; and George W. Brown, Jr., of Tennessee. Republican McGowan and George Sarbacher, all of Pennsylvania.

Unless these boys perk up and get wise to things, the sooner they are retired to the sidelines the better.

(Note—Another Drew Pearson column evaluating freshmen Senators will follow soon.)