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Columbia Incident Holds Fire

AL indications are that the incident in Columbia this week, in which a band of 200 or more persons drove off a group of white students who were living in a Negro home, has already been closed and will be speedily forgotten. Despite the haste to bury it, this most recent evidence of racial tension in North Carolina is more significant, we think, than the abortive traffic incident in the attempted lynching at Rich Square.

Columbia's resort to mob tactics ended an experiment that was being made by members of the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen, who had gone to this Tyrrell County town to organize a co-operative store for Negroes. The manner in which they were routed strikes at the roots of the racial problem in the South; that is, whether mixed social intercourse is to follow in the wake of advance economic and educational opportunity for the Negro, or whether old racial prejudices and social customs are being aroused to make extension of that opportunity increasingly difficult, if not impossible.

While most Tar Heels were shamed at the discrimination of the Ahokwe Kiwanians and at the outbreak of mob passion in Rich Square, it appears that few will condemn the motives of the white citizens who forced the Fellowship group to abandon their work for racial equality. Sheriff Ray Cochran doubtless expresses the Tyrrell attitude when he says that he doesn't "know" of any previous racial trouble in the county. But I know people here don't think much of it. Chief of Police J. L. Poston defines

the lawless character of the Columbia demonstration when he says: "It's a good thing the students left. There might have been violence which could not have been prevented."

The Columbia case presents the other side of the race relations picture that was viewed by Henry Wallace on his recent visit to Raleigh. Describing his reception in North Carolina's Capitol, he wrote in the New Republic:

The Raleigh meeting itself was one of the most interesting of the entire trip. When the Committee for the Un-American Activities, headed by Dr. Lee Sheppard, had rented the auditorium, a question was raised about observing the temporary segregated seating arrangements for Negroes. Dr. Sheppard, a Christian clergyman, had insisted that his committee should be free to arrange the seating as it saw fit. His view was upheld by the City Commission, with 2,700 paid admissions, was further evidence to me that those sincere Southern liberals who believe it is necessary to maintain certain un-democratic "traditions" for political effectiveness, are grossly mistaken.

As the matter now stands, Tyrrell County has delivered its ultimatum to Mr. Wallace and zealous liberals like him. The case should therefore serve to warn those genuinely interested in the Negro to restrict their immediate goals for his improvement to projects which demand public opinion in this region will condone, and movement to extend those goals beyond that point at the present time will only endanger the ultimate success of a moderate program.

Pushing Britain Toward Abyss

REPORTS from London that Prime Minister Attlee intends to resign his post as soon as the British-American loan agreement talks have passed their most critical stage will heighten American concern over the British situation. Since the report comes from the *Daily Mail*, a leading voice in the Conservative opposition to the Labor Party, it may be suspected of a political motivation.

Although the *Daily Mail* attributes Mr. Attlee's alleged intention to quit to "de-tearing" health, the newspaper underestimates the present unrest within the Labor Party and the possibility of a rebellion which would be rebels of the past three weeks" who have been agitating for radical measures than Attlee is prepared to take. The "Intimations" are prepared to take. The "Intimations" are prepared to take. The "Intimations" are prepared to take.

Clearly, the *Daily Mail's* rumor can have but one effect in this country, and that is to raise fears that the Left still is gaining strength in England, which will harden resistance to pleas for more aid to the present British crisis. Such a result would gravely worsen the outlook for Britain.

Keeping Elliott Down On The Farm

ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT, whose role in the recent Hughes sidestep prompted the *International Comic*, has decided to retire from the well-trod stage on which he capered for some years. Elliott and his mother are settling down to transform the Hyde Park estate into a normal country home, but not as gentlemen farmers, since he says "We couldn't afford that."

Although Brother John once succeeded in stealing the limelight when he carressed a French mayor with a champagne bottle, Elliott has long been identified in the public mind as the most reckless of the Roosevelt boys. Perhaps he now realizes that the most satisfactory method for staying out of the headlines is to obscure himself in the wide of Dutchess County, away from the bright lights of Broadway and the "key-hole" window of the Main Stem who have chronicled his carefree life.

Elliott will doubtless find that his compatriots along the Hudson exude less jealousy than his boy companions in cafe

society, but the cows, chickens, and pigs may prove more of a nuisance. Those who have consistently sought to use his name and friendship for personal advantage. At any rate, Elliott will damage the Roosevelt reputation less in the barnyard than in the stock club. There is little political ammunition in a picture of young Mr. Roosevelt serenely milking Old Bossy, an operation which would require an early bedtime, thereby rendering less tempting the pitfalls of Manhattan night life.

For this reason, we suspect that the Sleepy Hollow country will be less peaceful than Elliott anticipates. The Republican who has a justifiably high regard for his usefulness as political cannon fodder, can be expected to shatter the pastoral quietude with walls of anguish from as far west as California. The Democrats, who have been campaigning no less anxiously, will mingle with their loud sighs of relief a few nostalgic and plaintive strains of "How We Gonna Keep Him Down on the Farm?"

Another Voice

Exports As A Business Factor

IN HIS Mid-year Economic Report, the President gave considerable emphasis to the importance of exports in the high level of economic activity attained in the first half of 1947. About three-fourths of the increase in gross national product in this period was attributed to the expanding volume of exports. At the same time, the President warned that "it is quite unlikely that the high levels of economic activity will be maintained during the past six months will be maintained." This warning has created concern in some quarters that the anticipated decline in exports will have significant adverse effects upon the level of business activity.

Some reassurance on this point is found in statistics showing the composition of the increase in exports presented in the July 1947 report of Current Business, published by the United States Department of Commerce. During the first four months of this year manufactured

goods accounted for 80 per cent of the increase in exports. Among the groups showing the largest gains were autos, accessories and parts, 197 per cent; textile manufactures, 106 per cent; rubber products, 86 per cent; iron and steel mill products, 84 per cent, and machinery, 81 per cent. An examination of this list shows that in most instances these are products for which large stocks are available in this country. It is not improbable, therefore, that the anticipated decline in exports will mean a shift of these products to the domestic market rather than a sharp downturn in business.

—New York Times.

In Russia a great hunt for minerals is on for peaceful purposes, of course. Over here, our geologists, while looking for stones to build a rock garden, have found uranium.



Waxhaw Jitterbugs

Back To Piedmont Savagery

By TOM LYNCH
Charlotte News Staff Writer

EACH night of the week the nation's smoke-filled dance halls tremble and groan under the pleasuring weight of jitterbugging. Through the temporary insanity attending that barbaric carnality called "jitterbugging."

That any vestige of civilization remains in the frenzied antics of these teen-age wild dancers is a wholly unfounded contention. If these same creatures were transported backwards through time, stripped of a few wisps of clothing, dashed with brown stain, and arranged about the camp fire in the primal forests of the State, there would be few who could guess that they were not savage Indians but rather the products of a great and noble culture.

Whereas, it cannot be justly said that the five-ohsessed "cats" of today are wholly responsible for their actions, dancing of one sort or another has been going on for so long that there is really no just place where it started. Some sources, particularly anti-Baptist, claim that dancing as an art originated with the early Egyptians.

To say that dancing is an art is misleading because obviously only certain types of refined dances involve any semblance of artistic talent. The prerequisite for the type of dancing popular now is endurance, not grace. In fact, the very nature of the country's youth are simply a manifestation of pagan rituals and pagan passion, which the participants are unable to contain once the orgy has begun.

A COMPARABLE savagery existed among the native inhabitants of Piedmont North Carolina, as is clearly apparent in some of the writings of John Lawson, an English gentleman who recorded many of his observations of Indian behavior during his travels through the Piedmont region about 1700.

When the scrawny bound-dogs, spindly maintained by their Indian masters, scampered eagerly for safety when their keepers launched upon a dance. Here is the way Lawson described a festival held in the State-House of the chief of the Waxhaws:

"After the dogs had fled the room, the company was surrounded by beat of drum; presently in came the men dressed up with feathers, their faces being covered with viands made of gourds; round their ankles and knees were hung bells of several sorts; in this dress they danced about an hour, showing many strange postures and grimaces. When the women entered they were dressed in the same manner; sometimes walking very nimbly round the room without making the least noise with their bells, and turning their bodies, arms, and legs into such frightful postures that you would have guessed they had been quite raving mad. At last they cut two or three high capers and left the room."

After the male dance was concluded, the orchestra, consisting of an old man and a young woman who rode a ground containing kernels of corn, took a slight break. "In their stead," Lawson wrote, "they were brought in a group of boys and girls, to the number of thirty odd, every one taking place according to her degree of stature, the tallest leading the dance and the least of all being placed

last. This female gang held their dance for about six hours being all of them of a white lather, like a running horse that has just come in from the race.

When the dancing was over every young buck in the house caught the girl he liked best and took in her his partner for the night, a practice which was conducive to short courtships and expeditious weddings. How this smacks of modernism!

It always put the devil in the Indians and stimulated their dancing to fantastic tempo and grotesque contortions, just as it does in many present times. Though some of the tanked-up dancers of today sometimes slip on the waxed floors and land in their backyards, the restraint for their indiscretions is seldom of a serious nature. The Indians air dance halls were often equipped with many mirrors so that the dancers could see their own reflections in the flames, burning their legs or arms, constricting the stews and becoming crippled all their limbs, often fall from precipices and break their bones and joints."

Though not admiring the Indians for their pagan dances, Lawson could help but comment on their amazing stamina. He wrote, "As for their dancing, they were masters of that profession among men as there was no other. They would dance for hours, and for these creatures take the most pains at it that men are able to endure. I have seen thirty or more of them, and every one dropped down with sweat, as if water had been poured down their backs. They used their hard labors to make them able to endure fatigue and improve their wind."

This description might be very applicable to some of the modern "dances" which are so popular in this country. There was another type of dancing practiced by the Indians which, fortunately, has not been picked up by the jitterbugs. The red-skinned warriors used to gather up their enemies for a little sport at their expense. One such occasion was when the Indians would dance for a while, and a feast appointed, which is solemnly kept at the time of their action. The jitterbug, on the other hand, is a great fire, till his legs fail, and disables him from making any further pastime. Most commonly these wretches behave themselves in a very unbecoming manner, and esteem it satisfaction enough to be assured that some fate will befall some of their tormentors, whenever they fall into the hands of their nation."

When the Indians' bellicose spirits were really running high and there were fights, the reds were very bloody and terrible, the reds were very bloody and terrible, the reds were very bloody and terrible. Because of the fact that the jitterbug is a great fire, till his legs fail, and disables him from making any further pastime. Most commonly these wretches behave themselves in a very unbecoming manner, and esteem it satisfaction enough to be assured that some fate will befall some of their tormentors, whenever they fall into the hands of their nation."

Indian dances were pagan, indeed, but whether they were any more so than those perpetuated by modern dance hall habits is a moot point.

Drew Pearson: Griswold learns About Greek Government

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
(For Drew Pearson)

WASHINGTON

FORMER Nebraska Governor Dwight Griswold didn't have long to wait to learn he has a man-sized job on his hands coping with the ultra-reactionary Greek Government by ministering the Truman doctrine.

It's still an official secret, but several days after Griswold arrived in Athens, the State Department informed him that the country's food reserves were completely exhausted.

Since a "crisis," obviously, could be due only to two causes: Gross incompetence and carelessness, or deliberate pressure tactics. Confidential diplomatic dispatches indicate that the latter was the case. The State Department, at the bottom of the affair. After a hurried check-up, Griswold established that the Greek Government was not lying. The situation was ominous. The U. S. was now officially in Greece. If food ran out, the repercussions could be catastrophic not only in Greece but throughout all of Europe.

But Communists would be able to scream their favorite refrain about the "folly of trusting democrats."

Griswold acted fast and decisively. And, for once, so did the State Department. Upon his telephone demand for an immediate emergency food shipment, State officials rushed to the War Department, which, in turn, directed two shiploads of flour en route to Germany. The ships, on the high seas with 20,000 tons of flour, were wirelessly to change their course and rush to Greece.

Thanks to this fortuitous improvisation, the ominous crisis was averted. It is hard to believe the character of the Greek Government fear it won't be long before other, and perhaps worse, "hot potatoes" pop up.

NOTE: Griswold's date in Athens was August 19, 1947. His deputy, Roy Cochran, is another former Governor, and other assistants are Dr. William Snyder, ex-State veterinarian, Kenneth Kelly, ex-crank politician, reporter, and Arthur Dobson, successful Lincoln contractor.

The Jittery Ruble

This is another of Paul W. Ward's articles on the Soviet Union, reprinted from *The Baltimore Sun*.

BY PAUL W. WARD

ALTHOUGH the Soviet Government exerts a watertight control over all aspects of Russia's economy, it has been unable to impart reality to its currency; the ruble. One of the surprises that awaits the foreign visitor to the Soviet Union is the discovery that, by least one test, the ruble is more stable than the French franc, the British pound, or even the Greek drachma. The ruble is more stable than the French franc, the British pound, or even the Greek drachma. The ruble is more stable than the French franc, the British pound, or even the Greek drachma.

A dollar will buy at least 30 rubles on the black market, for example, where the official rate of exchange is a fraction over five rubles to the dollar. In neighboring countries Soviet soldiers gladly part with 40 to 60 rubles for a dollar. Thus the black market price of the ruble ranges from six to twelve times its official value.

The franc, on the other hand, seldom sells above two and a half to three times its official price; and the pound rarely can be bought. Europe's black markets at much less than 60 per cent of its official exchange value in terms of dollars.

There is about the same relationship between the official and the black market value of the ruble as there is between the official and the black market value of the pound. The ruble is 100% exchangeable at 100% of its official value, but only for 6,000 to 7,500 and sometimes 8,000.

DIPLOMATIC RATE

The Soviet Government refused to accept France and made the French delegation to the recent conference in Moscow pay in dollars. At the same time it tacitly recognized that the official exchange rate of 13 rubles to the dollar — bears no relation to reality. It bears the dollars of the dollar as well as the official delegations at 13 rubles to the dollar.

That is the so-called "diplomatic" rate accorded to all members of the diplomatic corps and to foreign correspondents living in Moscow. It puts the value of the ruble down from the "official" one of 13 rubles to the dollar to 13 rubles to the dollar. It puts the value of the ruble down from the "official" one of 13 rubles to the dollar to 13 rubles to the dollar.

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Marquis Childs

Americans In Europe

WASHINGTON

WHEN this country, I shall be in Europe. When this country, I shall be in Europe. When this country, I shall be in Europe.

Primarily I shall try to report on what Americans are doing in Europe—first in our occupation in Germany and Austria, and then in the work of relief and rehabilitation in Greece, Italy and Western Europe. I shall try to report on what Americans are doing in Europe—first in our occupation in Germany and Austria, and then in the work of relief and rehabilitation in Greece, Italy and Western Europe.

We talk a lot about our role in the world, but we don't talk much about the role of the American citizen in the world. We talk a lot about our role in the world, but we don't talk much about the role of the American citizen in the world. We talk a lot about our role in the world, but we don't talk much about the role of the American citizen in the world.

DO WE HAVE IT?

But what about our capacity? Do we have the ability to do the job? But what about our capacity? Do we have the ability to do the job? But what about our capacity? Do we have the ability to do the job?

ACCENT ON U. S.

The columns I write from Europe will also deal with European political and economic trends. But the effort will be to keep the focus on the United States and its role in the world. The columns I write from Europe will also deal with European political and economic trends. But the effort will be to keep the focus on the United States and its role in the world.

American Fair Bureau

ALAN KLINE, abate, popular head of the Iowa Fair Bureau, has been elected to the position of president of the National Fair Bureau organization.

Settlement is strong among Midwest FEPs, which are backing Kline, for modification of the organization's stand for Government support for high farm prices. But Southern FEPs, who are cotton growers, are right and are backing Kline, for modification of the organization's stand for Government support for high farm prices. But Southern FEPs, who are cotton growers, are right and are backing Kline, for modification of the organization's stand for Government support for high farm prices.

Our Fair City

NOTE: On another occasion, the Lieutenant governor was lunched out to a group of politicians and reporters at the Boston City Club. They were handed menus presenting to them a list of names of the guests. The list was: "Before his guests could start ordering, Coolidge broke in with 'Wait, I'll have the Luncheon Society.' The Luncheon Society cost 10 cents."

Other interests maintain their control on urban centers. These forces violently oppose every effort to liberate our cities from the grip of the urban bosses.

In an effort to drive this point home, one of the country's great newspaper publishers, Mr. C. M. Cox, former governor of Ohio, 1920 Democratic Presidential candidate, and owner of outstanding newspapers in Dayton, Ohio, Atlanta, Ga., and Miami, Fla., has written a book, "The Urban Problem."

Note: S. Stanwood Vinken, head 77-year-old Wall Street attorney and Mexican reform campaigner, has been elected to the position of president of the Urban conference of municipal leaders to formulate a nationwide drive for better city government.

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