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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1953

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS IN THE WHITE CASE

FINALLY, facts should be forthcoming in the Harry Dexter White case. To-night former President Truman will tell his side of the story to a nationwide television audience. Tomorrow, Attorney General Brownell will elaborate his charge against Mr. Truman before a Senate committee. After these two principals have spoken, a better evaluation of the case may be possible.

Some of the fast-moving developments in this case have been repugnant to American concepts of justice and fair play. The attorney general implied that the former President abetted Russia. He did not document his charge. He did not demand it until President Eisenhower said it was inconceivable that Mr. Truman would knowingly injure the interests of the United States.

A HAPPY ENDING TO ASTIN STORY

ON March 31, 1953, Dr. Allen V. Astin was fired as head of the important National Bureau of Standards by Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks. Mr. Weeks said he had fired Astin "efficiently and objectively" in its tests of an additive with the trade name of AD-X2, which the manufacturer claimed would rejuvenate worn-out but mechanically sound storage batteries of the type used in automobiles.

On Aug. 21, Dr. Astin was permanently reinstated in his post. At that time Secretary Weeks said he had fired Astin and had made Astin a "member of my team" in the "best interest of the Bureau and the public."

AN ABSURD EXAMPLE, BUT TO THE POINT

At the risk of belaboring a simple topic, I will turn once again to a growing trend in this country to argue by epitaph to label adversaries instead of convincing them, to substitute emotion for reason and logic.

One of the most striking examples to come across the desk recently was a letter published in the Winston-Salem Carolina Daily Tar Heel on Nov. 11. The letter writer took exception to an editorial in the Tar Heel, advocating the abolition of big time sports at the University. Instead of arguing the question, the writer called the editor an "old fogey," and "probably the 'mama's boy' type of person who doesn't have enough energy to do two consecutive push-ups—a non-sequitur that still has us puzzled. Then came the clincher:

CITY RECORDER EXPLAINS HIS DECISION

IN HIS detailed statement in Friday's News, City Recorder J. C. Sedberry explained the logical punishment he gave two defendants in the recent case involving the sale of barbitalates to a high school student.

- 1. No narcotic drugs were involved.
2. There was no evidence of any "dope ring" operating in Charlotte.
3. Both defendants were very poor, and higher fines would not have been collectible.

Under North Carolina law, as explained by Judge Sedberry, the sale of selling the barbitalates is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$25. A second charge, conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor, was also lodged against the two defendants. Although some judges hold that a conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor is punishable by imprisonment up to two years, Judge Sedberry says he doesn't believe that conspiracy to commit a crime ought to carry a heavier penalty than the original crime.

But there remains an inconsistency. At one point, the Recorder implies, at least, that Section 90-82 of the General Statutes should be rewritten to provide deterrent penalties. Yet he did not use the maximum punishment allowed by the law.

charge seemed to be timed so as to affect the congressional election in California.

If the facts unfold during the next 24 hours they should be weighed against the original charge by Mr. Brownell.

(1) "Harry Dexter White was a Russian spy," and

(2) That Mr. Truman knew this when he nominated White as executive director of the International Monetary Fund.

If the evidence does not support these charges, the case falls. If it does support the charges, then the question to be answered is: Why did Truman appoint him? Was it because of loyalty? Or because of White's status as a pro-Communist official? Or because FBI Director Hoover preferred that White should stay in the relatively non-sensitive Monetary Fund job, where he could be observed?

Another aspect of Brownell's charge has received entirely too little attention. It was that the FBI became aware of White's espionage early in his government career, which began in 1934—11 years before Mr. Truman entered the White House—and "from the beginning made reports on these activities to the appropriate officials in authority." What did these reports say? To whom did they go? What action was taken on them?

There are some of the questions that would best be answered as the White case enters what we hope will be the factual stage.

Column About Ava Resented

LETTERS should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication at the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Charlotte, N.C.
THERE are a great many people here in Charlotte from the vicinity of Smithfield just 20 miles south of Raleigh who resent the article by one Robert Ruark which appeared on the Thursday, Nov. 11 issue's editorial page and concerned Ava Gardner, formerly of Smithfield.

It was resented not so much for Miss Gardner's sake as for the proper regard for the good people who surround the rocks and beach that area. I believe you have done or permitted to be done a grave injustice to those people, by permitting publication of such an article as this. I am sure that just amendments can be made. I am sending the article to The Smithfield Herald.

C. C. MASSEY

Proud To Be A Tar Heel

LETTERS should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication at the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Charlotte, N.C.
I was highly pleased to read your editorial reprint from the Winston-Salem Journal—"Harry Golden, Tar Heel." This reprint in my own home town of Athens, Ga. is a source of pride to me.

Of course there is no other answer. And there has been no movement so far as the answer of So-called all these 2500 years. Essentially, a man is what other men call him. This in answer to my question whether it was Tar Heel, I am happy to go by the words of the Winston-Salem Journal, The Bertie County Ledger Advance and the Raleigh News and Observer that I am, in truth and fact, a Tar Heel—a designation which I prize above all others.

HARRY L. GOLDEN, Editor

Graham Street's Hazards

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

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Washington, D.C.
HERE is some of the backstage play in Republican and Democratic circles about the dismantlement subject of Harry Dexter White.

First, in Democratic circles: Harry B. Truman originally planned to honor the subpoena signed on him by House Un-American Activities Committee chairman Velde, later changed his mind.

'I Think The Battery Is Dead'



People's Platform

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Capable Frenchmen Doing A Vital Job In Indo-China

By JOSEPH ALSOP

IT DOES NOT TAKE too long to learn that the remnants of the French face of the fortress of Bak Ninh conceals a thoroughly businesslike operation. The French are doing a vital job in Indo-China.

The primary importance of the clean up job that such men as Col. DeLaur and Governor Tien are now proudly and rather successfully carrying on, is only one of the surprises one meets with and feels difficult to believe that the same society can produce such very different results.

There is nothing like a nice night operation in company strength to bring back live Viet and leave dead ones behind. That's what you'd really enjoy.

It did not sound especially enjoyable but I did not give a few hours later, in the stary darkness of the early morning, there was a Viet Minh attack on a neighboring village.

There are no complaints. There is endless unflinching courage upon going into battle wearing an almost too dazzling brand, for almost all the officers insist upon going into battle wearing the same uniform.

The diversity of human flavors is perhaps less important than the points of resemblance. The French soldiers in Indo-China are all the same.

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He May Find His 'Umbrella' Won't Cover All Republicans

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON
IF BY any chance his former trade commission should reconvene in government, Harry Byrd would find that those Republicans who consistently want higher ones.

In short, he may find his umbrella won't cover all Republicans. President Truman had the same trouble with his Democrats.

The time is rapidly approaching when he must make recommendations to the House and Senate members of Congress have been called to the White House Dec. 10-12 to discuss the program.

By the end of 1954, Eisenhower will have been president almost two years, which should be long enough for any administration to show what it can do.

Quote, Unquote

There is considerable disagreement among big men in Washington as to whether Russia has had a "cold war" or not. So the government can't make its mind up to or not. It's never clear.

Republican Maneuvering

REPUBLICAN backstage play regarding the House Un-American Activities Committee is being revealed by the political floor of the House.

But in Chicago he made a speech about the economy. He personally stressed the importance of the economy. He was talking to weed them out. This got a terrific hand. He repeated the speech in the House.

When he got back to Washington Congressman Simpson reported to Chairman Byrd that the committee was being reorganized. Attorney General Brownell and Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, Comptroller of the Currency Boardman, were the only big issue that stirred the nation.

That was the essence of the Brownell revision. Harry White. The matter was definitely cleared with the White House and the President himself knew the facts. He was also informed that a certain understanding would be worked out with Senator McClellan. The matter will be described as a subsequent column.

Truman Ready To Blast Jimmie Byrnes

BYRNES' resignation as Secretary of State for a very obvious reason.

Byrnes let His Story
IT concerned Harry White. About five pages were devoted to his resignation.

Hoover Approved
BYRNES was out of Washington from Jan. 7 to Jan. 23, 1946, but was back in the capital from Feb. 2 to Feb. 6. It was on Feb. 5 that he was invited to the White House calling Truman's attention to White.

Truman plans to point up Byrnes' receipt of this information and the fact that he permitted His to remain in the State Department for three months.

Byrnes' appointment calendar shows that he had ample opportunity to talk to Truman about this. He was in Washington from Dec. 12, 1945, and the FBI report on His. White, et al, was received on Dec. 5. Byrnes was absent in Moscow from Dec. 12 to Dec. 29, but remained in Washington from Dec. 29 to Jan. 7 during which time he did not tell Truman anything about either His or White.

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