

Georgia Backs Into A Narrow Corner

THE White Primary bill written by Boss R. Roy Harris (who holds no office in Georgia), sponsored by Governor Herman Talmadge, and accepted by Governor M. E. Thompson, has passed the Georgia House of Representatives and will soon be in law. In accordance with the legal fiction established first in South Carolina, it will divorce the Democratic Party from the Government of Georgia, reestablishing as a "trust" of the State the right to State electoral law. The "club" will thus be empowered to establish any standards it chooses for membership, and can bar all but qualified members from participation in the Democratic primary. Negroes will not be granted membership. Negroes will be first-rate lawyers in both South Carolina and Georgia have examined this legal device and pronounced it as "the most unscrupulous and the most unscrupulous in the Federal Courts, where it will run head-on into recent Supreme Court rulings holding that the Democratic primary in a one-party State is in fact a State election. Holding it to be a State election, the Federal Constitution. Those restrictions are clear enough: "The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude..." When the legal test finally comes—as it certainly will come—it seems to us that the party of the White Primary is going to be hard pressed to defend it. No matter what legal technicalities they seize upon, the Court will come finally to the question of intent. The Legislators of the South Carolina and Georgia are little doubt that the sole purpose of their jurisdictional gambit is to abridge the right of certain citizens to vote because of their race and color.

day that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution also sets forth a method of enforcing its suffrage provisions: "When qualified persons have been denied of the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, the representation of the State in question shall be reduced in proportion to the number so disqualified." If Georgia goes through with her scheme to disfranchise the Negro, her citizens, her Congressional delegation could, according to *The Tribune's* calculation, be reduced from ten House members to six or seven, with a corresponding reduction in her electoral vote. *The Tribune's* conclusion is that the Republican majority in Congress to correct this injustice in the manner provided in the Constitution itself. If Georgia or any other State withholds the franchise for reason of color, Georgia can be made to pay the price of a reduction of her strength in Congress and the electoral college. The choice will then be hers to make.



ON THE UNLAWFUL PART.

What Sort Of Pace-Setting Is This?

THE statisticians of the University of North Carolina have plunged intrepidly into the jungle of statistics surrounding the teachers' pay controversy and come forth with a set of figures that throw new light on the problem. There has been a general assumption all along that the teachers, on the whole, have been doing about as well as other state employees. This, apparently, was the basis of Governor Cherry's recommendation that any adjustment in the pay scale include all State employees and that the percentage increase should be in accordance with their average per capita income. But the average for non-school public employees (state and municipal) during the same period was \$115.28, which ranked North Carolina 42nd in the nation, far above her Southern neighbors. The average for non-school State employees was \$128 and our rank was 31st in the nation, still far above the prevailing average rate. The average pay for school employees was only \$90.23, and our rank was 46th among the States.

In most of the debate over teachers pay increases the higher wage scales prevailing in private industry have been blamed for the great exodus of trained teachers. But these figures point up the fact that a glaring differential exists in the State payroll itself. While we have outdistanced the other Southern States in pay for clerks, highway workers, court janitors, etc., we have been sliding down the scale in teachers pay until we now have only Georgia and Arkansas to be thankful for.

People's Platform

Safety In The Air

NEW YORK—Insured charges to become effective in March 1947, increase the maximum available to \$25,000, in multiple amounts of \$5,000 and the cost is reduced to \$25 for each \$1,000 for trips up to and including 30 days. Further, coverage has been increased to include round trips as well as one-way trips.

Hotel Safety

CHESTER, S. C.—When guests pay their money to hotels they are due the highest degree of protection and care. Not only from the hotel management but from private companies and city fire departments. It is criminal negligence and mass murder, when guests are trapped in hotels and burned to death or injured by fire. Legislation should be enacted, nationwide in scope, and enforcement by severe penalties when every law and regulation is not carried out.

WASHINGTON—The portal-to-portal pay issue has focused attention on the curious role of the Federal courts in the matter. Nothing has been done in a long time that has been done by the Supreme Court, can jeopardize our entire economy.

Freedom Of Thought

WASHINGTON—THE THREAT of the un-American Activities to investigate Communism, etc., is a serious one. It is in and in wherever else it can in its name is disturbing. Although the committee at the door of the House is no longer with it, and after a long period of inactivity, it speaks for the majority, the acquisition by a Federal committee of the power of the charismatics, is not good.

For Those Who Kept Notes

WHEN a public figure dies without leaving any personal record of his career the historians are inclined to damn him or her short-sighted. When a public figure attempts to make the historian's job easy by recording his day-to-day reaction to the events in which he had a part he is likely to be damned, as Franklin Roosevelt was, as an egomaniac.

There is, of course, a fine technical point or two involved in this. Since Messrs. Ickes and Morgenthau are not on the Government's time, and probably used Government stenographers, typewriters, and paper in the process, the United States would seem to have a legal claim to their output. A suspicion arises, however, that the matter would never have come up at all if Messrs. Morgenthau and Ickes hadn't seen fit to publish certain passages of their memoirs which turned out to be embarrassing to the Government.

Dr w Pearson's Truman Defends Vets' Housing Program

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT TRUMAN still doesn't seem to realize that the housing program for returning veterans, which he pushed Wilson Wyatt to the sidelines. In fact he became quite provoked at American Veterans Committee secretary Charles B. Wolfe last week when the question of housing came up.

Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON—Both men agreed that a Federal job that the construction of additional dams and booster networks was too big and costly for private industry. However, they also agreed that power trust opposition in Congress would make the tumultuous battle over the TVA look like a child's show.

Another Voice

FROM Conover comes the account of the amazing versatility of the F. Biggers hound. Besides being a splendid watchdog and an efficient rat killer—we dastardly it chases rabbits too—this hound turns a family into a musical instrument.

Musical Tar Heel Hounds

would be to whistle for Rover when one is about to enter a square dance or an accompaniment for a fiddle.

Will TVA Light Brooklyn?

SENATOR Warren Magnuson of Washington made a startling prediction to President Truman during an earlier record house conference last week when he indicated that the power from the Tennessee Valley might be used in Washington, Philadelphia or New York.

Pappy O'Daniel Says No

IT may never happen again but almost complete unity was achieved by Senate Democrats when the Senate voted on the creation of the special War Investigating Committee. Of the 42 Democrats, only one, Pappy O'Daniel, was the lone maverick.