THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher | J. E. DOWD, General Manager | HARRY S. ASHMORE, Associate Editor

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The Value Of Academic Freedom

IT IS disheartening to find so able a North Carolinian as John W. Clark of Greensboro demanding that the University of North Carolina reject a $30,000 donation from the Rosenwald Foundation because the Foundation "is using its money to encourage equality among the races." And it is even more disheartening to find Mr. Clark proceeding from that untenable position to an attack on the press of the state which included an inferential defense of the racial doctrines of Eugene Talmadge and Theodore Bilbo.

It is clear that Mr. Clark sees Talmadge and Bilbo only as great crusaders in the cause of white supremacy. And the North Carolina press, in universally condemning these pipsqueak politicians as personally corrupt, mentally twisted menaces to law and order, Mr. Clark charges, is guilty of "failure to give the true facts about the Talmadge and Bilbo troubles."

Well, Mr. Clark is entitled to his opinion, and he has a right to express it. And he has a right to attack Frank Graham and Guy B. Johnson, as he did. But it seems to us he also has an obligation to support his charges with facts. And, from this distance, reading a perhaps incomplete newspaper report of his remarks, it appears to us that Mr. Clark has let his devotion to the cause of white supremacy run away with his emotions.

In reply to his specific indictment of the Rosenwald Foundation, Frank Graham has replied: "Neither the Rosenwald Foundation nor any other foundation has tried to interfere with the freedom of the University, or to use the University for any propaganda purpose. We stand by freedom of research and of inquiry and the integrity of our professors as honest and responsible scholars to make studies and report the truth as they find it."

Certainly the record of the University under Frank Graham's administration bears out that statement of principle. There are many faculty members there who hold opinions contrary to Mr. Clark's; Guy Johnson is one and Mr. Clark has demanded that he be fired. But there are also faculty members at Chapel Hill who hold opinions contrary to Julius Rosenwald's; in spite of it, the Rosenwald Foundation has offered $30,000 with no strings attached.

Neither Mr. Clark nor any other critic, it seems to us, can successfully sustain a charge that the research activities of the University are not confined, insofar as it is humanly possible to confine them, to the continuing search for truth. What Mr. Clark can and does charge is that the conclusions the sociologists draw from their research do not always agree with his. Thus he is not only arguing for the superiority of his own reasoning, he is arguing that no member of the University faculty should have the right to question it.

His motion, which was defeated, was a frontal attack on the principle of academic freedom and it is this, it seems to us, that gives it its greatest importance. Mr. Clark is a practical man, and, as we have said, an able one. It seems in order, therefore, to remind him that; in addition to its abstract merit, the value of academic freedom to the institutions of which he is a trustee can also be measured in dollars and cents. North Carolina, unable to pay top-flight scholars the salaries they could command elsewhere, has for many years supplemented its faculty's meager pay with complete freedom to seek and to teach the truth. The results are self-evident: with a budget that ranks among the lowest the University of North Carolina has progressed in a few decades to the very front rank of American institutions of learning. There could be no greater threat to its standing than the attitude expressed by Mr. Clark; if he questions that statement he might ignore the prejudiced press and go directly to the records of the University of Georgia during the administrations of Eugene Talmadge, the politician whose views he chose to defend.

The Flood Of Local Legislation

THE latest sounding of Legislative hoppers taken by the Institute of Government reveals that 188 of the bills introduced in the Legislature thus far are local in nature. Even so, this is far behind the usual average; between 60 and 70 per cent of the measures introduced last session fell into the local category.

Some of the bills, although tagged local, deserve the attention of all 170 North Carolina legislators. Most of them do not. There are, for instance, 30 bills dealing with salaries and fees for local officials, none of which affects any citizen outside of a single county. Seven seek to amend the charters of various municipalities, again matters of purely local concern. Nine deal with local bond elections, six each with local elections, local courts, jury fees and local tax levies. There are three separate local bills dealing with the great fox-hunting controversy.

Clearly most of these matters are of no statewide concern. They do not involve State funds or State policy. Yet the Constitution, the statutes, and the various municipal charters are so arranged as to make it necessary, legally, for every county and town in North Carolina to run to the Legislature every time it wants to transact routine business outside the narrowly prescribed functions permitted it.

All of this is part of a system of checks and balances. The theory may be fine, but the practice nullifies it. For, in fact, if these local measures are agreed upon by the local Legislative delegations they will, except in rare cases, receive automatic approval from the Legislature, whizzing through the two houses unread and unchecked by the membership at large. The effect of this, of course, is to establish each county delegation as a little legislature in its own right, holding final authority over much of the routine business that should be transacted by city councils or county commissions.

The system not only overburdens the Legislature, it prevents efficient functioning of local government. We do not question the necessity for some State control over the functions of local government, but certainly it should be kept to a minimum. There is a great need for a re-examination of the entire relationship between the State and the municipalities. We've got, as we remarked the other day apropos the clock the State won't let the City of Charlotte spend its own money for, too much check and too little balance.

Abe Lincoln And The Ape Boy

WE are pleased, of course, that a plastic surgeon has been able to save that Chicago "ape boy" from a life of crime by trimming his chin, bobbing his nose, and straightening out his eyebrows, thus freeing him from the taunts of his schoolmates and relieving the terrible social pressures on his ego. But we are inclined to wonder if his experience isn't another symptom of an age of distorted human values.

We can recall another citizen of Illinois, a fellow who practiced law at Springfield some years ago, who would have outdistanced the "ape boy" in any competition for ugliness. He was six feet four inches tall, weighed 160 pounds, and was narrow of shoulder, long of neck, big of foot and hand, and small of head. His brow was high and narrow, his ears stuck out, his hair was coarse and straggling, his nose was large and crooked, his eyes were deep-set beneath shaggy brows, his cheeks were hollow, and on one of them there was a large and unbecoming mole.

And, in addition to his natural physical handicaps, this Illini was one of the sloppiest dressers in history. Instead of buying headgear that would, as the haberdashers say, do something for him, he affected a stovepipe hat proportionately as tall and skinny as he was himself; he figured it made him look more like a lawyer and besides it was a convenient place to file deeds, titles, briefs and correspondence. He wore long, rusty black coats that never quite fit him, and nobody ever caught him with his huge shoes shined.

Of course he had no classmates to taunt him, because he never got to school, but there was no sign that his physical attributes endowed him with a feeling of inferiority. As a matter of fact he had a good deal of trouble with the girls, one way and another, mostly because they kept trying to marry him and he had a great fondness for the untidy bachelor's life he led. Maybe he was too busy to think much about the way he looked. There were a lot of things he had to learn without much assistance, and there was a living to be made — splitting rails, soldiering a little, clerking in a general store, practicing law, politicking. First thing he knew he was in the Illinois Legislature, then in Congress, and a bunch of neat-dressers, who shuddered every time they looked at him, were coming around asking him to run for President.

No, Abe Lincoln could never have been called a handsome man. But that misshapen face of his, that ungainly body, that queer high hat and that bedraggled umbrella, didn't seem to make any difference. When people looked at him they could see past his features and catch a glimpse of the spirit of the man, and see the mark of greatness that was upon him. Even now, 82 years after his death, men look upon his likeness and note only the unmistakable signs of strength, tolerance, wisdom and humor. No plastic surgeon on earth could have improved upon that face; the scalpel is no substitute for character.

The '47 trend in beach attire is to be back from nudity, as it was found impracticable to go farther in that direction without turning the girl inside out.

The hunt continues for a president for the world bank, and if he were a linguist it would be nice. However, a glass eye would do—it being as cold in any language.

In Ohio a girl child of eight has won an oratory prize. If the subject was a larger allowance, we know the type—and well.

'Quit Your Shoving!'

People's Platform

On Lincoln's Birthday

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

RE-DEDICATION for Lincoln's Birthday: Nineteen hundred and forty-seven years ago OUR FATHER brought forth upon this Universe a new policy, accepted by many as the ideals of their religion, by ALL as the greatest code of moral ethics ever conceived. It was conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men, being HIS children, were created equal.

Now we are engaged in a world-wide revolution, testing whether our nation or any nation that has embodied that policy into its constitution, can long endure, and if all the efforts of our martyred dead through the centuries who have thus far no nobly advanced our civilization, shall go for naught, or, that that policy might live.

It is altogether fitting and proper that you and I realize the gravity of this, and here and now highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, and thus, before God, rededicate ourselves to the unfinished task, which remains before us.

But we ourselves first as individuals, then collectively, must believe what is emoodied in this wonderful policy, that all His children are created equal and that we are our brother's keeper.

Then this Universe under God will have a new birth of freedom, and the policy conceived by Him, entrusted to us, for the freedom of them, will never perish from this earth.

—F. W. W.

Going Up

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Editors, THE NEWS:

MANY newspaper columnists and radio commentators are assuming or implying that feminine apparel prices are declining, giving people the erroneous impression that prices for Spring, 1947, are dropping.

As spokesmen for 5,000 traveling men selling feminine apparel to retailers all over the United States we feel that the public is being misled by these statements and intimations.

The facts are that for nearly five years merchants of the nation did not stage their usual season-end clearances. Up to the time OPA controls were removed retailers were placing orders more or less haphazardly with all types of resources, good and sometimes inferior, in a desperate effort to secure shipments in a limited market.

When OPA controls were removed it gave manufacturers the "green light" for improving style, value and character in fashion apparel. This together with the unseasonable Fall weather, resulted in resumption of season-end clearances for the first time since pre-war days. Retailers merely hastened to dispose of Winter goods to make way for new and better styled Spring apparel.

These cut-price events on Winter apparel induced some newspaper columnists, radio commentators, etc., to jump to the conclusion erroneously that the price trend was down. The facts are that labor and material costs are higher than a year ago; some manufacturers are absorbing part of the increased cost but new fashion apparel for Spring definitely costs more than a year ago.

Instead of informing the public that prices are dropping it should be advised that values are improving. Inferior fabrics and merchandise utilized so freely during the war are shunned by both garment manufacturers and retailers.

It is only fair that the public be given the real facts; prices for new Spring apparel for women have not declined. Before the war Winter apparel was always sold at clearance prices at this time of year.

—ELLIS JOURMAN, Executive Secretary National Association of Women's and Children's Apparel Salesmen, Inc.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Marshall Greets Negro In White House

WASHINGTON

DURING the reconstruction days following Abraham Lincoln's proclamation of emancipation, Negroes frequently were invited to the White House.

After this there was a lapse, and the question of White House entertainment seldom arose until the days of Herbert Hoover, who invited Oscar De Priest, colored GOP Congressman from Chicago, to tea. This caused a tremendous furor, and, significantly, it was largely Congressmen from the party of Abraham Lincoln who made the most comment.

Since then, Mrs. Roosevelt frequently invited colored guests to the White House and the Trumans have done the same. No longer is there public comment, but it remains a fact that a lone Negro guest frequently looks conspicuous and ill-at-ease.

Such was the case when President and Mrs. Truman entertained for the armed forces last week.

As the President and the First Lady made their grand entry down the main staircase, a large assemblage of three- and four-star generals plus the highest admirals in the Navy stood on either side. General Eisenhower, the Chief of Staff, and Admiral Nimitz, the highest ranking officer of the Navy, were in the group, together with every other general and admiral stationed in Washington. It was the greatest conglomeration of silver stars and gold braid Washington has seen in decades.

On the fringe of this glittering constellation stood Brig. Gen. B. O. Davis—the one Negro general in the United States Army.

Seeing him, the new Secretary of State, General George Marshall, left the Presidential party, ignored General Eisenhower, passed by Admiral Nimitz, paid no attention to all the admirals and three- and four-star generals, while he shook hands with General Davis.

Many others in the room would have given their eyeteeth to have been singled out by the most colorful and famous member of the Truman Cabinet. They watched as Marshall greeted Davis.

After Marshall broke the ice, various others, led by Congressman Paul Kilday of San Antonio, Texas, stepped forward to shake hands with the Negro general.

Note—Col. B. O. Davis Jr., son of General Davis, is an aviator, now commanding Lockbourne Army Air Base, Lockbourne, Ohio.

Haggling Over Philippines

WITH Congress wrestling over a new budget involving billions, President Truman had to devote almost an hour the other day straightening out a relatively "chicken-feed" transaction of $75,000,000. Through small in the amount of cash involved, however, the transaction was all-important to the Philippine Islands.

For seven months a $75,000,000 loan authorized by Congress to help rehabilitate the war-torn Philippines has been held up, due to the tight-fisted banker tactics of the RFC and the National Advisory Council, which must approve all foreign loans.

The National Advisory Council, headed by Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder, had refused to clear the loan without a guarantee that it would be fully repaid in three and a half years. However, Democratic Congressman Jasper Bell of Missouri, sponsor of the loan bill, argued that it would be "physically impossible" for the islands to repay on such short maturity terms.

Calling at the White House to enlist Truman's support, the Missouri Congressman told the President:

"Only someone who has been in the Philippines since the war, as I have been, can appreciate the terrible devastation there. Many industries have been totally destroyed and there are virtually no revenues for the Government. This loan is only a stopgap until the Philippines begin to get the war damages due them."

Philippine Ambassador Joaquin Elizalde reported that while his Government could get by with an initial extension of $25,000,000, chiefly for the upkeep of schools and hospitals, the Philippines would need five years or more to repay the full $75,000,000.

"We've spent 50 years building up the Philippines," chimed in Congressman Bell. "I don't think we ought to let those people down now, especially after a war that almost ruined them."

Secretary Snyder and Will Clayton of the State Department finally thawed out during the conference, and, with some coaxing by the President, agreed to extend the repayment period to five years. They also agreed that, if the Philippines can't pay in that time, the loan will be renegotiated.

Installment-Buying Vardaman

COMMODORE Jake Vardaman, President Truman's ex-Naval aide, now elevated to a lush $14,000 job on the Federal Reserve Board, is the author of a campaign—indirectly aimed at Federal Reserve Chairman Marriner Eccles—to lift all credit controls on installment buying.

Vardaman, who once euchred himself into the position of getting 10 per cent extra seagoing pay while attached to the White House and comfortably sleeping on dry land, and who ordered Navy enlisted men to paint and repair his home, is a minority of one on the reserve board. Other members feel that inflation is by no means over and some control over installment buying must be retained.

At present there is no restriction on goods purchased for less than $50. But credit controls still apply to installment purchases for autos, furniture, floor coverings, and major household appliances, such as refrigerators and washing machines.

Installment purchases of such goods costing up to $2,000 must pay a third down and the remainder within 12 months, except for floor coverings and furniture which have a 15-month maturity.

Aside from Vardaman, other members of the Federal Reserve Board feel that these controls against inflation should remain in effect unless Congress acts to the contrary.

Marquis Childs

Tariff Compromise

WASHINGTON

IN the matter of co-operation between Republicans in Congress and Democrats in the Executive Office, you can chalk up a score on the positive side.

From Capitol Hill came Senator Vandenberg of Michigan and Senator Milliken of Colorado. They met with Secretary of State Marshall and Undersecretaries Acheson and Clayton. What they have come out with is a reasonable compromise on tariff reductions under the reciprocal trade program.

Acheson and Clayton did their best to meet the objections of tariff-minded Republicans. In the future, full publicity will be given to the reasons behind tariff reductions. This is to meet the objection that schedules are reduced by some kind of secret hocus-pocus.

An industry or a trade union or any other group claiming to have suffered as a result of lowered tariffs can carry an appeal direct to the Tariff Commission. The commission will hear all the facts to determine whether the complaint is justified. If it is really justified, then remedial action will follow.

OTHER PROVISIONS

There are a number of other provisions in the compromise agreed to. They add up to the kind of common sense that should make it possible for us to go to the Geneva Trade Conference in April and say something like this to the other nations: "Yes, we intend to continue our reciprocal trade program. We will grant tariff reductions when it can be shown that our trade will benefit by those reductions."

Vandenberg is likely to have a tough time getting such a program approved. McKinley Republicans are talking as though the world had not changed since 1896. They would like to stymie the whole program with an "investigation." That is why Vandenberg is staying home instead of attending the Moscow conference.

But the chances for success are good. In spite of the threats of the Knutson wing, the party at this point hardly dares to move back into the horse-and-buggy age with quite such an abandoned whoop.

Even when this compromise is approved, there will be plenty of room for doubt. Doubt Number One is whether it goes far enough; that is to say, whether it will permit our bargaining delegation at the conference in Switzerland to push trade barriers down far enough.

Partly, this question turns around the condition of Great Britain today. We in America seem reluctant to face up to the facts. Britain is living today on the oxygen of the loans from Canada and the United States, like a man who has been desperately ill and is now in the first dubious stages of convalescence.

BRITISH WARNING

Labor members of Parliament visiting Washington in recent weeks have been emphatic in warning that this country would have to go much further than it had ever gone before in scaling down the tariff wall. If that does not happen, then Britain will be compelled to turn to preferential trading.

The left wing of the Labor Party is watching closely to see whether co-operation with the United States is likely to offer a way out. They have been quiet lately. But if they see trouble ahead, they are certain to turn on Foreign Minister Bevin again.

Doubt Number Two concerns the long-range intentions of the Republican Party. If Vandenberg and Milliken can bring the backsliders around to their view, the program will be okay for this year. Tariff reductions mutually agreed to between nations last for three years.

But next year the Reciprocal Trade Act expires. The fear will come on whether it is to be continued, or whether it will be sabotaged with crippling amendments.

The hope is, of course, that action this year will commit the party for the future. But the diehards will still be in office and many of them have important committee assignments. Chairman Harold Knutson of the House Ways & Means Committee can do a lot of mischief with the hearings he has called for the end of this month.

STEPS TO DISASTER

But beyond 1947 is 1948. A great many people have been educated to the meaning of the reciprocal program. They know that economic isolationism means political isolationism and that isolation spells disaster. They will be watching to see which way the GOP intends to move. As leaders like Vandenberg know, it is hard for a party to move backward when that party is claiming the right to the future.

Harold Ickes

The Night Club Vote

WASHINGTON

THE news-sense of even some of our most alert newspapers is often of the synthetic variety. For instance, on Feb. 7, the metropolitan press carried under eye-arresting headlines a story to the effect that Postmaster General Hannegan had tossed President Truman's hat into the ring for the 1948 Presidential race. The fact is that the newspapers thereby scooped themselves without knowing that they were being scooped. Mr. Hannegan did not start the campaign for Mr. Truman at a dinner in New York as reported. He had already launched it when he succeeded in having Mr. Bernard "Toots" Shor as a guest at a state dinner at the White House in honor of the acting President of the Senate, Senator Vandenberg, on Jan. 29. Yes, this is the same Shor who runs a restaurant in New York and who, in 1943 was charged by the OPA with lacking stamps for some 100,000 ration points of meats, fats and oils, over and above what it was allowable to possess under the law. For this embarrassing oversight he was forbidden to serve any rationed meats, fats, or oils until this deficit had been made up. It was in Mr. Shor's establishment that Mr. Hannegan announced that Mr. Charles Ulrick Bay would be our next Ambassador to Norway.

HOT ON TRAIL

It needed no Sherlock Holmes to deduce the plainly deducible from Mr. Shor's attendance at the White House. Mr. Hannegan's pursuit of the night club vote was his outstanding accomplishment in 1946. It was easy to perceive that he was still hot on the trail of that vote when he succeeded in insinuating Mr. "Toots" Shor into the White House. And of course if he was after the night club vote it was on someone's behalf, and on whose behalf could it be except that of President Truman? It is a doubtless "Toots" Shor's raptures over the White House dinner ("best darn meal I ever had in my life") that gave Mr. Hannegan the courage to declare for the President in his New York speech.

It is one thing for Mr. Hannegan to announce for the man who was nominated Vice President by a trick participated in by Ed Pauley, Ed Kelly, Ed Flynn and Frank Hague, but it is quite another thing to hope to elect Mr. Truman by a combination of the night club vote and the shattered Democratic city machines. If Mr. Hannegan really wants President Truman to continue to dispense patronage after Jan. 20, 1949, I will tell him how he might bring about that result, even at the risk of having good advice petulantly thrown into the waste basket.

The greatest contribution that Mr. Hannegan could make to the election of Mr. Truman would be to resign instead of pretending from time to time that he is going to resign. He should take himself back to St. Louis where, unless he has become too rusty, he might again fit into his ward machine. There he could not possibly do the harm to the Truman cause that he is bound to do if he continues to hang onto the national chairmanship, like a pup to a root. This advice is offered without any real hope that Mr. Hannegan would be either unselfish enough or intelligent enough to act on it.

LACKS PATIENCE

The main trouble with Mr. Hannegan is that he has neither the capacity nor the patience to do the painstaking work that is the principal job of the national chairman. He wants to be busting into all parts of the country, making speeches. He wants to be the intellectual and oratorical leader of his party, although that is even further beyond him. President Truman owes it to himself to select some able and self-effacing Democrat, such as Leslie Biffle, to be national chairman.

I have watched James A. Farley perform as national chairman. As a political strategist, Mr. Hannegan, as compared with Mr. Farley, is as an ant hill to Mt. Ararat.