THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION

THE Ku Klux Klan has "adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force and violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States."

That is the ruling of Tom C. Clark, Attorney General of the United States. It is the opinion of the Department of Justice, expressed officially this week, that the Association of Georgia Klans and the Original Southern Klans Inc. are subversive organizations.

The Department isn't alone. Not even in the South is it alone in its opinion of the Klan. There are many in North Carolina and South Carolina and Georgia and the other states of the South who realize that no good can come from a masked organization which lives outside the law . . .

. . . That no good can come from men who hide behind the cross, symbol of the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and then burn that symbol to threaten the lives of men of good will. This is sacrilege; these men blaspheme . . .

. . . That no good can come from vicious men who conspire to deprive the Jew of his rights as a human, the Negro of his rights as a human, the Catholic of his rights as a human. And Klansmen would also deprive of his rights as a human any man who opposes their systematic destruction of the institution of freedom upon which our American democracy is based.

In Gastonia this week, by-product of persecution at its worst flared. The Klan threatened a Gastonia newspaper editor.

J. W. Atkins, editor of the *Gastonia Gazette*, is not a Negro, he is not a Jew and he is not a Catholic. As the Klan would have it, he is white and Gentile and Protestant. But he is not a Klansman. He scorns the Klan. What's more he does it publicly. He writes editorials in his newspaper against the embryo Ku Klux chapter in Gastonia.

This week the Klan threatened J. W. Atkins because of his open opposition to that organization. (The Klan says, in typically gentle and graceful prose, anyone who opposes it is a "slandering, lying fool . . .")

The Klan burned a cross on Mr. Atkins' doorstep.

What does the fiery cross mean? It has meant in the past that unless the "slandering, lying fool" mends his ways he will be flogged, tarred and feathered, tortured or slain. It could mean, as well, that his family might suffer.

Did the Klan burn the cross on Mr. Atkins' doorstep for a lark? Was it a little fireworks display to brighten up the night? Did they want to provide a show for J. W. Atkins and family?

Or are the Gastonia Klansmen a group of dupes lured into the dangerous game of threat and violence by which the high command of Dr. Samuel Green, Atlanta doctor and Grand Dragon of the white-hooded organization, hopes to gain power in the South?

However, it may be, the Klan—in Gastonia or in Atlanta or in Orangeburg, S. C.—is dangerous. Enlightened Southerners, and there are many of them, know this. It is their duty to unite now to outlaw these masked hoodlums, and to push back the new beachheads they have established.

POLITICAL PATRONAGE

POLITICAL patronage is somewhat like dirty linen; you just don't bring it out in the open.

Everybody knows about it, of course, and they accept it as one of the inevitable consequences of the two-party system of American politics. But they are not accustomed to such a raw display as that coming out of Washington this week.

Democratic Party Chairman Howard McGrath left a White House conference to announce to newsmen that a new "party loyalty" test had been worked out to determine what voice Democratic Senators and Representatives would have in selecting political appointees.

McGrath emphasized that loyalty would be measured by the performance back in the home district, not on the voting in the House or Senate.

But apparently he misunderstood the Chief.

Mr. Truman, the next day, made it plain that votes on repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and other Democratic party platform pledges would be the real test. Congressmen who buck the party's program, he said, will not have anything to say about who gets Federal jobs.

The concern of the President, and Mr. McGrath, over the rebellion and dissension among Democratic ranks is, of course, understandable. Mr. Truman considers he got a mandate from the voters, and fears that failure to get his program through Congress will react against the party in next year's Congressional elections.

As head of the winning party, he is within his rights in trying to restore order in the party ranks.

But he could be a little less raw and a little less blunt about it. There are still some Americans who are naive enough to believe that Federal appointees ought at least to be reasonably competent people, not selected solely on the basis of political expediency. This display might turn them into cynics, like the rest of us.

WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS

THE formal acquisition of a strip of property from the Elks Club clears away one major obstacle to the widening of Stonewall St. and the building of an underpass beneath the Southern Railroad tracks there.

Addition of the nineteen-foot strip to the present street will make possible a 48-foot street from S. Tryon St. to the Crosstown Boulevard which will simultaneously increase the utility of the boulevard and decrease the traffic on E. Morehead St.

The next step will be to connect the Crosstown Boulevard with Morehead, either at Baldwin Ave. or on the west side of Sugaw Creek, thus giving the residents of Myers Park and Dilworth a fast, direct route into and out of the city.

A third step, which properly should be included in the over-all Stonewall St. project, is the widening of Stonewall from S. Tryon to S. Graham St. This will further minimize the congestion around S. Tryon and Morehead.

There are still obstacles ahead, however.

The first is a determination of the City's legal authority to persuade the railroad to co-operate in building the underpass. That question is now being studied by a special attorney employed by the City Council.

The second is the approval of the necessary bond issue by the voters at the coming election this Summer. That will hang on the ability of the Council to sell the project to the voters.

Withal, we are making progress, if slowly. And we are learning the hard way that the failure of our forefathers to prepare for the Age of the Motor Vehicle, plus our own unwillingness to treat the problem in its infancy, is costing us dearly.

UNITED WE STAND . . . .

AN anecdote, probably apocryphal, which has been kicking around Charlotte in recent weeks, expresses rather vividly one reason why private enterprise has taken such a licking in the past fifteen years.

It seems that a Charlotte doctor called one of his friends, a real estate man, and invited him to attend a meeting at the Mint Museum at which "socialized medicine" was to be discussed.

"Sorry, I can't make it," the friend replied.

"Why, aren't you alarmed at the threat of socialized medicine?" the doctor queried.

"Sure, but where have you doctors been all these years the real estate men have been fighting socialized housing?" the friend replied.

From The Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont

EVIDENCE OF FAITH

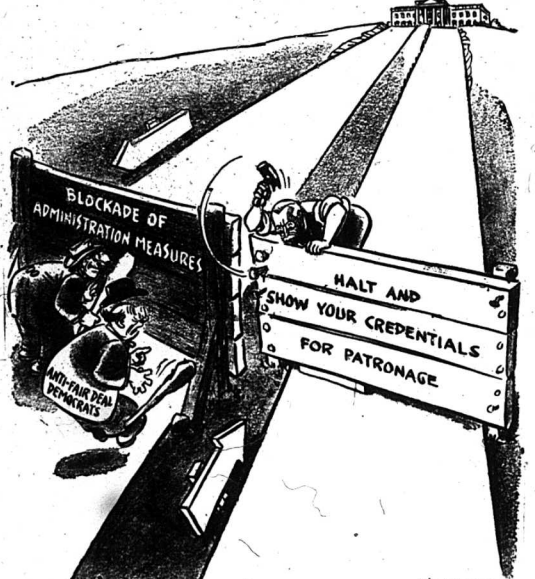
WHEN a firm engaged in any line of industrial activity places an order for fifteen million dollars worth of new equipment it is evidence of bedrock faith in its business and in the section where it operates.

The Springs Mill group, operating seven textile plants in upper South Carolina, is purchasing fourteen thousand new looms as replacement and expansion units at a time when the future of the textile business isn't as bright as it was during the lush war years.

This order is to be filled at the rate of 100 units a month beginning in the Fall and will require some time for completion. But that fact in itself emphasizes the abiding faith of Elliott White Springs and his associates in the textile industry and in the continued industrial expansion of South Carolina.

Here is a firm which looks farther ahead than the backlog of orders on hand to get set for the long pull. It's the sort of foresight which makes for permanence of the South's progress towards a better balance between agriculture and industry.

The Cold War At Home



Marquis Childs

Close Watch Needed

WASHINGTON

AS a weapon in the war of propaganda between East and West the so-called peace conference in Paris misfired. It misfired because the charges brought against the United States were so fantastic.

Howard Fast, the writer, a member of the American delegation, went further than almost any other speaker. He had the effrontery in this day and age to talk about Soviet Russia as the home of liberty and to say that a "terror" existed in this country striking down anyone who spoke about peace.

The Soviet delegates must have been startled at this eulogy. Even their own propagandists do not go to far as to claim liberty, in the Western sense, for the Soviet citizen.

Here at home we are free to advocate peace, even the kind of peace that would mean the surrender of Western Europe to Communist control. If any proof is needed, it was supplied by the Waldorf- Astoria "peace conference" held in New York a month ago.

Granted this has been said, however, the observer who looks at the facts here at home must add an important qualification. There is in this country a noisy and persistent minority that seems determined to end our liberties. These people are apparently so ridden by fear and suspicion that they don not have faith in the common sense and good judgment of the American people.

In one State Legislature after another these fear-ridden zealots are tampering with and in some instances abrogating the ancient American heritage of freedom. If they have their way, if the fear, the hysteria, the intolerance are not checked, we shall find that we have made ourselves over in the image of what we profess to abhor—the totalitarian state.

Out in Illinois a committee of the Legislature is "investigating" the University of Chicago for subversive activities. The university is supported from private sources and NOT from taxes. It is well recognized as one of the great centers of learning in this country.

The legislative committee has gone to extraordinary lengths in what seems to be a deliberate attempt to persecute and intimidate. An irresponsible and unqualified witness was allowed to smear Prof. Harold C. Urey, one of the atomic scientists who did major work on atomic fission. Urey has been cleared by several top security agencies for continuing studies in nuclear fission.

"The policy of repression of ideas cannot work and never has worked," Chancellor Robert M. Hutchins told the committee. "The alternative to it is the long, difficult road of education. To this the American people have been committed. It requires patience and tolerance, even in the face of intense provocation. It requires faith in the principles and practices of democracy, faith that when the citizen understands all forms of government he will prefer democracy and that he will be a better citizen if he is convinced than he would be if he were coerced."

The Maryland Legislature has passed a so-called anti-subversive law which, as the Washington Post pointed out editorially, might under strict interpretation of the law make it impossible to teach any political philosophy, even the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence. Apparently fearing a free expression of the will of the voters, the Legislature passed an amendment making the law effective immediately so that it would NOT be subject to petition for popular referendum.

Here is a sinister pattern repeated all too often in state after state. This country has grown great out of the free exchange of ideas and knowledge. That greatness can be destroyed unless those who believe in freedom, and I think that would include most Americans, now stand up and actively resist the fear-mongers.

In my opinion, a member of the Communist Party does not have an inherent right to teach in a tax-supported public institution. Communism in its basic belief advocates the overthrow of the present system and all its institutions.

But any law that seeks to prevent the teaching of a political belief or to make criminals of those who advocate a belief cut straight across the Constitution, with its great charter of liberties. This is NOT the issue at the University of Chicago. A few students belong to a Communist study club and the fearmongers are behaving as though this rich and powerful nation were about to be undermined.

Congressional Quarterly Survey

How Much More Public Power?

WASHINGTON

THE fight over public power, which started in a series of local skirmishes in the Tennessee Valley and Far West, is spreading to almost every other state. The reasons:

1. Opponents of public power, who took a licking in the 1948 election, seek to recoup their losses by enlisting the aid of related interests and of other industries which fear Government encroachment.

2. A national power shortage worries defense and economic planners, makes Congressmen power-minded.

Purcell L. Smith, president of the National Association of Electric Companies and Washington's number one private power lobbyist, told Congressional Quarterly that he is planning a campaign to arouse the people of the private power states—generally those east of the Mississippi and north of the Mason-Dixon line—against the dangers of public power. The campaign will be based on the argument that the people of these states are paying taxes to subsidize cheap public power for the South and West.

Smith said he had established working arrangements with a number of other national interests—primarily the electrical manufacturers, the coal industry (which stands to lose markets to hydroelectric power), and the railroads, particularly the Pennsylvania (which stand to lose coal freight). He hopes also to form an alliance with oil (which is competitive with coal as well as with electricity), steel, and insurance companies. He is especially hopeful of aid from the steel industry since the President advocated Government financing of new steel plants.

* * *

A POWER shortage, in one form or another, hit every section of the country last year. The private utilities say they can lick it, if the Government will leave them alone, by late 1950 or early 1951. Government planners say it will take until 1952 or later and that the industry cannot possibly do it by itself.

The immediate and least important effects of a power shortage are in brown-outs, appeals to householders to reduce consumption, arrangements with industry to spread its power use more evenly throughout the day. It is the cumulative effects that have Government officials worried.

Industries close down and throw men out of work. The power shortage in the Pacific Northwest is blamed for the fact that the area has twice the national percentage of unemployment.

Sales of electrical appliances drop as people hesitate to buy something they may not be able to use. Result: More unemployment.

Established industries postpone expansion. New industries are stillborn. Other industries turn to more expensive fuels and this forces prices up.

Some Congressmen oppose public power on principle, others because they think its cheap rates lure industries away from their own states and districts. That is why Sen. Raymond E. Baldwin (R-Conn.) opposed the TVA steam plant.

But at the same time four other New Englanders, two of them Republicans, are sponsoring bills for power projects on the Merrimac and Connecticut Rivers.

Other Congressmen want valley authority or similar development in Georgia, South Carolina, Maine, California, and the Missouri and Columbia basins.

* * *

PUBLIC power was one of the issues in the 1948 election, and the private utilities lost. While other points in the President's legislative program lag, his requests for more money to finance more public power breeze through by majorities ranging up to two-to-one. Congress no longer debates whether the Government should go into the power business, but how far it should go. Publicly-owned electric capacity has increased from 5.4 per cent of the total in 1920 to 19.9 per cent in 1948. About half of this is Federal, most of it in hydroelectric projects of the type most appealing to public power advocates. Only seventeen per cent of U. S. hydroelectric potential has been developed. Every state but Delaware and Rhode Island still has unused waterpower.

Here is how North Carolina stacks up in the public vs. private power fight:

Federally-owned generating capacity: 192,600 kilowatts, 14.2 per cent of total.

Other publicly-owned capacity: 84,318 kilowatts, 6.2 per cent of total.

Privately-owned capacity: 1,077,95 kilowatts, 79.6 per cent of total.

Developed hydroelectric capacity: 658,000 kilowatts; undeveloped potential, 716,000 kilowatts. Percentage developed is 47.9

People's Platform

Editorial Praised

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I HAVE just read the editorial published in your paper on Saturday, April 23, 1949, under the title "Easy Way Out".

In my opinion this editorial is a masterpiece in clear thinking.

Certainly as this editorial points out, it is not the business of the Federal Government "to put a roof over a man's head, any more than it is for the Government to give him his food, his clothing, his fuel, his medical care, his education, and all the other 'necessities' of this life".

—J. C. CHALMERS.

Grateful For Stories

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I DID not mean to wait this long to thank you for your interest in the cause of cancer control as indicated by the space given to us at the onset of our campaign, pertaining to the national, state and local handling of our program.

We think Mr. Peterman did a splendid job in the handling of these three articles which appeared on March 31, April 1, and April 2. Certainly he covered the subject comprehensively, and any person who was interested was able to know something of the details of how our money is utilized on a national, state and county level.

—MRS. C. C. DUNCAN.

James Marlow

How Much? Where?

WASHINGTON

SHOULD the Government give the states money to help them educate their children?

That problem of Federal aid to education has been batted around in Congress more than ten years.

The Senate is about ready to take it up again, and is expected to pass it. The House may, too. If both approve, it will become law.

(Last year the Senate approved a Federal aid to education bill, but the House ignored it. So nothing came of it.)

The present bill calls for giving the 48 states a total of $300,000,000 a year to spend on education in the grammar and high schools.

That would include money for teachers' pay, school buildings and transportation, and so on.

This wouldn't mean, of course, that the states would stop spending their own money. The Government money would be added to what they've been spending already.

The poorer states would get a bigger share of the $300,000,000 than the rich states, and for an obvious reason:

Because the rich states have a higher income of their own, they can spend more of their own money on education.

No state would get less than $5 per child. Rich New York, for instance would get that much. But a low-income state like Mississippi might get as much as $29.

For years one of the main arguments of those who oppose Federal aid to education has been this:

It would open the door to Government control of education. But the present bill clearly says the Government cannot interfere with the kind of education given in the states.

Is there need for Federal help—and why can't the states do the job by themselves?

A batch of Democrats and Republicans have joined forces in blessing this bill which still must pass the test of the full Senate. They say:

Millions of children between five and seventeen attend no school at all or are suffering major damage in education because of poorly prepared teachers, a wide teacher shortage, and a shortage of school rooms.

Many teachers have gone into other work because of the low pay. And for that same reason fewer college students are taking up teaching.

In 1947-48 it was estimated 48 per cent of the public school teachers were paid less than $2,400 a year; and 12 per cent were promised salaries below $1,000.

Meanwhile, according to the Senators, money set aside by the states for school supplies, school buildings and so on have reached a "critically low point."

Because of the wide differences in income among the states, there's wide inequality among them on what they can spend on education. That's why the poorer ones need Federal help.

States themselves are pretty limited on the amount of taxes they can raise, for the reasons, among others: they can't get big taxes if incomes are low; and taxes raised too high force citizens to move to other states.

Since the Federal aid comes from Federal taxes paid by all the people, why should people in a rich state have to help their poorer neighbors?

The Constitution says the Government can provide for the general welfare, and use tax money to do it; since people move around, those educated in a poor state may be citizens of a rich one tomorrow.

Can any of this Federal money be used to help out non-public schools? That is, schools run by religious groups?

The bill would let the states decide that for themselves.

READ And REMEMBER

The complicated machinery of today is made up of various combinations of what are known as the simple machines. The so-called simple machines are the lever, the inclined plane, the pulley, the wheel and axle, the screw, and the wedge.

The albatross is the largest known bird of the sea. Its length averages about four feet, weight about 25 pounds, and wingspread 11 feet.

The wearing of orange blossoms at weddings is of Moorish origin. They are symbolic of chastity and fecundity.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Farmers Would Resent Calder Choice

WASHINGTON

WHILE it's difficult to get the right men to fill top Government jobs, the proposed appointment of Curtis Calder, head of Electric Bond & Share, as Secretary of the Army is going to cause a lot of eyebrow-lifting among farmers.

In the first place, Electric Bond & Share was one of the power trusters whose abuses led to passage of the Holding Corporation Act; and the records of the Federal Trade Commission regarding its operations make juicy reading.

Second, and more recently, Electric Bond & Share has been one of the most effective and ruthless members of the power-trust gang in fighting the Government's program for public power and rural electrification.

Nevertheless, it is proposed to take the head of this giant corporation which has bitterly opposed the Government, and embrace him in the bosom of the Government as policy-maker, among others, for the Army engineers—which build the multipurpose dams for the Government.

"To put Calder in this job," says the Rural Electric Co-operative, "would be about the same as making Hans Moses, of Arkansas Power & Light, the Secretary of the Army." Moses is the power executive who once gave nylon stockings to the wives of Congressmen he wanted to vote against public power.

Background Re Germany

ON the foreign front, Calder's connections are also important. One of the Army's most vital jobs pertains to Germany. That country, from which sprang two great wars, may hold the key to future wars, and the Cabinet officers who make decisions regarding Germany must be impartial.

Mr. Calder, however, is a director of the United States & Foreign Securities Corp., and the United States & International Securities Corp., both organized by Dillon, Read & Co., for the purpose of financing public utilities in Germany before the war.

The Dillon, Read group has always believed in building up Germany and, despite the mistake of having financed what eventually became part of Hitler's war machine, this group has continued to support German cartels. An official report is now before the Army Dept. criticizing ex-Undersecretary of the Army William Draper, another Dillon, Read executive, for rebuilding cartels since the war.

James Forrestal, ex-Secretary of National Defense and former head of Dillon, Read, is also in this group. And it was one of the companies of which Mr. Calder is a director—United States & Foreign Securities—which caused Forrestal great embarrassment. For a Senate committee revealed the fact that he had made a profit of $865,000 by selling his holdings in this corporation in 1929 and had avoided paying income tax on the $865,000 by creation of a family holding corporation in Canada.

Canada as Mr. Calder may be as a business executive, his corporate background is not going to inspire confidence among the two million men who would serve under him in the U. S. Army.

Capital News Capsules

CONFUSING The Russians—On Easter Sunday, the Soviet officer attached to the U. S. Air Safety Center at Tempelhof Airdrome, Berlin, watched 13,000 tons of goods landed by U. S. airplanes in a single day—a landing or take-off every 30 seconds. Before the Berlin blockade, the total flow of goods into Berlin from the Western zones by rail, barge and truck—all three out together—was not more than 11,000 tons a day. Shrugging his shoulders at the amazing performance of U. S. air freight carriers, the Russian officer walked out in despair. He said he could no longer follow much less record, the speed and complexity of the American flight pattern. No wonder Russia is now ready to lift the blockade.

Washington Leans To Arabs—The Capital's horse-and-hound set is beginning to take up the Arab. No, it isn't so much interested in Palestine as in horses. Arabian horses, the original breed that carried Ghengis Khan through Asia, have now come to the USA. And believe it or not, but out of only 5,000 pure-bred Arabians in the world, 4,000 of them are in this country. Virginia, the Virginian hunter, they are the most intelligent horses living, and because of past habits of desert forage, eat less. Virginians have to look to the Middle West for pure Arabs, however—one of the prize stallions, Sarab Al Salsal, being owned by Joe Lebowitz of Midlothian, Ill., who goes in for Arab horses, but not the Arab horsemen of Palestine.

Battle of Whisky Barrels—Seton Porter, president of National Distillers, and other powerful members of the whisky combine has been lobbying to block a Treasury declaration that whisky aged in second-hand barrels is just as good as whisky aged in new barrels. The Treasury contends there is no difference between new and second-hand barrels in the aging of whisky, but Seton Porter, a heavy contributor to the Democratic National Committee (after the election), rushed in, pounded on Treasury desks and demanded that the ruling be reconsidered. Mr. Porter stands to lose money if the Treasury sticks to its original position favoring second-hand barrels.

Farm Battle—A furious battle has broken out between the Farm Bureau and the Agriculture Dept. The first salvo was fired by Allan Kline, head of the Farm Bureau, who protested anently because he was being consulted about Secretary of Agriculture Brannan's new farm program. Defiantly, Kline ordered his state organizations to oppose the program, later made the strange declaration that the program offered the farmers too much money. . . . Brannan will now carry his case against Kline direct to the farmers, who are beginning to wonder just who Kline is supposed to represent.

The Irish Legation—Sean McBridge, Irish Foreign Minister, has informed the State Dept. that Ireland would come into the North Atlantic Defense Pact if Britain agrees to give up Northern Ireland. However, Secretary Acheson turned the Irish down cold. In face, he reminded them that he was not bribing anyone to enter the North Atlantic Pact.