THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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RISING OPPOSITION TO THE KLAN

MAYBE it's the heat, maybe it's postwar nerves, maybe it's a tightening up of the employment market. Whatever it is, the Ku Klux Klan — members and fellow travelers — seems to be burning more crosses, flogging more men, slapping more women, threatening more citizens of both gender than has been its wont in past years.

It seems obvious that the Klan is behind most of it, the Klan and its sadists in swaddling clothes, the Klan and its animalistic fire fetish, the Klan and its sacrilegious usurpation of Christianity to cower its urge to commit murder and mayhem upon humanity.

But not all of the fever of violence that flushes the face of the South today can be laid at the door of Dr. Samuel Green, mousy little Atlanta obstetrician and Grand Dragon of the Klan.

Troublesome as the doctor and his criminal cohorts have been, they have been only the active expression of the prevailing temper of a segment of the Southern population which has, throughout this region's history, kept it a stranger to progress.

In recent years more widespread education in the South has held the fever of violence, expressed through the Klan, to an occasional outburst among the near illiterates and moral degenerates of backward rural areas. But the controls have slipped.

For the first time in decades, an active Klan chapter is muddying the clear stream of progress in North Carolina. In Gastonia this Spring berobed barbarians have burned cross after cross and marched, to the resounding strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers" into churches. They have as yet, it is true, to engage in any acts of bodily violence, but an organization whose creed is the whip as well as the threat cannot long survive without bloodying its hands.

Newspapers, except for a few which have maintained a strained silence, have done a public service in spotlighting the symptoms of the disease. And now, joining the newspapers, local government is taking notice of the Klan and its criminal activity.

In Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi — traditionally strongholds of the KKK—official outcry against mob violence is being raised.

Gov. James E. Folsom of Alabama has ordered his Highway Patrol to take "necessary action" to suppress the activities of the Klan and hooded mobsters. Alabama's attorney general has entered the fight, calling Klansmen "ham actors".

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has shown signs of activity against Klan-inspired crimes. Atlanta Appeals Court Judge Townsend has attacked the Klan's method of appointing itself judge, juror and executioner. Georgia cities—Atlanta, Macon, Columbus, Augusta—have made the wearing of masks illegal in public.

In Mississippi, a deputy sheriff recently shielded a Negro rape suspect from mob action by convincing the assembled would-be murderers that the Negro was not in his jail. He then rushed the man — still legally innocent of any crime—to a safer place.

There are signs that the saner element of the South might be able to subdue the Klan. If it wishes to remain free from Federal intervention in local and regional affairs it must do this.

Just as a householder who harbors a fire menace or maintains a breeding place for rodents is responsible to the community, so the Southern states are responsible to the entire community of states which make up the nation.

FORSYTH ABC ELECTION

IN a neighborly sort of way, we'd like to extend congratulations to our Winston-Salem contemporaries, the *Journal* and the *Sentinel*, for the forthright and courageous statement of their position in the forthcoming Forsyth ABC election battle.

The statement, which appeared in both newspapers this week over the signature of the Piedmont Publishing Co., said in part:

"The question to be decided, as we see it, is not the merits of temperance in the use of alcoholic beverages nor the merits of total abstinence. Neither the ABC plan nor the present prohibition plan, in itself, will have much, if any, effect upon the consumption of intoxicants.

"The question is whether the bootlegger shall be encouraged or discouraged by Forsyth County. We believe that the bootlegging system is a real menace to the community. We think the ABC plan will help very materially in reducing the bootlegging evil to a minimum."

Reminding the readers that the editor and the two associate editors have not been in agreement on the merits of the ABC plan, the statement continues with what seems to us to be a particularly enlightened and honest brand of journalism:

"Between now and August 30th, the ABC issue will be—and should be—thoroughly discussed by the voters. The carefully considered policy of both The Journal and The Sentinel will be to support the ABC plan. None of our editorial writers, however, will be asked or expected to write contrary to his own convictions. In fact, he will be encouraged to express his own convictions in our editorial columns, provided he signs such editorials and otherwise makes it clear that he is expressing his personal opinion rather than newspaper policy."

Having taken the same side of the question not so long ago, we anticipate that our contemporaries are going to be in for a lively time during the next few weeks. Temptations will be severe, and journalistic pitfalls many.

If, however, they continue to be as honest with their readers as they have been thus far, and as all newspapers ought to be always, their support of the control system should have an important bearing on the outcome of the Forsyth election.

GARBLED GOBBLEDYGOOK

ONE of the wags who used to frequent the Courthouse area once pointed to a sign identifying the Vocational Rehabilitation office and remarked:

"Now isn't that a heck of a note. The people who can translate that sign don't need to be rehabilitated; and those who need it couldn't understand it even if they could read it."

The Army's use of the word "unemployable" to describe TVA Administrator Gordon Clapp falls into the same category of Government gibberish.

What the Army major who signed the report on Clapp meant to say was that the TVA head was "unavailable" for a specific assignment in occupied Germany. He was "unavailable" for the very simple reason that he was busy running the vast TVA empire.

"Unemployable", to our way of thinking, should mean unfit for employment — for physical, mental, moral or other reasons. Yet somehow, in the dim past, the Army—which is fully as guilty of using gobbledygook as any other Federal Government agency — decided it should mean "unavailable" as well. And that's what all the ruckus was about.

It appeared to cast a slur on Mr. Clapp's ability or his loyalty or something—and in this day of hypertension, when an insinuation or an allegation is apt to be accepted by wild-eyed, frightened Americans as proof of guilt, Mr. Clapp very properly resented it. So did President Truman, the members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. And so did Gordon Gray, new Secretary of the Army.

Mr. Gray acted quite promptly and properly. He apologized publicly to Mr. Clapp as soon as he had investigated the matter, then reassured President Truman and the Senators that the Army had absolutely no derogatory information about Mr. Clapp in its files. He went one step further: he banned the word "unemployable" from Army usage forevermore.

Now if we just had someone else to run through the whole Federal Government vocabulary and ban the hundreds of similar complicated, obscure, and incorrectly used words . . .

From The Greensboro Daily News

DISSERTATION ON SUITS

SUITS come in two or three pieces, depending upon how much vested interest the manufacturer takes in them.

There's no telling how many pieces suits will wind up in, however, or when, after the cleaner gets through with them, moths find them for a several months diet, thin spots appear before your eyes or they get the point of something sharp with which you unintentionally bring them in contact.

Pants are the part of your suit most likely to suffer from a sitdown strike. For that matter, when you're working, there's the rub of it. So deep-seated is the effect on this part of your suit that even a patched-up arrangement is frequently out of the question and your coat and vest are likely to have to go through the rest of their lives mismatched.

One of the worst things about suits is that the part that always wears out first is the part that you simply cannot go without wearing. Vests, it is true, make you more comfortable in cold weather and are always a help in catching gravy, soup or other stuff that would otherwise drop on your tie or shirt front, but they can be and at least part of the year are dispensed with.

One of the problems about suits is what to do with them when you haven't got them on. If you leave them thrown across the chair or bed, no telling where they'll wind up—probably, after a certain amount of warning, on the yard man's back or in somebody's second-hand clothing store. If you try to hang them in the closet, odds are it won't be the right closet or will be in the precise spot that's supposed to be left for you know who's dresses and other garments.

Marquis Childs

Waste Too Great

WASHINGTON

THE wheels of the Government loyalty investigation grind on and on and the cost in money and time can be computed with at least approximate accuracy. But the cost in insecurity, in fear, suspicion, and divisiveness cannot be counted.

The inquiry, covering more than two and a half million Government workers, has contributed to the climate of doubt and division now prevailing. Common sense would have dictated that procedure the British followed.

Only civil servants connected with secret or restricted work are investigated in Britain. When a man's job is thoroughly and efficiently done, if a Government employee engaged in secret work is found to be part of a subversive organization, he is shifted to non-secret work or, in some instances, given the pension to which his years of service entitle him and asked to retire from the Government.

The process in this country is open to serious doubt on the score of the shotgun method used to cover millions of employees — those in highly secret work and those in perfectly routine non-secret jobs. Because of its very diffuseness and its lack of discrimination, the real loyalty risk may evade detection under the loose blanket of American procedure.

The lengths to which it can be carried and the injustice which it can do are illustrated in the case of Mrs. Anne V. Alling, who has been suspended from the Veterans Administration on suspicion of having had Communist associations and Communist sympathies. Mrs. Alling, 59 years old, is nearly blind and in her civil service job with the VA she typed letters which veterans' insurance from dictaphone records.

MEDIEVAL METHOD

At times the record of Mrs. Alling's interrogation before the Fourth Regional Loyalty Board reads like a medieval inquisition. Take the following:

Question: How did you feel about the German policies up until the time of the end of the war? Were you opposed to them?

Answer: You mean opposed to the Nazis?

Question: Yes.

Answer: Yes, we were all opposed to the Nazis.

Question: Why?

Answer: Why?

Question: Yes.

Answer: Well, weren't they trying to come over here and trying to take our country away from us! They were trying to take the world. They were very cruel.

Question: Do you believe that Russia intends such a program?

Answer: It is possible that some day she will have the same idea and, if so, we would be against her just as we were against the Nazis.

I'm afraid that is fairly typical. Mrs. Alling, who has suffered a great deal in her life and yet retains a stubborn sense of independence and integrity, did not give the pat answers the interrogators expected. That may be one reason the board ordered her suspended.

Three board members of the Fourth Regional Loyalty Board spent four and a half hours in the interrogation and many more hours pouring over the file and the transcript. Back of this was the hours spent by the FBI in getting the statements of former associates and neighbors in Atlanta, Ga., and Washington.

Whatever the cost, it was too great. It was a waste of the time of men and women who should have something far better and more constructive to offer for the salaries provided by the taxpayers.

Mrs. Alling has remained in Washington, although she can ill afford to do so, to carry an appeal to the top loyalty board. Her attorney, David Cobb, is acting without fee and providing essential affidavits and records.

The present approach seems to me to put a premium on intimidation on gossip and even on a kind of blackmail. A case in point is that of Roy James who took a Civil Service position from which he was well equipped after he had unsuccessfully run for Congress. His political enemies denounced him as a Communist and the FBI, Naval Intelligence and military intelligence all investigated him and finally cleared him.

To date 8,674 individuals have been investigated and "full field reports" have been submitted on them. Only 258 individuals have thus far been found ineligible and of this number 48 were restored after appeal. If many of the cases are like the Alling case, then we are entitled to ask whether it was worth all the winnowing and sifting to find this tiny grain of disloyalty.

Robert C. Ruark

Fever In The Family

CINCINNATI, Ohio

YOU stride the Ohio River and you're in Kentucky, and it is as wide open as Reno. It is not long before you see two square black-speckled things called cows, two daddy cubes or gallopers, sometimes nestling in your hot little hand.

They feel cool and comfortable and friendly, full of promise and talent. The green baize of the table is neat and pretty as a baseball diamond in May and the come-line is precise and symmetrical as a Blueprint for geometry.

The men in the black aprons and prim black ties have friendly inviting faces and their voices are soft and soothing like birds in the early morn as you hear, "Eight, a point; coming out." No song ever sounded sweeter.

There is a gentle drowsy buzz outside the action room as the happy housewives from Cincinnati concentrate on the nightly bingo game, which is big stuff and big money in the easy environs of Newport, Ky. The buzz is punctuated inside with the cold hard click of the roulette ball as it leaps and dances off the hardwood, flirting with the red and the black and the odd and even.

You suddenly feel sweat in your hands, and the ball leaps and leaps once more behind the ears and under the collar. The ancient business starts new—watch the dice, are they working with or against the roller? Ahs! There's a boy makes six passes before he stumbles on a tough nine and craps himself out.

What you are seeing here is a chronic sucker, reformed these last four years wrestling with the devil and getting weaker all the time. The retired president of Horse Players Anonymous and executive secretary of the Harness Horse Never Made Nobody Rich Club grasps the fatal cup in his clammy hands. Will our hero spurn temptation?

You can bet your sweet life he won't.

A voice not his own says gimme 50 bucks in fives. It is a flat strained voice, the old voice he dimly remembers hearing at the horse parks when it told the mutuel man to give him six tickets on No. 6 in the sixty. It is a desperate voice.

It says shoot 25. The dice are chilly in the damp hand but the breath warms them and they scatter against the board. Wham! A seven she is, and there 50 riding now. The hands are just a little wetter and the first plea to the dice is made.

"Big good little dice," the voice speaks softly and tenderly to its little speckled friends. "Be nice, pretty, little dice, and throw papa an easy point!" Wham! Eleven! Lovely, beautiful mysterious 11, prettier than a formula for an atom bomb, prettier than a woman, prettier than a poem, prettier than a tree.

Now you take the 50 back or you leave the 100 ride—and you know what you always do. The 100 rides and the point is suddenly eight. And old, old words about lovely little Ada from Decatur crawl into the skull, and what do you know, it is eight! Sweet Ada made the hardest kind of way with two chunky little fours—and now what do you do?

Shoot the 200. That's what the voice says. And then it speaks firmly to the nice dice, the honey cubes, and it tells them that another little seven will be just dandy. Nunhuh Five. Ugly five. Fever—they call it fever in the trade. Hate that five lousy faithless five, ugly as a cross-eyed woman with buck teeth.

Hnh! And what have we here? We have a five all right, and we also have a little two. The total is seven, gentlemen, seven is craps, craps you lose. Yonder goes the dough.

Now, then, you still got the other 25 bucks. You got expense money in your pocket, you can always write a check

But what is this strange sight? The man is walking across from the table. He is calling a taxi, his head is up, his chin is firm. By the Lord Harry, the man is actually cured—the boy can take it or leave it alone again.

Hoover Commission Reports

Budgeting And Accounting

(Fourth in a series of articles on the Hoover Commission report on reorganizing the Federal Government.)

A GOVERNMENT budget should answer one prime question: What is the money wanted for?

A Government accounting system should answer one prime question: What are the taxpayers getting for their money?

The U. S. Government's present budget and accounting systems furnish at best only confusing "half answers" to these questions. It is difficult or impossible to tell what any particular Government project or service is expected to cost, or what it actually has cost.

The trouble stems from the antiquated Federal budget system, an accretion of practices dating back to Alexander Hamilton and of many historical accidents. The budget is now composed of lists of items to be paid for—such as personal services, equipment, buildings—rather than of objectives to be accomplished. Every Government agency classifies these items as it pleases. Any particular project, such as a naval hospital, may derive its yearly running expenses from a dozen different budget estimates and resulting appropriations (see below). Thus it is impossible to tell from the budget how much it costs to run the hospital, and how that cost compares with those of similar hospitals. Thus, in turn, efficient management of Government funds and business becomes impossible.

Under this system of allocating funds, even the best accounting system could hardly produce useful figures for Government administrators and for those who are supposed to check on their performance. But Government accounting is a hodgepodge of varying systems among the different agencies. And the main burden of it is overcentralized in the Comptroller General's General Accounting Office, which is snowed under by millions of pieces of paper.

SOME SPECIFIC ITEMS

THE U. S. Budget for 1949-50 contains 1,500,000 words on 1,625 closely printed pages.

No one who reads the Budget would be likely to guess that the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md., is supported from the following Navy appropriation funds, among others:

Secretary's Office—Miscellaneous Expenses, Navy
Bureau of Ships—Maintenance
Bureau of Ordnance—Ordnance and Ordnance Stores
Bureau of Supplies and Accounts—Pay, Subsistence, and Transportation
Bureau of Supplies and Accounts—Maintenance
Bureau of Supplies and Accounts—Transportation of Things

The Bureau of Ships in the Navy Department is financed by 27 appropriations, many of which have no apparent connection with it.

Each year the President recommends and the Congress generously appropriates to the Bureau of Mines "operating rescue cars and stations and investigation of accidents." The amount recommended for 1949 is $1,175,000. The last rescue car and station were discontinued more than two years ago. The appropriation is now divided among five other activities of the bureau.

In 1947-48 the Bureau of Indian Affairs itemized its proposed expenditures of $50 million under some 100 titles and subtitles. The largest item was for more than $11 million. The smallest: $114.55.

The Veterans' Administration offered no other explanation of a request for an appropriation of more than $1 billion than the title "Salaries and Expenses".

According to the Budget, the cost of running the U. S. Forest Service appears to be $36 million a year. But by drawing on funds from other appropriations, the service actually spends some $43 million a year.

The Government Corporation Control Act of Dec. 6, 1945, prescribes two conflicting philosophies of accountability.

Seven records varying in degree of completeness and currency are maintained for public-debt transactions, six are located in the Treasury Dept.

In some instances Government receipts and expenditures are netted with only the net results being reported. These net figures are included in financial statements that report either figures on a gross base.

The chief accounting officer of a department or agency is also to be placed so far down in the hierarchy that he is seldom, if ever, consulted on matters of fiscal policy.

Page 1 of the Daily Treasury Statement of July 1, 1949, showed total budget receipts for the day as $69,460,347.73. On page 2 of that same statement net budget receipts were reported as $89,900,226.26. Trust fund receipts for the day were reported as $2,040,617.97 on page 1 of the statement and at $2,600,739.44 on page 3.

Expenditures of the Federal Security Agency were reported as $925,802,000 in the 1947 Budget (p. 13) and as $925,101,904 in the 1947 Combined Statement (page 13). Reconstruction Finance Corporation expenditures are shown as $592,000,000 in the Budget (A5) and $558,763,774 in the Combined Statement.

The General Accounting Office now employs some 10,000 people and spends more than $30 million a year. About half of this effort and expense is devoted to examining the millions of vouchers and supporting documents, covering every expenditure of Government funds anywhere in the world, which are hauled to Washington by the freight carload.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The U. S. Government and each of its departments and agencies should adopt a "performance budget," setting forth clearly in terms of functions, projects, or services how it proposes to spend its money. The budget of the present misleading jumble, all Navy medical expenses will be listed under the heading "Medical Care," with separate listings itemizing the full cost of running each hospital.

2. Current operating expenditures and capital outlays, now confusingly intermingled, should be listed separately in every Government budget.

3. A new Accounting Service should be established in the Treasury Dept. with an Accountant General authorized to set up and enforce—in co-operation with the Comptroller General—a uniform accounting system throughout the executive departments and agencies.

4. As the agent of Congress, the Comptroller General should of course continue to make sure Government funds are spent as Congress intends. But "in view of the fantastic growth of detail," a spot check of vouchers and other documents at various administrative centers throughout the country might be substituted for the practice of sending every item for examination in Washington.

People's Platform

Professor McGargle's Advice

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE outbursts in your People's Platform against the policies and the character of the late President Roosevelt pose a highly interesting problem. Garrett Baxter, D. D. Hamilton and Pete Jones appear to have strong convictions in the matter and they are able to express them with considerable fluency. It is almost certain that more such letters will come to your People's Platform and to open editorials all over the country—all with a similar viewpoint.

This bears out an observation made a few years ago by that famous psychiatrist, Prof. Waldo Timothy McGargle who warned that if and when another Roosevelt (Hyde Park branch) entered public life many of the old ailments would reappear. Prof. McGargle stated that after the death of President Roosevelt many of the people who had gone through torture of sleepless nights with symptoms of a cold sweat and intermittent shouts of "That Man", slowly began to recover. The recovery was slow and painful but according to his figures most of these people were soon able to lead rational and useful lives again. Then came this secondary shock, as the psychiatrists call it—the election to Congress of Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. and the association of names is beginning to ring bells in many heads. True, it's only Congress, but the mere thought of it is playing havoc with reflexes and complexes from the rock-ribbed coast of Maine to the Golden Gate of California, which, of course, includes Manteo and Murphy.

In his great work, "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now", Prof. Waldo Timothy McGargle offers this fine advice. "Just don't think about it," he says. "Furthermore," he adds, "if the worst comes and you begin to shout 'That Boy' in your sleep, condition yourself to the counting of Herbert Hoover and Tom Dewey jumping over a fence, and after you have counted about 350 of each, you will succeed in drowning 'That Boy' out of your mind . . . you can lick it with a little practice — at least until 'That Boy' is finally inaugurated."

It is well worth taking Prof. McGargle's advice to heart. In his monugental separate work on the subject which he called, "Curse Of An Aching Heart", Prof. McGargle closes with these highly significant words, "Be calm."

—H. L. GALLITZIANER.

Roosevelt Memorial Drive

New York

Editors, THE NEWS:

THE Roosevelt Memorial Association is trying to get in touch with surviving friends, associates and followers of Theodore Roosevelt, and we need your help. We want the name and addresses of men and women who knew the great "T.R." or in some way felt upon their lives the impact of his personality or his leadership. They may be former Progressives, or volunteers for that division of the Rough Riders War which never materialized, or scientists, or hunters, or newspaper men, or neighbors, or people in his audience at political rallies. Newspaper readers who rose to this challenge during the first World War. There must be thousands surviving to whom some contact with Theodore Roosevelt is a cherished memory.

Will you help us locate them, asking them to send their names and addresses to Theodore Roosevelt House, 28 E. 20th St., New York, N. Y.?

Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

—HERMAN HAGEDORN,
Secretary Roosevelt Memorial Association.

Three Complaints

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I HAVE three things to complain about, and I hope the City Government will do something about each of them.

The first is the excessive noise and automobile speeding along the 700 block of Providence Road where I live. One night recently a youth on a bicycle rode back and forth for more than an hour blowing a siren. Cars blow their horns at all hours of the night as they race by at dangerous speeds with their motors whining. It's getting almost impossible to get a good night's sleep.

The second thing is the lack of bus transportation along Independence Blvd. My maid lives in a house one block off the boulevard. She has to walk six blocks in order to ride in rainy weather or in sunny weather. I see no reason why anyone in the city of Charlotte should have to walk six blocks to get a bus, especially if the Duke Power Co. gets its fare increased to ten cents.

Finally, in Atlanta and other Georgia cities, the bus companies have special shopping tickets which can be used at various stores and which also have shuttle buses which operate like expresses. Both of these improvements could be effected in Charlotte and thus reduce the bus congestion at peak hours.

—MRS. EDGAR M. HANNON.

Quote, Unquote

If you see a man leisurely spading up a plot of ground, he is making garden; if he is energetically breaking up the rich clouds of earth he is looking for bait.—Mattoon (Ill.) Journal-Gazette.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Bendix Strike Slows B-36 Building

WASHINGTON

WHILE Congress has been investigating possible finangling on B-36 contracts, the inside fact is that Consolidated Vultee has been forced to curtail production of the giant bomber—because of a prolonged strike in one key plant.

The strike is at Bendix, South Bend, Ind., which supplies vital airplane parts throughout the industry. Effect of the strike has been so severe that the Air Force is running short of spare parts for some of its most effective squadrons and may be forced to cut down on flying time.

Meanwhile, the FBI is checking reports that strike leaders are Communists, infiltrating into this key industry because of its power to paralyze the Air Force. Federal Mediator Arthur Vitt has tried to work out a settlement but so far Studebaker plant. All the fault has not been on labor's side, however. Management has been bull-headed and strikers are sore at Bendix industrial relations manager, Millard Stone, whose handling of the famous Auto-Lite strike branded him as a labor-hater.

Unemployment Jitters—The President's Council of Economic Advisers last week sent him a confidential memo pointing to increasing unemployment at a time when it should be decreasing. . . . The council is also worried about wage negotiations of 3,000,000 workers in the steel, coal, transportation, electric and auto industries in which the unions are demanding more wage increases while profits are dropping. . . . The economic council's chief battle is with Secretary of Treasury Snyder, who tells Truman that business will continue good, with nothing to worry about for the next twelve months. . . . Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing does not share this view. He called at the White House last week to urge an immediate Federal works program to calm unemployment jitters. . . . Despite the unemployment trend, only a meager public-works program is now before Congress—a bill to authorize 575 new public buildings.

Backstage With the Diplomats—Secretary Acheson has been trying to arrange another foreign ministers meeting for New York in September. Still not discouraged, he is willing to try another conference before giving up hope for some kind of deal with Russia on Germany. . . Acheson has told Vishinsky he is willing to appoint Bob Murphy, American Ambassador to Belgium, to negotiate with the Russians, British and French until the New York meeting rolls around. . . . Real fact is that President Truman was a bit worried in advance of the Paris conference about the way Acheson made under pressure from Vishinsky. Now he is satisfied Acheson is a tough negotiator, and even if the Paris conference ends in failure, Truman thinks Acheson did a wonderful job. He told him so in a telephone conversation last week

Negro Improvements—It's largely obscured by Senate filibusters but white leaders in the South are taking more responsibility regarding Negro betterment. . . . Jackson, Miss., recently held a significant vote on waterworks improvements, additional fire equipment and a new Negro auditorium. All three were voted overwhelmingly and the new Negro auditorium got almost as many votes as the additional fire equipment and improved waterworks. . . . White citizens of Richmond, Va., some months ago took the lead in electing a Negro to the City Council. It was white votes that put him there—not colored.

Anonymous Vigilantes—The FBI investigating a mysterious outfit calling itself "The Vigilantes" which has been bombarding Congress with threatening letters demanding that all Masons and Jews resign. About 50 Congressmen have received letters. . . . Authors of the letters have brazenly used the local telephone numbers of the Sons of the American Revolution, which caused the Sons to tip off the FBI. . . . G-men advise Congressmen who receive such mail not to open the envelopes, on the chance that the writer's identity can be established from fingerprints.

Merry-Go-Round

DWIGHT PALMER, under White House consideration as head of the National Security Resources Board, is an active battler against bigotry in Westchester. Head of the General Cable Corp., he practices what he preaches among the 5,000 employees of his firm. . . . The Vinson committee to investigate the B-36 will subpoena the records of the Navy League to find out where the money's coming from to battle the B-36. . . . Sen. Johnson of Colorado is holding hearings on installing telephones in trains—an important safety measure. . . . Landlords by the hundreds of thousands are applying for rent increases under the new law guaranteeing them a fair return. Many are entitled to raise rents. . . . Bill O'Dwyer will rejoin his old law firm, O'Dwyer & Bernstein, when he retires as mayor of New York.

New U. S. Citizens—Attorney General Tom Clark has been waging a campaign to make citizenship and naturalization ceremonies more important. He feels that when a foreigner takes on the obligations of American citizenship, it should be accompanied by a ritual as impressive, though not so secretive, as an initiation into a high fraternal order. . . . Clark has published an enlightening book, "Gateway to Citizenship," on the obligations of American citizenship. It's worth reading. . . . A nine-judge panel in California does one of the best jobs of naturalizing citizens. In Washington, D. C., Judge Alexander Holtzoff rates high.

Behind the Iron Curtain—The Red Army high command has just completed a highly secret meeting with Army chiefs of staff in the satellite countries. The Army commanders from Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria were present. Purpose of the conference was to map co-ordinated military strategy—just in case. . . . U. S. diplomats report the Russians have discovered a tremendously important deposit of radium, and possibly uranium, just outside Archangel, Siberia. Hundreds of Russian engineers and geologists have been sent to open up adits in mining. The deposit is believed to be one of the largest in the world.