

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ROBESON?

PAUL ROBESON is a man who, as an artist, merits the respect of his fellows. One doesn't run up against a voice like his more than two or three times a century.

But as another plane—politics and social responsibility—Robeson is making a most unlovely spectacle of himself.

It is neither pleasant nor rewarding to entangle ourselves in the "art and politics" net. Let us in our consideration of Robeson as a political thinker, forget that he is an artist.

Robeson's race—his is a Negro—also beside the point. The more virulent white supremacists who drive Robeson to his titles and his race—blaming one upon the other—serve only to create confusion and sympathy for Robeson.

Another hurdle which must be cleared before one can see Robeson as an individual, as a man expressing a political preference is this: that he has no right to attack the United States because it has been so generous to him. That is a half-truth; Robeson, to be sure, is fighting for his own benefit—and not for his.

As a person—not as an artist and not as a Negro—he is making a complete fool of himself in his attitude toward the United States, which he espouse the cause of political independence and freedom of thought.

As a person he is, with his repeated statements, that he is not a Communist, but that he would not take up arms against Russia, hurting a group of persons who

have enough to worry about without accepting responsibility for the fanatic mouthings of a propagandist for Communism.

As a person he is destroying the progress made by such moderate organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which is finding Robeson an added burden on an already overburdened organization.

There was a time when Paul Robeson was comparatively cautious, not going out of his way to excite those conservatives who sit—arrear brushes pulled—ready to blacken the entire life left because of the irresponsibility of articulate radicals.

Something has happened to Robeson, something very bad. It is a curious thing that the Communist Party has not silenced this man. It is a curious thing that the Communist Party is solidifying opposition to the Communist Party and swaying those moderates who once were willing to tolerate roads into the anti-Communist camp.

He's getting careless, too.

In addressing a group of photographers on the day of his son's wedding, he said: "I have the greatest contempt for the democratic press . . ."

The way time, then Robeson would have said "the capitalist press . . ."

Something has shaken Robeson out of the cautious radicalism he once pursued. Something has made this once tolerable radical an object of contempt among his liberal thinkers.

AND I THOUGHT I'D BE WORKING FOR ME!



Hoover Commission Report Agriculture And Post Office

(Ninth in a series of articles explaining the reports of the Hoover Commission on reorganizing the Government.)

In trying to guide and steer U. S. farmers through the past turbulent twenty years of depression, war, scientific progress, farm mechanization, shifting markets, increasing population, the Government has taken on vast new responsibilities and multiplied its agricultural services manifold. In 1928 the Department of Agriculture had about 22,000 employees; now it has 82,000. In 1928 the department spent less than \$20 million. In 1948 it spent \$284 million.

This sprawling growth has left the department a loose confederation of independent bureaus and agencies, rather than a well-integrated, tightly knit organization. Authority and responsibility are diffused among twenty offices that report directly to the Secretary. There are many wasteful overlaps and duplications not only within the department itself but also between and among state and county farm services.

There are also conflicts with other Federal agencies that have undertaken to help the farmer and conserve the land. Inspection and regulation of food and drugs is scattered among several agencies; to the confusion of producers and manufacturers. The numerous farm-credit agencies overlap and conflict.

SPECIFIC ITEMS
The Post Office paid over 2 1/2 cents to print and deliver a penny post card. The poor man's letter. Of the 33 billion postal cards mailed in 1947, about 65 per cent were used for business purposes. The Post Office could make much greater use of mechanical devices for handling mail. In general, it is short of equipment of all kinds and much of its equipment is obsolete. Average age of the department's motor vehicles, fifty-one and a half years.

The department operates under 58 separate congressional appropriations, for such items as "clerk's, first-second class post office, services, and supplies," "carfare and bicycle allowance." Only within narrow limits is it permitted to transfer funds from one account to the other. Its various employees are not properly treated as if they were totally unrelated.

The laws and regulations by which the Post Office operates fill over 200 pages of print. As a monopoly, the Post Office has no competitive standards to meet. It makes little effort to learn what the public thinks of its services, rates, or to discover what new services might be popular.

RECOMMENDATIONS
1. The Postmaster General is traditionally chairman of his party's national committee. He should cease to be a party officer and should also be relieved of operating duties and left free to determine departmental policies.
2. The present head of the Post Office should be an experienced executive, preferably a career oficer in the postal service, to be known as Director of Posts.
3. The Post Office should be taken out of politics by abolishing the present confirmation of postmasters.
4. A national board of seven part-time advisers representing various elements of the public should be set up to give advice on methods and policies.
5. As a matter of public policy, dissemination of information and other public services to the general public should continue to set rates for first, second, and third-class mail. But the Postmaster General should be authorized to set rates for postal cards, special delivery, and C.O.D. mail that would make each of these services self-supporting. On a June 1, 1949 estimate, this would increase postal revenue by \$113 million a year.
6. Subsidies to mail-carrying airlines and shipping companies may be highly desirable. But the amounts of these subsidies should be paid to the Post Office open appropriation from tax funds, not charged to the department's mail funds, as the present hidden manner.

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QOD mail, etc. It spends tens of millions yearly for rail ship, air, and truck transportation. The four million depositors in its Postal Savings System have accounts totaling \$2.4 billion.

To operate this huge business—normally at a loss—the department has an obsolete and over-centralized administrative structure, clogged by a maze of outmoded laws, regulations, and traditions. Its rate-making machinery is inadequate, its rates have not kept pace with its costs. Moreover its rates also hide subsidies to certain groups. Ambition is discouraged and efficiency reduced by political selection of its postmasters. It works under the budgeting, appropriation, and accounting systems that are entirely unsuited to a business of its size and character.

The Post Office deficit was \$263 million in fiscal 1947 and \$310 million in 1948, still probably reach \$500 million in 1949.

It costs the Post Office about 2 1/2 cents to print and deliver a penny post card. The poor man's letter. Of the 33 billion postal cards mailed in 1947, about 65 per cent were used for business purposes.

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STATE LEGION STAND

THE decision of the North Carolina Department of the American Legion to reaffirm its support of pensions based on disability and need and to reject all of the "grab-bag" pension plans is in the best tradition of the State organization which has never joined in any national movement for special veterans' benefits.

The Legion acted after Commander Joe W. Grier of Charlotte told them to take the responsibility of the Legion to "restrain ourselves from using our powerful influence to bring about enactment of measures which are not in the public interest and which impair the cause of the veterans whose interest we are pledged to protect."

It was not the first time that Commander Grier had spoken out against the various pension plans proposed at this session of the Congress. He has consistently opposed such pensions as the one recently passed by the House which would grant veterans of all wars a pension of \$72 a month if reaching 65 years of age, provided they did not have incomes in excess

of \$1,200 a year if single and \$2,500 a year if married.

The State Department took one more step; it criticized the National Legion Convention for its endorsement of a pension plan at Miami last year. In this the Department was also consistent, for the North Carolina delegation to the convention voted solidly against the pension endorsement.

It is the responsibility of the Legion to lead from veterans' organizations. There is simply no justification for a special brand of Social Security for men who once wore their nation's uniform. Moreover, the inherent danger in all these pension plans is that the man who was maimed or crippled, or the family of the man who was killed, will be overlooked and neglected.

We can not compensate too liberally the men who really suffered in fighting for our nation, and we must never lose sight of their plight.

PARIS IN THE SPRING

THE best you can say of the Foreign Minister's conference is we didn't lose anything. The worst you can say is that we didn't gain anything.

There are a lot of in-between things you may not say.

That Russia seems a good deal more conciliatory.

That Dean Acheson has proved himself to be a firm spokesman for the West.

That the Berlin fence is down a couple of degrees, although the patient is still flushed.

That Russia has not discarded its habit of looking at the world through a microscope as in the case of their insistence in this

European conference of discussing the Japanese pact treaty.

That Andrei Vishinsky smiles more often than did his predecessor, Molotov.

That France is apparently convinced, by statements by Shuman that all seems well, that Russia is preparing to march across Western Europe.

That the East and West can agree on something, even if it is as minor as the atomic peace treaty.

That numerous Americans, Englishmen, Russians and assorted newspapermen got to see Paris in the Spring, which is—very pleasant, almost as pleasant as international accord.

NO BIRD IN THE HAND

THE uphill and so me w h a t spasmotic campaign conducted occasionally in a campaign aimed at persuading humans to look a little more coolly at the devil-tattling cult of bird-worship, has achieved absolutely no result. One might as well put the hammer and sickle banner on hang Uncle Joe Stalin's portrait over the living room mantle as to refuse to join the great conspiracy of people who regard birds as winged spirits of light and virtue instead of the most unclean, dirty, quarrelsome, selfish and superlatively noisy creatures, a blight upon the peace and pre-drawn quiet of Suburbia.

Having hit upon so anti-social a crusade as our forerunners contributed to human betterment, we are forced to take support and comfort where we find it. And a crumb came our way this week in the form of a somewhat weasel-wounded but nevertheless spirited attack upon this monstrous disturber of the night air, the whippoorwill. This malignant little creature is, says the New York Times in a cautious editorial whiplash, "the most unlovely of the peculiarities that then catalogue most impressively the most fanatic bird-lover as being rather disagreeable. To begin with, says the Times, it can sing a note. It is "a long-winged, mottled brown creature with a small beak and a big mouth. It spends most of the daylight hours dozing and out of sight but as soon as dusk descends it makes the world its own."

Apply that description to a human being if you want to measure the whippoorwill's qualities at their true value! But this is not all. No one in the world is made up of chicks, hoots and blats that constitute the unearthly music of the birds can match the whippoorwill for volume, raucousness, malice and staying power. The

Times no doubt is inhibited by consideration for its readers, who count among their number an unduly large proportion of bird worshippers. Otherwise its courageous denunciation of this leather-lunged and un-mannerly invader would not be tempered by such patient insinuations as this: "You may resent it when it calls, but it is even worse to wait and have no call. And when you move to a place where the whippoorwill does not call, you would give anything to hear that monotonous evensong . . ."

Well, here is at least one earthwily victim of a wandering whippoorwill who would give precisely nothing to hear it again. And that goes for the entire metallic-voiced tribe that arrives before 3 A. M. to eat our cherries and pick over what remains of the previous day's dinner. They are the members of a family quarrel. If a bird would learn manners it might find a friend in us. Since it can't and won't, we shall continue to regard it as the helpless victim of one of the most preposterous and misguided cults to ever afflict civilized man, and to extend a reluctant and resentful admiration to the large and prolific bird tribe that it might be a good thing to have rooster from our ardent and misplaced affection.

Scientists are converting sawdust into feed for dogs. And some of the hamburgers and steaks we've had in the last few years served like the uncovered sawdust had been placed directly in the meat. — Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

A man near a New York hotel spoke a language none of the fifteen interpreters could understand. Probably a Southern accent written by a Yankee author. — Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE 48-hour mystery over J. Edgar Hoover's resigning as head of the FBI got stirred up from two separate sources. The resignation of J. Edgar Hoover was the smearing of a lot of innocent bystanders when the FBI reports in the Judith Coplon case were published. Truman felt that such smearing should not have been allowed to get into the FBI files, and for a while he was all for firing the FBI chief.

The other source was J. Edgar Hoover's public relations man, Lou Nichols, a smart and likable Greek-American, formerly Nicholopoulos, who, in his zeal to protect his boss, sometimes went a little far.

It was Nichols who set in motion the rumor that Hoover was about to resign—as a backfire against Truman's intimation that it might be a good thing to have Hoover resign.

Nichols was busy as a bird dog dropping hints to newsmen about friction between Hoover and his chief, Attorney General Clark. Nichols' conversation almost verbatim. Nichols is the same alert bodyguard who shuttled back and forth between the FBI and the White House when it was a good bet the Republicans were going to win in November. He seemed almost as much at home in the office of Congressman Parnell Thomas, chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee, as the Congressman himself. Parnell Thomas is now under indictment in a black-buck scandal.

Nichols also was chummy with GOP Sen. Ferguson of Michigan, after Joe of the United States. Lou was credited with slipping Ferguson the Elizabeth Bentley spy file, and was so active that some Capitol observers were unkind enough to say he was playing his cards to become chief of the FBI once the Republicans took office—though

Hoover Clark 'Feud' Without Basis

this fever has never detected anything but strict devotion to his FBI chief.

Clark And Hoover
CONTRARY to reports between Hoover and Attorney General Clark, Hoover never sent a letter threatening resignation, and he was actually asked to hold the job.

Clark telephoned Hoover after Dr. Edward U. Condon of the Coplon case rather than produce the FBI reports. J. Edgar Hoover, Clark called Hoover "Dr. Condon." Hoover laughed.

Clark then asked Hoover if he would like to see the FBI reports in the Coplon case. Hoover said he had lost about 200, and that he was not interested in the FBI reports in the Coplon case.

The Attorney General said he had been talking to Acting Secretary of State Webb, who said he was sure the Russians knew they were being watched.

Editorial Feature War On Beer Joints

By HALPH GIBSON
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A LAW passed by the 1948 General Assembly strikes the opening chord of what may well turn out to be the swiftest and widest-spread beer joint in North Carolina.

The legislation is one of the most restrictive bills ever to win approval in the General Assembly. It is a measure of respectability for the State. It is a measure of respectability for the State. It is a measure of respectability for the State. It is a measure of respectability for the State.

Meanwhile, the applause from the sidelines was deafening. It came in waves from politicians who have the rates of the State. It came in waves from politicians who have the rates of the State. It came in waves from politicians who have the rates of the State.

The beer industry, which shudders at the phrase "beer joint" signed with relief, "Facing exile from the state—more than a score of county beer elections have all gone to the Drys in recent months—the beer people saw this bill as a means of restoring a measure of respectability to their product. For the same reason, owners of establishments who have followed the letter of the law faithfully in the past were happy.

The dry forces saw in the bill a step—albeit a toddling one—toward the goal of a total ban on the sale of beer. It was a step toward the goal of a total ban on the sale of beer. It was a step toward the goal of a total ban on the sale of beer.

Everybody was in the bill. The brewers, the barbers, and operators of the shady shops which have plagued whole communities with its unsavory reputation. The brewers, the barbers, and operators of the shady shops which have plagued whole communities with its unsavory reputation.

Written notice of intention to file license application must be given county and municipality. The law relating to the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages has been amended. The law relating to the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages has been amended.

AMONG the power bestowed on the State inspectors is one which allows them to revoke or suspend automatically the license of any beer dealer if the inspector finds that the dealer has failed to pay the license fee. The inspector has the right to enter the establishment at any hour of day or night. That's all there is to it—gone is the permit.

The inspectors will also have the same powers as local peace officers, but they are not local men and have no local obligations. They were, naturally, with police of counties and cities, but they are paid and supervised by Raleigh.

C. A. Upchurch Jr., Mall Beverage Director, makes no bones about his fight. He will not meet the requirements of the law will not get permits, he states with determination ringing in his voice.

proof that a start has been made in the campaign to clean out or close up undesirable places like in the 250 establishments which have failed to get permits since May 1. In Mecklenburg, seven places have failed to get by the time they were inspected assigned to this area. There are over 500 licenses in the county.

James Marlow Try Try Again

WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT TRUMAN now has a chance to get his own recommendations for reorganizing the Government. He has a chance to get his own recommendations for reorganizing the Government. He has a chance to get his own recommendations for reorganizing the Government.

He did that yesterday. And they're important, although they're only the first in a series of plans he'll offer, some this year, some next year.

The story of reorganizing the Government is complicated. It is complicated. It is complicated. It is complicated. It is complicated. It is complicated. It is complicated.

First he must offer his reorganization plans to Congress. He must offer his reorganization plans to Congress. He must offer his reorganization plans to Congress. He must offer his reorganization plans to Congress.

Then he must wait 60 days to see what Congress thinks. He must wait 60 days to see what Congress thinks. He must wait 60 days to see what Congress thinks. He must wait 60 days to see what Congress thinks.

A plan can be killed in one of two ways. It can be killed in one of two ways. It can be killed in one of two ways. It can be killed in one of two ways. It can be killed in one of two ways.

There are two important factors to keep in mind in the FBI-Coplon case furor. There are two important factors to keep in mind in the FBI-Coplon case furor. There are two important factors to keep in mind in the FBI-Coplon case furor. There are two important factors to keep in mind in the FBI-Coplon case furor.