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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1953

IS THE ANTI-KLAN LAW NEEDED?

AS AN EXPRESSION of General Assembly opinion, a proposed new anti-Klan law may be in order. As a practical weapon to combat the Klan, it not only has dubious merit but raises serious questions.

There is no dearth of laws to prevent un-American activities. There are laws against trespassing against forcible entry, against assault, against kidnapping, against threats of personal violence, against all of the tactics that the Klan has used to frighten, intimidate and browbeat its victims.

The Klan has been able to flourish in the South not because of ineffective laws, but because officers failed to enforce the laws or juries refused to convict, and in both cases an apathetic public permitted the breakdown of law and order.

In the past two years, the effectiveness of existing state and Federal laws has been proved right here in North Carolina. Diligent officers, conscientious juries, and an outraged citizenry joined forces to smash the Klan in Columbus County and to reach across the South Carolina border to apprehend and convict the self-anointed Grand Dragon.

Why, then, do we need another law against "secret political societies, secret military societies, and secret societies for resisting and obstructing the law?"

The law, as written, is full of vague, confusing, incoherent and meaningless phrases. For example, it would be illegal to commit or cause any act (whichever is unmasked) of intimidation or terrorism or to prevent him from doing lawful acts or

causing him to commit unlawful acts. What, precisely, does this mean? Not so long ago a Caswell County Negro was convicted of assault on a young lady by "leering" at her from 80 feet away. The "assault" was a product of her own wild imagination. Could "intimidation" be so loosely interpreted?

Would the law be used against a labor union if, after a secret meeting, a picket line should erupt into fistfights? Would college fraternities be outlawed for youthful, extracurricular pranks? What about the social and fraternal clubs with bars and slot machines, both against the law?

The McCarran Act is a case in point. Adopted for an admittedly good motive, many parts have simply proved unenforceable. Others are doing more harm than good. Still others are totally ineffective in catching Communists.

As we see it, a state law outlawing the wearing of masks in public (except for holiday and occupational purposes) is all that is needed. The hood and the robe are the trademarks of the Klan. Stripped of its masked anonymity, the Klan would be unable to hold its members. Group members who may be wearing in masks and robes are merely silly without them.

In the final analysis, it is not the Klan that we need to outlaw, but the bigotry and ignorance, the collusion with law enforcement authorities and public apathy which spawn the evil organization and keep it alive. Rotten and rotten and the Klan will die the death it so richly deserves.



Orderly Reform Difficult

McCarthy-Dulles Showdown Likely

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON
A RECKONING with Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, stage in the Eisenhower administration's shake-down into an effective working team.

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These questions have already struck them-

Like And Lady Voters Agree Pipe Tariff Shouldn't Go Up

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

WASHINGTON
I don't think President Eisenhower ever had any idea that the lovely members of the League of Women Voters were in the mood of smoking amply, odd briar pipes. The thought never occurred to him.

When the President was campaigning for his job, he had no idea he would be the first jump out of the box with pipes.

Mr. Eisenhower doesn't smoke for himself. He doesn't smoke when he is puffing a cigarette, but ordinarily he does not sully his lungs with tobacco. This pipe embargo, thus must have given him a jolt.

The trouble is that a new pipe is not a pipe. A fellow's got to have his time for days on end before it's first to smoke. The older it gets, the more it likes it. And it seldom wears out, though a few frequently has been known to throw the whole subject of the pipe into the incinerator.

My own beloved mother once declared that she would not wear a pipe if she had one. She has not pleased. I had to buy all new ones and turned my tongue into a big pipe.

I mean that a man buys himself a pipe as the result of some such domestic emergency. So there isn't much of a market for pipes and only 1,000 people in America all told are engaged in carving them. Even so, they're overstocked.

The pipe-makers long ago

Brotherhood Has Hard Going In This Poison-Pen World

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
SOME of the poison of hatred that is being sent through the United States mails has been directed at a blow in the face. It is probably for the most part the work of the anti-Semitic fringe. But both the fringe and the variety of hate literature have increased in recent months, with the indication that the heeled backers are behind the increase.

There are those who say that since this is the work of an anti-Semitic fringe it is best to be overlooked. But the corrosive effect of this vicious propaganda is so minor it may be, should not be ignored. Last week was National Brotherhood Week, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

ANTI-SEMITISM
The Russians have now launched an anti-Semitic campaign that started with a denunciation of Jewish doctors who were supposed to be contributing to the deaths of leading Communists. The experts are divided as to whether this is meant to be a bid for internal unrest, or the pogroms launched by the secret police under the czar, or the anti-Semitic propaganda of the foreign police for use in connection with the drive of Communist imperialism in the Middle East.

But one consequence of the latest Kremlin move would be almost certain if it did not have every implication. The anti-Semitic hate-mongers in this country have been inspired by the Soviet line. It cuts across that line, it is a theme which is communism is a Jewish plot. These are crying facts, fraud.

Some of the propaganda from these sources might actually have been manufactured in the Kremlin. It shows, too, a remarkable adaptation to the latest developments in Moscow.

One of the poison-pen documents purports to be a "speech of Rabbi Emanuel Bahnhoffer" made before a special meeting of the Emergency Council of European Rabbis in Budapest, Hungary, Jan. 22, 1952. This crude fabrication, Jan. 22, of the need to "work with every possible force for the precipitate World War III within five years" and goes on

speech just on the West Coast. That was the President's first to go about it. "Oh, no!" a Democratic official answered. "It'll have the same coverage as the radio news." "That's too bad," said Stevenson dryly. "I wish to have to write an entirely new speech."

Ke's Painting

AT THE President's latest get-together luncheon with members of Congress, a speech once again admired his almost perfect command of the English language. During the conversation, Stevenson remarked that Ike was as good as a painter as he was a politician.

"Oh, no! I'm just a dauber," replied the President. "Churchill is a real artist. I am sure that if he were a painter, he would today be the world's greatest artist."

While the Jones painting caught the eyes of his guests, Ike's own eye was caught by the painting of a young man, a grandson of Grandfather of New Jersey. Here is the reason why: Grandfather was a wave of the sea, and his five stars topped by a Presidential seal.

FIREMEN PLAY WITH LOADED DICE

Each Trustee shall be entitled to one vote. The affirmative vote shall be necessary for a decision by the Trustees at any meeting of said board and the chairman shall only vote in case of a tie.

THE 1947 legislative act creating the Charlotte Firemen's Retirement Fund gives the fireman an effective veto over every decision affecting the fund.

There are seven members of the board of trustees. The chairman is appointed by the Resident Superior Court Judge. The three city officials and the chairman vote en bloc for one of the firemen to miss a meeting, or simply not to cast a vote. Without all three firemen's votes, there can be no tie.

And without a tie, there is no way for the chairman to vote. And without the chairman's vote, there is no way to get the four affirmative votes prescribed by the law.

It is a neat little gimmick, and the members of the Mecklenburg legislative delegation ought to give it their attention along with other amendments needed to put the near-defunct fund on an actuarially sound basis.

The best solution, a solution that would preserve the equities of all parties concerned, would be to add two more members, along with the chairman, would represent the public.

The need for such a shift in the voting balance has been clearly shown by the long and tortuous effort to pay the Firemen's Fund on a sound financial basis. Although it had been suspected for years that the fund would eventually become bankrupt, the firemen recently efforts to get the facts. Had not one of the trustees filed for bankruptcy, the study several months ago, to the displeasure of some of his co-workers by the fact, the people would not now have the specific fact that bankruptcy will be the fate of the fund in two more years at the present rate of contributions and benefits.

Although it has no legal authority in the matter, the City Council has its opinion known last week in the resolution asking the trustees to call upon the legislative delegation to change the act. Councilman Boyer's motion asked that the necessary legislation be passed "to make this fund solvent and keep it in line with the contributions made by the City of Charlotte to the Police Department employees and general City employees."

We have stressed those two points over and over. First, the fund must be made solvent. Second, the City should do no more for the fireman than it does for other City employees.

The so-called compromise suggested recently by a special committee will not make the fund solvent. This plan would change the present retirement age from 25 years of service only, to retirement at age 55 and at least 25 years of service, or retirement at any age after 30 years of service.

It also suggested that the City's contribution be increased from 10 to 15 percent of each fireman's salary—the same amount now contributed to the policemen

From The Salisbury Post

FREE WHEELING

REFORMS being introduced by the Eisenhower Administration are being lumped together to be termed a free wheeling economy.

Let us devotely hope the catch-phrase may prove wholly unobtainable.

"Free wheeling," in case you don't recall, was the slogan used in 1920 by a certain type of automobile transmission which permitted

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