

New 'Heretic' For The Political Stake

AMERICA'S mad flight from goblins and ghosts and "things that go bump in the night" has apparently not ended after all.

Exhibit A, sad plight of Cadet Midshipman Eugene W. Landy who was denied a Naval Reserve commission at the Merchant Marine Academy because his mother was once a member of the Communist Party.

Sensitive Americans who thought they had heard the last of the voices of distrust, suspicion and doubt must view this sorry spectacle with sinking hearts.

Here is an honor graduate—second in his class—who has won three of the academy's highest awards. Here is a man about whom the academy says, "There's here." Here is a young citizen who says his political views are "pretty conservative," who himself insisted that his mother quit the party years ago. This model student, this loyal American whose record is as pure as spring rain has been denied his commission because of the odious principle of "guilt by association."

It is a distressing throwback to the dark ages. Such things happened during the Spanish Inquisition. In fact, Eleanor Bontoux writes of cases before the Eccle-

siastical Courts which are uncomfortably similar.

... the beliefs of relatives were held to be presumptive proof of the guilt of the accused. In one case, the charge against a man was that his mother was a heretic. That is the often used to visit him, and sometimes helped him out when he was in need. The standard of judgment was that a strong suspicion should be sufficient to condemn a man as a heretic.

Nobody is being burned at the stake in 1955 but some good names are being ruined and injustices are being done. The evaluations of Americans by other Americans are being distorted out of all resemblance to the facts.

The young midshipman's principal crime, it seems, was to have been born to Mrs. Landy. Guilt has been briskly transferred in the genes and blood cells.

This is akin to black magic, or worse. It is a distortion of America's normal system of values.

Unreasonable, unthinking political vigilantism of this kind has no place in the United States in 1955.

The Navy owes an apology not only to Mr. Landy but to the American people as well.

Same Song, Same Verse At Asheville

THAT the searing phrase, "You can't go home again," came from a man who never left home is a wonderfully right thing.

Thomas Wolfe found truth in contradiction, truth for him and for all who know the peace and pure fullness of their childhood is no more, who know and yet in the secret places of their minds lament the loss. They seek out the pastures of their youth, but the marsh and the grass do not smell the same. Nor are apples as red or as sweet, or the woods as cool. But the green memory remains and memory of the young years holds maturity's scars.

Music is one of the things that bind a man to his roots, and thus the folk songs survive, age, science, cynicism and sophistication, and yield nothing to complexity.

In Asheville this weekend the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival moves into its 26th year. The festival is a big tourist success and that is a worthy reason for its support by the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, but a news release from the Chamber hardly mentions tourists. The emphasis is on the music, the retention of its purity, the rejection of "jive and cowboy fiddlefaddle," the continuing vigor and growth of the folk music of the southern Highlands.

These festivals are strong threads in the Carolina fabric. They conserve and spread a rich, native culture, and lay needed emphasis on the value of simplicity and heritage.

The Asheville festival has played a great part in the emergence of a strong, new national interest in folk music and dance. No state has more than North Carolina to contribute to American folklore, and happily the printing and popularization of the old songs has strengthened their hold on Americans, contrary to the fate of most "pop" tunes.

The latest strength and beauty of simple folk music and its new fascination in a time of speed, shift and change brought this explanation from Horace Reynolds, teacher of English at Boston's Emerson College.

The most fundamental (cause) is possibly the dissatisfaction of modern man with science as a method of explaining the mysteries of the universe. Folklore edges in here to become again for him something that magic and religion were to his ancestors. Man requires mystery and reverence. In our folklore we still have a center on the supernatural. With folklore we attempt to fill our hollowness, to hold on to what time and change would strip us of, to avoid the straight line of decay. I believe that we come back to where we started.

Stone On Stone At Hiroshima

TEN years ago today the word Hiroshima ceased to be the name of a city in Japan. The moment the first A-bomb fell out of the sky the word Hiroshima became the symbol of an enduring nightmare.

The survivors of Aug. 6, 1945, have built a shrine to the 200,000 men, women and children killed directly or indirectly by that one casement of hell. The shrine is an open concrete vault resting on stone. Under it sits a concrete casket, resting on stone, which is filled with paper bearing the names of thousands of the dead. No grass or trees are near it.

The shrine is an icy embodiment of sterility and death.

Looking at a picture of that shrine is one way to realize the utter horror of

Hiroshima. A more graphic way is to read HIROSHIMA DIARY, the personal account of Dr. Michihiko Hachiya published today by the University of North Carolina Press.

Man's ingenuity has now produced the H-bomb. Had it fallen on Hiroshima no shrine would have been necessary. It would have made its own memorial in a residue of stone on stone.

The shrine is a monument to Hiroshima for the power of his destruction has grown from that first bomb and is warehoused and waiting for the beginning of another war.

If the fear loosed at Hiroshima is a force to prevent war, what happened there 10 years ago is totally justified. If it doesn't prevent a new conflict, what happened never really mattered.

Wallace Stevens, Architect Of Feeling

THE death of Wallace Stevens robs America's literary scene of one of its giants. Few U. S. poets have contributed so much to contemporary culture and the artistic traditions of the 20th century.

Yet Mr. Stevens was, in many ways, a curiosity. He was a poet of great distinction. But he was also a highly successful businessman — a vice president of the Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co. whose whole career was a rebuke to bohemia in the arts. At the same time, his poetry — brilliantly abstract, full of exotic imagery and sophistication — stands as a reproach to philistinism too. It is,

in fact, a powerful answer to the argument that all modern poetry is a form of articulate insanity.

Because he believed that "the poem is the cry of the occasion," his work was a delicate balance between imagination and concreteness. He once wrote:

My final point, then, is that imagination is the power that enables us to perceive the normal in the abnormal, the opposite of chaos in chaos.

Without doubt, Wallace Stevens has added a shimmering chapter to the literary history of the age. His poetry will live as long as poetry lives.

From The Baltimore Evening Sun

DARK DOINGS WITH LIGHT

LIFE can never be quite the same again. The last absolute, the final standard has tottered. The Greeks were right; all is flux. The Romans, or somebody, were wrong: the irresistible force of change is superior to the seemingly immovable object. The above musings are prompted by a dispatch that scientists now suspect the speed of light is inconstant.

They can do what they want with the obliquity of the ecliptic; they can tamper with the eccentricity of the oblate spheroid, and the mean solar parallax. But not the speed of light—surely not the 186,324 miles per second which, in high school physics, was the ultimate

reality, and which was c in the atomic scientists' E=mc².

It may be merely "some vague yearning in measurement," dispatches that, leads the experts to question the old figure. It'll take ten years to know for sure, the report is. But meantime, doubt has been cast, and everyone knows how fast doubt travels. The nearest star other than the sun is, if high school astronomy serves, Alpha Centauri—4.3 doubt years away.

Is, then, the very stardiest of the universe to be found wanting? Is light, which we have been told to think of as bending, to be broken? What manner of universe is this anyway? Dr. Einstein, thou shouldst be with us now.



Formosa And Time Chou's Grin Follows Victory

By WALTER LIPPMAN

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Times, underlining seriously the strength of Chou En-lai's diplomacy when we think of his more conciliatory attitude as primarily propaganda. It is true that the hostile tone of the Chinese Communist propaganda has been muted. But that change did not take place until after the situation in the Formosa area had changed decisively in favor of Peking. The fact is that Chou became ready and willing to negotiate about the little issues, such as the prisoners and detained persons, when on the crucial issue, he had achieved his primary and paramount objective.

This is the elimination of Chiang as a contender on the mainland—the definitive renunciation by the United States of its support of the reconquest of the mainland. Chou En-lai did not become conciliatory in order to gain his objective. He became conciliatory after he had gained it. After he was sure that the President had overruled and had put down the American supporters.

Why, then, does it now serve his purpose to be conciliatory? Because, I read correctly his recent statements, he is convinced that time is now working for him in Formosa, that the rest of the way is downhill. Once the Nationalist Chinese were deprived of the promise, indeed, the hope, of recovering the mainland, it could be only a matter of time when their of them make their peace with Peking. It was this spring that the final turn against an American intervention took place in Washington, and this was followed almost immediately by a change of Chou's attitude and of the Communist propaganda.

Our real right to have a voice about the future of Formosa is bottled up on the island of Formosa. Chou's diplomatic position is, as I have been saying, very strong. But the American position is weaker than it needs to be. It is weaker than it would be if we had a positive policy of making despatch with the Chinese in Formosa.

Despair And Reproach Japan's Day Of Surrender

By MICHIHIKO HACHIYA 'Hiroshima Diary' Translated and Edited By Warner Wells

THE one word—surrender—had produced a greater shock than the bombing of our city. The more I thought the more wretched and miserable I became. But the order to surrender was the Emperor's order and to this we could not object. His injunction to bear the unbearable could mean but one thing. As a nation we must be patient. I repeated his words again and again to myself, but no matter how hard I tried I could not rid my mind of despair. Finally I found myself thinking of something else. To myself I had denouncing the Army: "What do you fellows think about the Emperor? You started the war at your pleasure. When the outlook was good you believed with importance; but when you began to lose you tried to conceal your losses, and when you could move no more you turned to the Emperor." As if echoing my thoughts, someone shouted: "General Toyou great, thick-headed fool, cut your stomach and die!"

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON (AP)—The full story of how Harold Talbott played politics with the nation's Air Force for the benefit of political friends is a long way from being told. It penetrates deep into the American political system and illustrates how those who contribute in presidential campaigns claim—and sometimes get—defense contracts at the expense of American defense.

And since the Air Force is now the most important arm of American defense-defense, and because there is no place where politics is more dangerous than the armed services, this column is intended to tell more of the Talbott story. It will take several installments.

First Chapter The first installment pertains to the manner in which Talbott canceled two contracts with the American Hydrotherm Co. in favor of a company newly organized by the brother of Gov. Caleb Boggs of Delaware. The new company had practically no personnel, little experience and was incorporated only on May 18 to begin a job on June 30. Yet Talbott took unusual steps to let it get the job—by receiving letters from Sens. John Williams of Delaware and John Butler of Maryland, Republicans. The breaking of the American Hydrotherm contract was somewhat similar to Talbott's attempted breaking of the company's contract for an aluminum extrusion press near Baltimore. Harvey aluminum officials had contributed to the campaign, and Talbott's big campaign-money raiser, wanted to help them.

AFTER a last minute bill to raise certain Capitol Hill salaries, Congress is now adjourned and we will soon begin to hear and see politics as the various political moguls begin to shape their strategy for support in the coming election. The striking feature of the present situation here in the Tenth District is that not a sound has been heard relative to a Democratic candidate for Congress. Can it be that our Democratic stature aspires to that place, or that the dominant Democratic element is satisfied with the present state of affairs in the Tenth which they do not wish to disturb?

UNCOMFORTABLE Southern conservatives are finding it uncomfortable in their long home. If this is true they cannot use their political strength effectively by forming a splinter party. However, up to now they have shown no disposition to support the Republican party as such, nor have they supported Republican state or county or legislative candidates. Their course must depend upon pending future decisions of the Democratic party in the state. Progressionists are being cut squarely across Southern Democracy and North Carolina included and the Tenth District pronouncedly so.

If in the immediate future the progressive element dominates the vote will the conservatives, but to the Republican Party? Under Scott the Democrats are playing some able politics and Ervin appears to be conservative his leadership appears weak and ineffective. Southern progress and economic diversification tend toward accretion of Republican voting and we are under no obligation to take party alignments in the South this must in natural sequence become more pronounced. Logic and the stars presage Republican gains and maybe victories in Dixie. And nowhere more than in Mecklenburg. —HOYT EAVES

Little League Stories Help Build Citizens Charlotte (AP)—LET ME take this opportunity to congratulate your staff members. Jeep Hunter and Sandy Grady on their very generous coverage of the Little League playoffs here in town. I'm glad to see your paper take such interest in our youngsters, and rest assured it pays off, both in helping to make better citizens, which is the most important, and in good will toward your paper. I hope you will be able to give our Charlotte club good coverage in the Gastonia area playoffs and then in the North Carolina playoffs here in Charlotte. Keep up the good work with our youngsters! —An Interested Little League Parent

Channel 9 Story Hit The Mark

Charlotte (AP)—CONGRATULATIONS on your about news program, did something to speed things up. —F. T. KING

Who Cares What Alexander Thinks?

Charlotte (AP)—ANSWER to Kelly Alexander's self-appointed God to the Negro race, "who, he said, that nothing short of total integration will be acceptable to the NAACP," who cares what his thinking is acceptable or not acceptable? The people of this state have been used and abused too long by the Kelly Alexander and others who fall into his category and it's high time that someone put a stop to it. It is all too evident that Alexander is playing his own race for suckers. In heaven's name, let the Negroes realize that this guy who labels himself spokesman of their race, is doing nothing but zrip.

His own race may be falling for it, but even that I can't believe. The white race will demand that Alexander show proof positive that he is truly representative of his own race before we will allow him or any other Negro to tamper with our children, our schools, and all that they stand for. Good evidence that the NAACP is rotten and groing around in the dark is the fact that some of

What House Members Did Jonas Stood Alone On Parity

WASHINGTON (AP)—NORTH Carolina's House delegation — composed of one Republican and 11 Democrats—lined up today on two of seven Key Votes during 1955.

But on the only Key Vote of the seven selected by Congressman Quarterly did all 11 Democrats opt to align with the lone Republican—Rep. Charles Raper of Wilmington. The Democrats favored a return to rigid farm price supports at 90 percent of parity. Jones stood with the GOP leadership which vainly sought to deft the proposal. The 12 unanimously backed a motion to send to committee the wait-Alaska statehood bill to committee, thus killing it. They also voted solidly against a "tax-as-you-go" highway plan which would have meant higher taxes for highway users. The Tar Heel delegation split

on a move to restrict Presidential authority under the reciprocal trade program. Reps. Herbert C. Bonner, Thurmond Chatham, Harold D. Coolidge, Charles B. Deane, and I. H. Fountain voted against the move. Hugh G. Alexander, Graham A. Barlow, F. Ertel Carlyle, Carl T. Jones, Fred R. W. Jones, George A. Shuford, and Jones favored the restrictions. Only Carlyle and Fountain voted to kill a 50 income tax cut exempting the field from the new federal regulation. Fountain joined Coolidge and Deane on July 29 in voting against a housing bill stripped of public housing features. Jones, Jones, and Chatham voted to support the House Democrats. The cut was approved by the House, but later was eliminated in the Senate.

Talbott Story Goes Deep Into Politics

WASHINGTON (AP)—Talbot's story goes deep into politics every 30 days. Mistake Made — What had happened was that the politically-minded secretary of the Air Force, anxious to please senators, had written a letter to Sen. John Marshall Butler of Maryland stating that a mistake had been made and that he would see that the heating contracts were canceled and re-advertised. The American Hydrotherm Co. immediately protested. "You've already made public our bid," Oliver Johnson, the Hydrotherm representative told Al Materiel Procurement, "now you give the price of our manpower to our competitors and our competitors can come in and underbid us."

Politics is politics, however, in Talbot's Air Force. American Hydrotherm's contract was to expire June 30. On June 29 its representatives went to meet with Talbot. The Air Force couldn't talk, to come back at noon. Come Back Again — At noon, the word was "We can tell you nothing, come back at 2 p.m."

At 2 p.m. the word was "Come back at 4 p.m."—then at 4:30. At 4:30, they were told: "We are under instructions to say nothing to you."

But we are under contract," Johnson protested. "That contract expires at midnight June 30. We have a force of men in the field we're losing by total strike, and you notice. You can't fire 60 men with out notice."

Total Strangers — Despite this it was only at 4:30 p.m. on June 30 that American Hydrotherm's installation engineers at Dover and McGuire Field were told that someone else was taking over. The delay in notification obviously was for the purpose of letting the price of our manpower to our competitors and our competitors can come in and underbid us."

The new company turned out to be Plant Management Corp. organized a few weeks before by Calvin Boggs, brother of the Republican governor of Delaware, and Senator Williams of Delaware. Gov. Boggs was put in office with the heavy backing of the field. The biggest contributors to the Republican Party, Talbot was chief money man for the GOP in both 1948 and 1952.