

# Tovarich And The Tobacco

By JAY JENKINS

In The Charlotte Observer

RALEIGH — One little rag-tag Communist, who scarcely knows where his next theoretical meal is coming from, certainly can stand the State of North Carolina on its ear.

So it's in order to conjure a tableau of the future in the Tar Heel State, one that is purely imaginary. . .

The first hint that Tovarich had been invited to speak on the university campus at Chapel Hill came when a number of legislators suddenly filled the lobby of the Capitol.

"Another one's been invited," a legislator said darkly. "A festering Red sore," said another. "A Red nest," said another.

There was much milling around. At long last, the chairman of the trustee executive committee emerged from the governor's office and said quietly, "The speech has been cancelled."

Great was the rejoicing. But over to one side, a stranger looked glum and shook his head sadly.

"Don't believe I've had the pleasure," said a legislator. "Smith, from the U. S. Department of Agriculture," said the stranger.

Then the stranger added, almost under his breath, "Tovarich was gonna talk about Russia's plans to buy surplus tobacco."

"You mean flue-cured tobacco."

"North Carolina flue-cured tobacco," said the stranger. "Moscow isn't interested in the Virginia or the Georgia leaf."

"Tovarich says they want only the Tar Heel variety. He says it's something in the soil or atmosphere, a sort of rancid flavor."

It seemed all at once that a rump session of the General Assembly had been called. All the legislators were talking simultaneously. Then the governor appeared, smiling at his office door.

"You can go home, fellows," said the governor. "We took care of that little matter." His smile changed into an expression of alarm, as the legislators rushed toward him.

Only snatches of their torrent of words were decipherable. Phrases like "free speech" and "academic freedom" were spliced into shouts about "90-cent tobacco" and "disappearing surplus."

"Wait a minute now" said the governor, examining the faces in the crowd. "Every one of you told me personally you didn't want Tovarich to speak in Chapel Hill."

"That's right," said a perspiring legislator whose car carried a docal reading, "Largest Tobacco Market in the World." The legislator added, "we want him to speak at East Carolina College."

There was a lot of confusion. The governor said the trustees would "lose face" if they rescinded the ban, and a legislator shouted his county would lose a lot more if the ban stood.

The governor and the legislators finally went to the Hall of the House to talk some more. Smith, the Agriculture Department man, was quizzed at length. "Yes, Tovarich is a hard-core Communist—" he began.

"Get on the tobacco angle," shouted a legislator. Smith said that yes, Tovarich was ready to pay cash, for present and future orders.

"Governor, this talk clearly would serve an 'educational purpose'." said a tobacco-county lawmaker. "This state is committed to education. Our boys and girls deserve the best. They can separate the wheat from the chaff when these Commies talk. . ."

"But, gentlemen, you passed the law giving the authority to the trustees, and they have decided that Tovarich has been invited only for the sake of controversy," said the governor.

In the end, the governor capitulated. When the special session convened, the badge of the Easterner was his fur headpiece and the "Volga Boatman," lapel pin. A section of U.S. 74 in Pitt County already had been named "Tovarich Drive." Chowan County commissioners decreed that henceforth shad roe was "Leningrad caviar."

Tovarich's speech was sparsely attended, and picketed by non-smokers protesting the section of the "open-end speaker law" that prohibited them from asking him questions. But he bought the surplus tobacco.

# Student Directory Plans Made

The Circle K has arranged with Registrar Grogan to compile and distribute a Student Directory as soon as printing is completed. The club hopes to begin binding on Saturday and distribution in mid-week. There will be approximately 1,500 copies of the directory.

Scott MacMillian announced that Circle K will have a coffee hour on March 9 from 11:30 to 12:30 to entertain students and recruit interested male students for membership. The goal is 25. Free coffee and cake will be served and door prizes will be given away.

Circle K is preparing now for the Carolinas District Convention to be held the weekend of March 25, 26, and 27. They expect ten members to make the trip.

field please meet with him on Wednesday, February 23, at 11:30 in C-109.

The Literary Club will meet Thursday, Feb. 24, at 2:30 in the right rear corner of the C. U. Cafeteria, to discuss material for publication in the next issue of the Parnassian, the literary and arts magazine of UNC-C. Students interested in writing or in submitting manuscripts for consideration are encouraged to come. However, any UNC-C student, regardless of whether or not he can attend meetings, may submit short stories, poetry, essays, and art for the magazine. Manuscripts should be left in the

Parnassian basket at the C. U. desk. For further information see Dr. Ellis or Merry Marcotte.

A series of four tapes by Dr. Paul Tillick, one of the outstanding twentieth century theologians, is being sponsored by the YMCA-YWCA.

The first "Liturgy and Art" was presented Feb. 22. The other three, "Interpretation of History", "Christology", and "Dynamics of Faith", may be heard on March 1, March 8, and March 15. The time for each presentation will be 3:00 p.m. in the union.

The tapes were made at Davidson College during a series of lectures by Dr. Tillick.

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