

"The Time Is Out Of Joint!"

There is a wave of hysteria sweeping the American public at present, unconfined to any economic grouping, unaffected by any geographic limitations, and irrespective of age groups.

It is emotional reaction to the current investigations of federal employees—and almost anybody else—by Senator McCarthy and his committee and his ilk which has attracted international attention and repute. Almost every edition of our popular magazines features some story or exclusive on the trial or statements of an accused communist regardless of his importance or insignificance.

Ordinary radio serials are now employing communism as the apex of a triangle love problem. Many small, unnoticed magazines are reverting to "red sensationalism" to increase sales of their product on the assumption that at this point the American public will jump at the opportunity to read something else about the disloyalty investigations.

The object of the whole campaign is to attune the American senses to the threat which is hanging above the head of our democracy. The net result is the manifestation of a malignant tumor which is eating at the principles and tenets upon which our democracy is founded. The campaign to clean the Augean stables has evolved into a wholesale instrument of propaganda for the communists, one through which the America public will become conditioned to disloyalty probes and by which a gradual but effective acceptance will be realized in the reactions of the men and women of the next generation.

And it is about this next generation that we are concerned. It is about these children who, having no true conception of communism, no longer play "cops and robbers" but now play "cops and commies," who, when desiring to insult a fellow playmate, do not hesitate to replace the old fashion epithets with "red" and "commie." It will be these children who, having grown into adulthood, and at the same time having become conditioned to the presence of this threat to our democracy and the principles which we hold dear, will accept these concepts, foreign to America ideals. For, to them, their presence will no longer be foreign, nor repulsive but will be an integral part of the American scene, the ingredient which sells the paper, the spice in the cake of politics.

How can we protect our children and also protect the rights and privileges inherent in the American way of life? Only by awaking to the realization that although these probes and the sensational are the vogue of the hour and the panacea for all present political ills, the theory of "Guilt by Association" is diametrically opposed to our fundamental democratic principles. Leading probes notwithstanding, we must still believe that a man is innocent until proven guilty. From there we must proceed to check this panic which causes hesitancy in our day to day social intercourse because of the fear of subversive association, and then we must approach the problem with calm and rational minds.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Educate and inform the whole mass of people. They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty." Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." Combine the two ideas and arrive at the right philosophy for our national emotionalism: **THE PRESERVATION OF OUR LIBERTY DEPENDS UPON THE EDUCATION OF THE MASSES, NOT IN THE WAYS OF FEAR, BUT IN THE WAYS OF FAITH IN DEMOCRACY.**

Magnificent Promise

Many persons that have been denied educational opportunities have educated themselves by judicious selections of reading material.

Before you, my reader friend, is the world in all its interesting and well-written selections for your choice. Let your reading be done on a purposeful basis, and your enjoyment of literature and our fund of knowledge will increase surprisingly. Reading is like religion and music a source of new vigor, a stimulus of higher thought and better deeds, an inspiration ever ready

for a mind open to it, a source of contentment, profit, peace, and companionship.

Books, magazines, and papers are companions that stand unobtrusively silent until beckoned for their eloquent wisdom. A good book is a counselor-genius, a genial instructor, a convivial intellectual, an attorney who defends your every right thought, a pal alert to cheer, to inform, and to direct you. With even fifty well-chosen volumes on your library stand, you need never feel the absence of worthy minds with whom to confer.

Book Review: "Negro Slave Songs In The United States" - By Miles Mark Fisher

Negro Slave Songs In The United States can be compared with a symphony that has recorded the history of a bonded race. It is obvious that Dr. Miles Mark Fisher has compiled and edited the ideas and material presented in this book through painstaking research. The number of footnotes to be found on almost every page is astonishing. The bibliography of this work would do justice to any book ten times the size of Negro Slave Songs In The United States.

Dr. Fisher has forwarded the theory (which is by no means original) that African music and the songs of the slaves relate the history of the Negro people. From this theory, the story is developed by analyzing and interpreting Negro spirituals. Through this method, the reader gains an appreciable knowledge of the conditions under which Negroes lived in this country until emancipation.

It is noted that the Negro population in America had no means of communicating ideas except through the medium of vocal or instrumental music. Messages could be carried a long way through the use of drums or other primitive instruments—the same method widely used in Africa prior to the importation of Negroes to the United States. But many

restrictions were placed upon the Negroes in certain areas of the country, especially restrictions concerning communications.

Many white people expected, and sometimes justifiable so, insurrections of the slaves. So the slaves used song, not only as a means of communication but as a method of relating everyday events, thus a way of recording history.

Dr. Fisher has a passage in his book which goes so far as to say "the Negro spirituals are historical documents from the Negro people." How authentic these "historical documents" are is another matter. It is agreed on that single individuals wrote these spiritual or Negro Folk songs. But if we are going to accept one Negro's composition as conveying the feelings of the Negro race in general, we may go astray historically. First of all, the Negroes, from necessity, were utterly subjective in their way of thinking. Consequently their songs were quite capable of embodying fundamental untruths. Secondly, I find it difficult to imagine one slave expressing the national feel of all the slaves.

Dr. Fisher's book is not concerned with Negro slave songs alone. The songs of the slaves were so interwoven with their

daily intercourse that, as Dr. Fisher analyzes and interprets the songs, the reader catches many intimate glimpses into the life of these people. The book is full of accounts of the activities of the slaves. They range from midnight secret sessions in the woods to preparation for military duty during the Civil War.

Dr. Fisher has written sympathetically of the slaves in the United States. He has delved so deeply into the personality of the slave that a layman would feel extremely uncomfortable, to say the least, by contradicting anything Dr. Fisher has said in Negro Slave Songs In The United States. The book, at all times, is extremely powerful. At times it is poignant. At other times it is elating. There are passages which incite great anger because of treatment the slaves received. Best of all, there are moments when the Negro is triumphant over all adversaries, if by no other means than completely ignoring them. It is then that this great symphony of Dr. Fisher's rises to a crescendo, and the voices of the people join in the prophesy of a better day. Only then does the sophisticate, who has been wondering what sustained the slave, realize that it was an abounding faith in the spiritual.

W. SHERMAN PERRY

Bricker Proposal

By DUDLEY FLOOD

The Bricker proposal is, in effect, a movement to revamp the treaty-making powers of the president through constitutional amendment. The major implication of the movement seems to be that the treaty-making powers granted the president by article two of the Federal Constitution are somewhat ambiguous and have in several instances been the basis for "encroachments" on the rights reserved to the states by the tenth amendment.

The congressional record dated February 4, 1954, lends support to the contention that the major defense for the proposal is based upon "states rights" cases in judicial history. In the discussions in Congress on this proposal, certain specific cases were pointed out in which the treaty-making powers of the president have nullified or overridden state laws. Some cases pointed out were: The Pink Case, in which the courts disagreed with a treaty an executive agreement between President Roosevelt and Commissar Litvinoff, and held that it overrode a New York State Law; the Capps Case, in which the Attorney General seeks to reverse a Federal Court decision that an executive agreement may not repeal internal law and void an act of Congress through the implied powers of the presidential office; and the Missouri V. Holland Case, where the Supreme Court ruled that a treaty with Great Britain gave congress the right to enact legislation in an area supposedly reserved to the states by the Tenth Amendment.

From the arguments against the proposal, one might gather

Peering Through The Bird's Eye

BY "BONNIE"

Co-eds Respond

The attendance at the Job Opportunities Clinic was really gratifying to those who labored so diligently to make the venture a success. Almost 90 per cent more women attended the forum and the individual discussion groups this year than attended last year. Perhaps the increase in attendance was prompted by the outstanding personalities who were featured, and if this is true, Dean Latham is to be commended on her

ingenious idea and her untiring efforts to engage these celebrities for the women at North Carolina College. I hope that this is only the beginning of more and better programs of this type. If the women at NCC continue to respond favorably, I am quite sure that other occasions like this will be experienced.

Orchids To The Dining Hall

It has been my observation lately that both the service in the dining hall and the decorum in the lines have improved greatly. I have no idea what has prompted this improvement, but at any rate, I am sure that we are all pleased with it. There are more and cleaner glasses, and the line is moving much more rapidly. Orchids to the staff for

that such an amendment as proposed, if ratified, would be a handicap to the president in that it would retard the progress of his program of foreign relations, it would damage his prestige abroad, and would become an excellent tool for the spreading of unfavorable propaganda.

their conscientious attention to their work and orchids to the students for their cooperation.

The Constitutional Tooth-Ache

The Committee on Objectives has been working very diligently trying to complete revision of the Student Government Constitution so that the students for the remainder of this year and for many years to come will not be plagued with the prospect of undefined power or no powers at all. It is my opinion that Mr. Palmer is taking a very nice step in insisting that this job be accomplished as soon as possible to eliminate any future confusion. However, be that as it may, the entire process is a tedious one and very very often the fatigue evolves into a great big ache in the jaw.

"Dress Circle" rare

It is really amusing to note the different connotations which are given words at North Carolina College. For example, I have been under the impression that a "dress circle" at a concert or play was the portion of the auditorium or theatre reserved for all patrons who attend the affair in evening attire. From all appearances, and on the basis of the procedure followed at the concert Friday, February 19, the "Dress Circle" is anywhere except the first ten or twelve rows in the center which are reserved for the choir whether they are formally dressed or not. Now there is really no need of telling the students that they will be permitted to sit in this section because the choir has first preference. I have no objection to the choir's preferential status, but let us not try to encourage other students to dress in formal attire under false pretenses.

Campus Echo

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