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and

The Highlands Maconian

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...And A Little Teapot

If ever there was a tempest in a teapot, it is the Harry Truman-Harry Dexter White "scandal".

The big newspaper headlines and the Congressional committee hearings were precipitated by Eisenhower's attorney general, Herbert Brownell, jr., when he charged that Mr. Truman, while President, promoted Harry Dexter White from one important job to an even more important one—in the teeth of F. B. I. reports labeling White as a Russian spy.

The whole thing is a tempest in a teapot—and a little teapot, at that—for at least four reasons:

Reason No. 1. The incident happened seven years ago. The man who was then President no longer holds public office, or is a candidate for office. And his party no longer is in power. The incident, at this late date, could have significance only if Mr. Truman's loyalty to the United States were in question.

No. 2. Mr. Truman's own record, from Greece through Korea, is pretty good evidence that he has never been pro-Russian, much less disloyal to this country. And, following President Eisenhower's lead, Mr. Brownell himself announced, somewhat belatedly, that he never meant to question the former President's loyalty.

No. 3. The White appointment was made in 1946, shortly after the end of World War 2. During that conflict, Russia was our valued ally, and in 1946 most Americans still were inclined to feel that we should continue to be friendly with Russia, and that her wartime record warranted our placing trust in her. If Harry Dexter White was obviously friendly toward the Soviets, at that time it would have caused little suspicion—not only because White was the Boston born son of Russian parents, but because most Americans were friendly toward the Soviets.

No. 4. Mr. Brownell, considerably aided by the daily press of the country, has left the impression that the F. B. I. unqualifiedly accused White of being a spy; that the F. B. I. reports were tantamount to conviction. Actually, the F. B. I. does not pretend to draw final conclusions in its reports; it simply collects information for others to appraise—often evidence that is entirely unsubstantiated, some of it mere hearsay. Furthermore, when White later was questioned by a Congressional committee, he denied connection with the Communist party; and when the disloyal charges against him were brought before a grand jury, that body found insufficient evidence to warrant even an indictment, much less a conviction.

Aside from the alarming lack of a sense of proportion it reveals, the only really serious feature of the whole thing is the gross injustice done to a dead man and his family. White, dead these five years, cannot defend himself. But, though a grand jury could not find sufficient evidence to warrant an indictment, and though in America we presume a man innocent until proven guilty, this man is dragged from the grave to be branded, from one end of the country to another, as a traitor; and whatever family he may have is branded as the family of a traitor.

All this may be smart American politics. It is hardly American justice at its best.

'Saint Of Vice'

The latest rage in the ultra-literary world is Jean Genet, a Frenchman who is described as a "self-confessed thief, pederast, prostitute, and stoolpigeon".

Genet is said to believe that "one can be a saint of crime and passion just as one can be a saint of religion". To become such a saint appears to be his ambition, and so, says a critic, he "has taken all evil as his province".

A "messiah of the liberation of the instincts",

Genet, in his autobiographical novels, glorifies vice and crime—in detail, and without restraint.

"Needless to say", the critic, adds, "he became an immediate success".

"Needless to say!"

Genet is not the first modern writer to discover that, in literature, at least, crime does pay. In a mass production world, where there must be mass book sales, many authors today write about sex and vice if they can—drag it-in by the heels, if they must.

Sex and crime are a part of life. Nobody can deny that. Furthermore, no literature that attempts to picture life as it is can ignore them. But when a writer magnifies them out of all proportion, and his books sell, it is a rather unhappy commentary not only on the morals of the present-day reader, but on his intelligence as well—on his intellectual and emotional maturity.

Success Story

If the success of a writer like Jean Genet (discussed above) is a bit nauseating, here is a literary success story that is encouraging:

Within a year after its publication, two and a half million copies of the new revised version of the Bible were sold. No other book in the history of publishing has had so great a sale in a like period.

This remarkable record suggests two observations.

Remember the Rev. Martin Hux, of Rocky Mount? Soon after the new version of the Bible came out, he made a spectacle of burning it. To Mr. Hux and other extremists, publication of the new version was blasphemy. But what happened? Sales of the new version skyrocketed.

The explanation is well put by The Smithfield Herald: "You don't kill ideas by burning books. And you don't kill sales of a book by burning some of its pages in protest . . ." No; the only test, for ideas and for the books that contain ideas, is to let truth and error compete in a free market.

The other observation again refers to the editorial just above this one. The Bible does not ignore sex and vice and crime. On the contrary, it pictures them as part of life—and is not over-delicate in drawing the picture. But it has a nice sense of proportion, and thus the Bible is an honest and accurate mirror of human life.

The sales of the new revised version of that Book suggest whether it still will be read when M. Genet has been forgotten centuries ago.

Others' Opinions

SOME MEN ARE LIKE THIS

(Goldsboro News-Argus)

In St. Louis neighbors called the police when they heard a shot in a nearby house. The officers found that a woman had shot her husband and started to arrest her.

"I haven't done anything wrong."

"You have just shot a man."

"Well, he's my husband," she said, in extenuation of the shooting and in confident belief that it was all right to shoot one's husband. She displayed an attitude of mind which more often is found in the male. Some men regard their wives as goods and chattel to be treated as such. North Carolina law, unless it has been changed unbeknowning to me, still allows a man to beat his wife provided he does not use a stick larger than his little finger.

BRITISH 'ANTI-AMERICANISM'

(Durham Morning Herald)

David Low, the British cartoonist, helps us toward a better understanding of "anti-Americanism" in a recent article in the New York Times Magazine. Replying to a friend who said he had found "anti-American" feeling in Britain, Low said: "Bosh. You are like the roisterer in the murky night who ran into a tree and felt around and around it wailing that he was lost in an impenetrable forest. I don't find any of this anti-American feeling you talk about."

Criticism of American policy? There's plenty of that, Low says. But is it "anti-Americanism?" Low doesn't think so.

"Ever since our British affairs got mixed up with yours and our lives and deaths became affected by what you do in America—and vice versa, let me point out—we fight your political issues as though they were our own, which, after all, they are. If your fish-eyed idealists who want to keep America all to themselves expect us to remain corked up when your or, in effect, our government in Washington seems to be doing the wrong thing, the realities are against them."

There's nothing anti-American about this, Low contends. "Quite the contrary. The truth is Fate has made us all honorary Americans. Sometimes, indeed, it seems unfair that we don't have votes at your elections, but I suppose that would hardly be practicable yet."

We Americans criticize our own government to our heart's content. But we resent the same sort of criticism when it

OUR DEMOCRACY — by Max

WORLD HISTORY IN THE MAKING

FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THIS COUNTRY AND FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, PEOPLE COME TO UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK TO GAIN AT FIRST HAND, A CLOSE-UP OF THE WORLD PROBLEMS THAT ARE EXPOSED THERE AND THE PERSONALITIES THAT ARE MAKING WORLD HISTORY.

LOBBY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING

THESE PEOPLE COME TO LEARN—NOT JUST TO SEE. THE QUESTIONS THEY ASK ARE SIGNIFICANT OF THE BROAD INTEREST IN THE PURPOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE HOPE THAT PEOPLE PLACE IN THAT ORGANIZATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE.

comes from abroad. Low feels that the criticism by Britons of American policies is a criticism growing out of their own interest in American policies which in turn grows out of their realization that those policies intimately affect them. If the United States was of no concern to Britons, they would hardly bother to criticize.

It doesn't seem sensible to interpret criticism of a specific American policy as criticism of the United States as a whole. It isn't anti-Americanism any more than those Americans who criticize their government are guilty of anti-Americanism.

WHERE FORESTRY POTENTIAL LIES

(Greensboro Daily News)

The advice given by John L. Gray, North Carolina extension forester, during a panel discussion at the annual American Forest Congress in Washington, can be disregarded only at substantial loss to individual forest owners and to this state's and the South's social structure and economy.

Mr. Gray emphasized that we cannot afford to ignore the development or lack of development of small timber tracts which constitute over half of our potentially productive forests. The Tar Heel forestry leader would make a different approach to the problem:

"In dealing with the small forest owner, too many of us in the past have made the mistake of acting as technical advisers only, instead of consulting with him in terms of his personal needs and desires for more income, in education for his children, provision for his old age, and then helping him to decide what he in his particular circumstances can do instead of what ought to be done as we see it."

It may well be that this is the approach which means greater results than have heretofore been obtained. Be that as it may, what we are interested in is results. The Daily News has long believed that forests, trees if you please, in large part hold the future of North Carolina and its Southern neighbors. The timber industry has to some degree learned the hard way and is refraining from cutting itself out of business as it so frequently did in the past. This is not to say, however, that the practice of wanton and unintelligent cutting, especially by itinerant sawmills, has been completely overcome. There are still too many instances, but sound management prevails to larger degree than previously.

We are especially disturbed now by what may come of development of the pulpwood industry. Where the big companies have their own forests, they are well tended, protected and conserved through selective cutting and reforestation. But with the small forest owners, the situation is different. It is there that the grave danger of costly and unintelligent practices prevails; and, as Mr. Gray pointed out, these forests constitute over half of our potential production. It is with this group of owners that forestry officials need to work and the pulpwood industry has a responsibility for leadership and conservation which goes far beyond its own properly managed acres. The industry's future will be jeopardized if individually owned small forests are depleted.

Along with such emphasis as we are trying to place here goes continuing wonderment as to whether better results would be not secured if forestry were transferred here in North Carolina to the department of agriculture. After all trees are a crop and as such need to be integrated into the farm program and its prop to our economy.

Cursed is he that does not know when to shut his mind. An open mind is all very well in its way, but it ought not to be so open that there is no keeping anything in or out of it. It should be capable of shutting its doors sometimes, or it may be found a little draughty.—Samuel Butler.

Man is the only animal of which I am thoroughly and cravenly afraid.—George Bernard Shaw.

ALCOHOL STUDY COURSE SUNDAY

Dr. Morgan Slated As Speaker At Third Session Of Series

The third session of the study course, "Alcohol and Christian Responsibility," sponsored by the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Franklin Methodist Church, will be held Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock at the church.

Dr. A. Rufus Morgan will be the speaker at this session. Dr. Morgan was director of a conference on alcohol at Kanuga last summer and has met with the Alcoholic Anonymous group a number of times. Sunday night he will outline the 12 steps for alcoholics, as set forth by Alcoholics Anonymous.

The public is invited to attend.

DR. PACE GETS CAPTAIN RANK

Former Highlands Man Now Stationed At Fort Bragg Army Hospital

Dr. Sherman H. Pace, former medical director at the Highlands Community Hospital, has been promoted to the rank of captain and put in charge of the dependent's section of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Fort Bragg Army Hospital, where he has been stationed for the past two months.

Dr. Pace, who entered service in July, received his basic medical training at the Medical Field Service School of the Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

His wife and children are living in Durham for the present.

Cpl. Stockton Leaves Tuesday After Leave Here With His Parents

Cpl. David H. Stockton, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Stockton, of Franklin, Route 3, left Tuesday to report for overseas duty after spending a 14-day leave with his parents.

Cpl. Stockton entered service in June, 1952, received his basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C., and completed his airborne course as a qualified parachutist at Fort Benning, Ga. He expects to leave for duty in the Far East some time this month.

Oak Grove Names Officers, Sets Goals For Year

By MRS. F. B. DEAN
And MRS. ETTA BROWNING
(Community Reporters)

Oak Grove met last Friday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Browning for the purpose of discussing the work for the coming year and election of officers.

The following officers were elected: Calvin Rolland, president; Louetta Browning, junior president; Mrs. Clyde Pennington, vice-president; Mrs. Ralph Bradley, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Leonard Hall and Louetta Browning, song leaders.

Mrs. Bradley and Mrs. Pennington were appointed to contact the Western Carolina Telephone Company in regard to securing telephones for the community.

One of the goals of the community for the new year is to build a community building and picnic area.

A miscellaneous shower was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jud McGaha, honoring Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McGaha. Many useful gifts were received.

An old fashioned quilting party was held at the home of Mrs. J. H. Parrish for the Oak Grove Sunday School superintendent's wife, Mrs. John Clark. Two quilts were finished for her.

Willard Dean, who has been working in Lenoir, has been transferred to the Cowee-Dillsboro mountain project.

Mr. and Mrs. Verlon Bradley, of Winston-Salem, visited relatives in Oak Grove over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Dean visited Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Parker in Clarksville, Ga., Saturday.

Cpl. and Mrs. Rozell McCoy, of Fort Jackson, S. C., were home for the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Icenhower are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Jud Icenhower.

M/Sgt. Winifred Anthony is spending a 10-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Anthony.

Milk production on North Carolina farms totaled 162,000,000 pounds (75,348,972 quarts) during August.