

National GRAPEVINE

PARDON US BUT AIN'T YOU MISS CINDERELLA?

"**A**HM feeling mighty low," sighed Grandma throwing down the paper.

"Try a little nip of these corn squeezings," we burped.

"Humpf!" sniffed Grandma and quoted: "Woe to you that rise up early in the morning to follow drunkenness and to drink to the evening to be inflamed with wine.—Isaiah 4-11".

"That's Isaiah 5-11, Grandma, and besides you never saw us get up early."

"Oh nuts!", said Grandma, "what makes me low is other countries laughing at Uncle Sam and all."

"How come?"

"Because Uncle Sam goes around telling everybody to be a democracy and like it, and the same time he won't let his own Negro citizens anywhere near the civil rights in the Constitution. Other countries ain't fools. Even when they grin and bow in Uncle Sam's face and take his hand-outs, they laugh behind his back at 'Uncle Hypocrite'. It makes me feel low."

"Well, feel low for us colored folks too."

"How Come?" asked Grandma.

"Well much as we holler at home and before UN against slavery all over the world, what did we do when a certain dark country sent a representative over here who is accused by the whole world of recently owning and selling slaves? We Negroes wined and dined him, that's what, and we still do. While he appears as guest of honor at Negro society banquets and receptions, the people back in that dark country who were glad to get rid of him laugh at us, and our own white folks laugh at us, and our State Department laughs at us in wonder, and white and black folks everywhere laugh at us, and it makes me feel low. I'm having another nip of corn squeezings."

"Ahem!", said Grandma, "remember I was feeling low first."

LAY ON MacDUFF!

The other day we went up to Howard U's Little Theater (old Spaulding Hall converted) to see the Howard Players do "Adding Machine." Let me tell you chum, it was good theater, darn good theater. Not once did the usual amateurishness intrude in acting, cues, stage business, scene setting, lighting, costuming or off stage sound effects.

Under adroit direction of Dr. Anne Cook, Drama Dept. Head and her associates James (Deanie) Butcher and Owen Dodson, the HU Players present a new play about every two months, and present it five evenings. The Little Theater, seating capacity 150, is a Mecca for drama-starved Washingtonians, white and black. Montgomery Gregory, Alain Locke, Clean Throckmorton, etc., may as well know that drama at H. U. is a far, and far better cry from its ponderous "New Negro" days of the '20s.

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

Psychologists call it stimulus and reaction, chemists call it chain reaction. It started January 7 when Pres. Truman said job for U. S. is civil rights for everybody. (2) Truman told Congress Feb. 4 to pass anti poll tax and anti lynch bills and establish a FEPC. (3) Southern Dems cried "bloody murder" and "secession." (4) Republicans hoping for Negro votes and a Dem split promised to push bills. (5) Truman on Feb. 9 refused to retract or retreat. (6) Southern Dems "revolted." (7) Truman shrugged and went to West Indies and mingled socially with Negroes.

(8) Southern Dems frothed and started legislation to read selves or Truman out of party. (9) Dem Committee Chairman McGrath refused to promise Southerners anything (officially). (10) GOP's in high glee added coals by reporting out bills. (11) Revolt stepped-up, and wishful-thinking commentators called Truman a "dead duck" and predicted a GOP president by landslide. (12) GOP, drunk with pre-hatched chicken-counting decided Negro votes were neither needed nor feared and stopped pushing bills.

(13) GOP changed mind and pushed bills in order to keep South in revolt. (14) Everybody with a pencil, pen, typewriter or radio, except Negroes, got in the civil rights argument. (15) Truman on March 11, said under McGrath coaching, he will not needle Congress further on the civil rights bills. (16) Negroes say only we'll be there in the cool of November when the voting starts.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

That Mississippi Representative who plays those old scratchy Bilbo records got \$200,000 for that Un-American Committee (which is just that), twice as much as last year. Only 37 Representatives voted against it. Adam Powell however, spoke long and loud,— "This committee has not investigated the terrorism of the KKK in Johnston County, Ga., last week, when the Klan prevented 400 duly registered Negroes who had paid their poll tax from voting the next day. When it investigates that type of un-Americanism, then I will vote for it."

Rep. Marcantonio of N. Y. called attention to fact the Committee considers anybody "subversive" who supports anti poll tax or FEPC.

The Mississippian, who would rather have publicity than be God, ranted at Adam for calling Mississippi a lynch State, and said Mrs. Roosevelt has done more harm than "any other woman who lived since Cleopatra." He accepted Marantonio's challenge to debate FEPC on Mutual network, Wednesday, March 17, 8 P. M. EST. Meanwhile Atty. Gen. Tom Clark is reported readying another "Subversive List" of us radicals.

TWO-SCHOOLS-OF-THOUGHT DEPARTMENT

The Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial boys (S. J. Phillips) put on a show for House Congressional Committee on Public Works. In favor of his bill (HR 4664 introduced by Miller, R-Neb.) to acquire Carver and Slowe government residential halls for training Negro domestics, he presented himself, his Vice Prexy Mundy, his Secretary Emmett J. Scott, his Public Relationist Earl Howard, Booker T's daughter Portia, and a Reverend Jemison who claimed thru his father to represent 4 million Baptists.

Then as a "piece de resistance" or "Mickey Finn" according to your point of view, he brought in some dozen characters dressed as maids, janitors, waiters, carpenters, etc., and put on a "demonstration" of what would go on in his schools. The maids swept, the janitors janitored, but the popeyed Congressmen had eyes only for a luscious turkey being carved by a chef. Chum, it was a killer. The Congressmen accepted and eagerly gobbled the turkey but somehow we weren't hungry. We went away from there firmly converted to the old DuBois anti-Booker T. school of thought.

Now get us straight, there's nothing wrong with being a janitor or a waiter or a personal servant, personally we have been all of them and more in our varied career. But they certainly didn't belong, it was agreed at the press table, in Congress.

It was a pleasant relief to hear the other side. Rep. Keef (R-Wis.), Administrator Raymond Foley of Housing, Prexy Mordecai of Howard U., etc. all urged without fanfare passage of HR-5509 which would give these properties to Howard for dormitories.

YOU TAKE IT FROM HERE

Drew Pearson named those House Appropriations Committee members who took that super-secret ballot on whether to bar money to hospitals and schools which ban Negroes. On right side, Republicans Keefe (Wis.), Canfield (N. J.), Church (Ill.), Anderson (Minn.), and Democrats O'Brien (Ill.), Wigglesworth (Mass.), On wrong side, Republicans Taber (N. Y.), Wigglesworth (Mass.), Plumley (Vt.), Engel (Mich.), Johnson (Ind.), Jensen (Iowa), Ploeser (Mo.), Tibbott (Pa.), Griffiths (Ohio), Stockman (Oreg.), Scrivener (Kan.), and Clevenger (Ohio). Dems among others, Cannon (Mo.), Shepard (Cal.), Bates (Ky.).

And speaking of Committees, where is that Negro Public Relations officer the National Dem Committee has been promising for months? And how about you too, GOP? If you don't appoint them now, you never will. Personally we don't think you mean to.

SHORTIES

At Mary Bethune's deserved testimonial dinner in New York the other day several big shots claimed, by intimation at least, that they were responsible for her getting her big NYA job. Well, chum, it happens we know who really got it for her, and if sufficiently urged we could tell.

Dr. W. Montague Cobb in response to demand has prepared another exhaustive but not exhausting article on the Negro medical world, a sequel to his first bombshell . . . Bobby and George Scurlock, sons of Addison Scurlock, famed photographer of Washington, D. C., are starting The Capitol School of Photography, with first rate plant, equipment and faculty, to open next month.

Floss Kendrick, Public Relationist formerly with U. S. Treasury War Bonds and more recently with Liberian Centennial has opened an private firm for Public Relations and Promotion Work in D. C. . . . Let us see our school and school etc. Dr. H. Horne Huggins of . . .

Only a . . . U. S. SAVINGS . . . STEP, but as Dav . . . Atomic Energy Chairman advised Howard U student don't sit on the side lines, get in there and bitch.—KEEP 'EM SQUIRMING!