

# National GRAPEVINE

By CHARLEY CHEROKEE

## Go South, Young Man

**"YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM THE SOUTH,"** said Grandma. "Lots of folks trying," we said, "north-bound southern trains are crowded."

"Them poor fools are bringing the South right with 'em, just moving the South north, problems and all. They'll find out."

"Anyhow they'll be northerners."

"Ain't no such thing as a Northern Negro and a Southern Negro."

"You feel all right, Grandma?"

"I feel well enough to clout your empty head," said Grandma. "Bilbos and big business have got most fool Negroes believing just like you. Got so now when Negroes in the North holler about conditions in the South, Negroes down home holler 'mind your dam business, we southerners can work out our own problems.' And Negroes in the North saying 'them old southern niggers ain't worth worrying about, I don't blame the white man.' Peckerwoods have us just where they want us, divided."

"You sure clout hard, Grandma, and you said a cuss word."

"I got another hand and I know another cuss word. Another thing, everybody in the world except fool Negroes seems to know the country's future is in the South. Factories and industry moving there, workers organizing, wages picking up, cities growing. But when the South is becoming a decent place for most people to live in, Negroes are being pushed out with prejudice and lies. That oughten be, they built the South, they oughta be able to enjoy it now."

"What do we do now?"

"We unite, black and white, North and South, and kill prejudice and lies in the South, and those that have spread North."

"Meaning join the Southern Conference for Human Welfare."

"How'd you guess?" said Grandma.

## Hold That Donkey!

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL Committee is jelling its new budget drawn up with 1948 presidential elections in mind. Advance whisperings from the usual "reliable sources" hinted at two paid positions for Negroes, one in Public Relations, one in Women's Division, in addition to a Negro to be named to the Committee itself. This dwindled rapidly to "possibility of a Negro in Public Relations." Today's quotation is "of course we'll have to appoint the best qualified person we find, colored or white." Colored voters, even colored Democrats see behind this dodge the

coming of another of those monstrosities—a white adviser on black affairs.

Creekmore Fath, a refreshing and congenial liberal, is currently number two in Committee command under Gael Sullivan. Left to him, we know the Negro appointments would go through PDQ, but he's getting his fingers rapped. Nevertheless it was Creek who passed on that War Department Jim Crow graveyard order to President Truman. To Harry's credit he hit the ceiling and gave Army hell. Now it's okay for dead white and dead black soldiers to lie side by side.

## Small-World Department

A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL is still throwing deliberate cold water on the Liberian Centennial for some reason known to himself. But plans are going forward. Bill Dawson the Democrat, Perry Howard the Republican, and Frank Stanly the Publisher, are co-Chairing a nation-wide "Committee of One Hundred for Centennial Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Liberia." H. E. Cheaney, Secretary of the Kentucky Liberian Centennial Committee reports satisfactory progress in the blue-grass state.

Otherwise,—Haiti is taking up a public collection to pay the U. S. the six million owed us . . . Indonesian Republic is embarrassing Uncle Sam by bringing up in world-public fact that U. S. bars Indonesians from permanent residence or citizenship . . . British colonials, excepting South Africans, are still raising hell over British Boxing Board's rule barring "coloured" fighters from championship fights . . . National Association of Colored Women (Christine Smith) caused raised eyebrows by endorsing U. S. slap-Russia-in-the-face aid to Greece and Turkey (most liberals are against it).

## Confidentially

GEORGE WEAVER, Willard Townsend and Jimmy Carey will be interested to know that militant liberals, white and black, are whispering uncomplimentary things about the CIO Committee Against Discrimination. Whispers:—"What can it point to as ever having done? When is it going to take a stand on something? What's the smelliness keeping it quiet about the prejudiced Textile workers union?" Etc., Etc. Don't say we didn't tip

you off, George.

League of Women Shoppers, Inc., is currently about the most potent liberal force in D. C. When it speaks industry listens and merchants sit up and beg. It's interracial and Constance Daniel and Marcus Ray's wife Adeen are on the Board (It took Mary Bethune's name off its sponsor list when she pulled that anti-union boner). Daniel is a delegate to the National Convention in Newark May 9th to 10th.

## The Customer Is Always Right

DOROTHY KING, Percy Greene's Yankee secretary on the Jackson, (Miss.) Advocate, makes us grin sheepishly with this quip: "An all-Negro hospital in the North—that would be Jim Crow but in Mound Bayou, how could it be?" Anyway, Dorothy, first part of your letter inspired our first topic . . . Anonymous guy who signs himself "Sam Johnson-Norfolk," boy you write the nastiest crank and poison-pen letters we get . . . Sgt. Prescott Sunday, Defender Circulation Dept., is trying to straighten out your subscription, let 'em know address.

Mrs. Ida Mae Epps, Dunham, Ky., we have handed your letter to our pal Herb Hennegan in Farmer's Home Administration and he will write you, and let us say it is from the hardy breed like your husband and other miners, and farmers, and steel workers, and stevedores and such that we darker citizens get our strength and courage.

Attention fans,—Every now and then we come across some little fellow, man or woman, who is doing a fine job for humanity. Because they are quiet and modest, nobody knows about them but the folks they help. Well, folks like this make us feel good inside and if you know any, write us a short letter about them. We'll publish the best letter sent in May, here in full, and mention all the others. Thanks.

## Why of Course I Is a Graduate

SENATE COMMITTEE is hearing testimony on proposed Federal aid to education. Nannie Rucker came up from her one-room colored school in Rutherford Co., Tenn., to tell how she mothers her 41 pupils of all ages. She gets 'em washed, their teeth cleaned, hauls 'em in for vaccinations, serves warm lunches, begs clothes and books, fires the stove, repairs and cleans the building, totes water, and hands tots across the creek on stepping stones because there's no

bridge. She gets \$886 a year.

Leslie Perry, NAACP Washington lobbyist presented a masterly eye-opening summary. He referred to Mississippi's average of \$342 for colored teachers and \$1107 for white. (All-southern-state average \$976 colored, \$1475 white.) And to its \$11.96 per year spent on each colored pupil and \$71.60 on each white.—\$99 per cent more. He called for a better safeguard against potential southern-state misuse of government funds.

## Downhill From Here

HENRY WALLACE is still having a helluva good time proving how unpopular the truth is . . . Patsy Graves of New York has a home economist spot with Farmers Home Admin. . . Muriel Rahn won Washington with her recital . . . Hazel Scott is back at the Roxy on Broadway at \$1500 per week . . . Lt. (jg) Clarence Samuels, senior colored commissioned Coast Guard officer has lost temporary war rating and is Chief Bosun, now on Cutter "Tulip" at Hawaii . . . Abe Harris has severed teaching connections with Howard U and will stay at Chicago U . . . Sterling Brown, Alain Locke and Arthur Davis of Howard U follow each other as two-week lecturers at New York School of Research.

Arthur Kidd, two years with UNRRA in Germany is now Chief Warehouse Officer in charge of procedures for all Germany . . . Fred L. Burns was first colored candidate for City Councilman in Fayetteville, N. C., and got 684 of 2000 votes cast (Alex Barnes was behind his candidacy) . . . Harry McAlpin and Al Smith have discontinued "Manuscript" and are refunding unused subscriptions and investments . . . Week's best definition: "Democracy,—good light, no heat; Communism,—good heat, no light" . . . Famous Last Words:—"Now let's stir in a little more canned heat and a dash of anti-freeze."

Ernie Johnson, United Negro College Fund tub thumper claims credit for Jackie Robinson and Tallulah Bankhead on Information Please program, and incidentally Jackie did okay, so did Tallulah . . . Navy and Treasury say Adam Powell's no-armed-service-segregation bill is okay but Army says Pfui! . . . John Henry last reported lunching with Enoc Waters and Howard Gould in "Subway" tavern . . . Hobson Reynolds and the Elks say they are so going to push hard against army discrimination . . . United Negro and Allied Vets of America promise big things at their New York May 30-June 1 convention . . . Actor's Equity has given D. C.'s National Theatre one year to quit excluding Negro patrons, with only Frank Fay refusing to vote.

GIVE TO NAACP, URBAN LEAGUE AND NEGRO COLLEGE FUNDS, MISTER, and remind high and mighty white and black big-shots that when you reach the top there ain't but one direction from there,—KEEP 'EM SQUIRMING!