

# National Grapevine

By Charley Cherokee

**BULL WRESTLER** with the Gene Autry wild west rodeo is colored, as is originator of this popular sport in Mexico. This surprises Charley not at all, as he knows several colored bull throwers of considerable note. There is Edgar Brown (CCC, etc.) who wrangled himself onto a per diem pay roll of Office of Price Administration, and has that agency half crazy trying to get rid of him gracefully. Boy, can he wrestle the bull around! Just to make it harder for OPA he is getting price administration stuff in the D. C. dailies, which strangely enough print his self-motivated releases. Last week, irked over failure to get in war department for conferences on Woman's Auxiliary Army Corps matter, as had AKA Lobbyist Jeanetta Welch, he released protests over probable Negro exclusion, in name of his "organizations." Actually, Jeanetta has conferred several times with Auxiliary Director Hobby, also director of war department women's interest section, and pushed inclusion of colored women to limit. She even had a White House chat with Mrs. Roosevelt about this and other matters. Brown feels left out.

Also well qualified in bull wrestling is that minister to that African Republic, now in D. C. His recent two-page letter to a state department official recommending establishment by White House of an "inter-racial commission," or "bureau of Negro affairs," was mimeographed in quantity for some reason and has been the subject of laughing and "cussing" by Washington Negroes and thoughtful whites. However, the little ex-newspman diplomat approaches Edgar Brown in his bull throwing efficiency, and has some gullible whites impressed with this pipe dream he proposes for state department officials and Lawrence Cramer to inaugurate "in collaboration with myself." The bull wrestling traffic is pretty congested hereabouts, chums.

## WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Negro government executives stationed in D. C. ("Black Cabinet"), now number 115. Twenty of these are women. Ten give only part time service. There are also 8 state department diplomatic corps workers stationed out of D. S. Incidentally, most executives have "B" gas ration cards, but a few heavy travellers got "X" Meanwhile everybody wonders how the new government emergency war agencies could have passed up opportunity to use race relations staffs of Mary Bethune (NYA), William Trent (FWA), Al Smith (WPA) and others in agencies dwindling during the war. OCD, OFF and others could have saved themselves many a headache by stealing or borrowing these staffs which have gone through the mill.

Postponement of these CoEPP Birmingham hearings for a month

and maybe indefinitely strangely enough must be blamed on a WPB Regional Director (Neeley) who believes his South, and not Negroes, is subject of discrimination.

Bob Weaver is doing all right under new Man Power board (McNutt) but persistent rumor has him moving into another good job .....Howard U. says its publicity agent (MacLarrin) did not speak for University when he wrote to Pegler, but as matter of fact Pegler's latest attack on Negroes and Howard proved only that there are Negroes who still love to "run down" their newspapers and other institutions. Many such Negroes trying to get away from their heritage, praised Pegler publically .....Charley's apology, that was Jerome Robinson (FSA) not Tom Roberts (Agr.) transferred to Cincinnati.

## FOLKS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW—No. 9

Growing older gracefully, he's 69, bland, genteel, distinguished. Native Texan, Wiley and Wilberforce graduate, he moves soft-spoken and effortlessly from success to success. Eighteen years secretary to Booker T. Washington, he was an unsung motivating force behind robust growth of Tuskegee (1897-1915). His, also, was task of nurturing National Negro Business league, Tuskegee inceptioned, for 20 years. Dispatched by President Taft aboard U.S. Cruiser "Chester" on American Commission to Liberia (1909), he laid foundation of Liberian-American accord, bearing current fruit. Secretary to 1912 International Conference on Negro, he was appointed special assistant to the Secretary of War during the World war, and acquired invaluable insight into Negro as a soldier. As secretary-treasurer of Howard university fourteen years (1919-1933) and later secretary, he proved master of the art of persuading reluctant Congress to appropriate adequate funds for maintenance and growth of university. Author of "The American Negro in the World War," migratory, and other studies, his was the persuasiveness staying rapidly closing doors in the diplomatic corps, threatening to close Negroes out of the foreign service. He's unofficial dean of the Negro diplomats.

Ardent and unwavering Republican, he has served on Republican National and Special committees, and is currently Race Relations officer for the national committee. His widely-read pithy weekly comments in the Negro Press on race relations in general as they affect the Negro, astutely contain no reference to politics except in election-cave times. Ordinarily they champion the Negro's general fight for democracy.

He enjoys good food, good drink, good tobacco, and a good joke. Eyes twinkling, he recalls becoming godfather to son of a Liberian official, and finding to his sorrow this is equivalent to adoption in that country. (Young E.J.H., grown up, arrived in D.C. from Africa one day and happily presented himself to godfather, and eventually proved his greatest trial and tribulation by exposing confidential H. U. matters to a hostile newspaper.)

A scholar, a gentleman, a time-polished combination of intellect and charm, he is a friendly counselor of hundreds in all walks. Paradoxically, he has been, unwittingly, the inspiration of most of the alert, brilliant, young Negro Democrats who came in with the New Deal and who now serve in the war, economic, and social agencies of the government as executives. Unwilling to retire from the firing line, he has currently found a new niche in the war-industrial effort, for his usefulness. Negroes should rejoice. You've missed an important item in modern living if you don't know Emmett Jay Scott.

## DEFENSE GOSSIP

Major Campbell Johnson (Sel Ser) was promoted to Lt. Col.... Rumor says Hampton is too near coastal defense area and will be taken over by Navy, Negroes say Pfui!..... D. C. delegation to War Dept. wants Dorie Miller returned to U. S. for presentation of Navy Cross, but Navy says he is too far out of American waters.....Many whites share apprehension of Negroes over appointment of Texan Hobby as director of new Women's Aux. corps.....Will Alexander (OFF-OCD) sent notice of Dorie Miller award to Negro papers by wire, but Western Union messed up by making them collect overnight letters. Wise boys whisper sabotage somewhere along the line.... Chandler Owen book may be issued by OFF after all (but why?)..... Pressure by NAACP and others interested is getting some Negroes on local OPA Rationing boards, as in New York City....Claire Boothe

made recordings of theme song of 'American Volunteer Flyers in Burma (Tigers) but Negro radio audiences are protesting its playing because its all about the "Nigger and the Cat Fish," you know the one.....Charley has several other names offered for Sec. Knox's little black navy, but still sticks to "The Black Bustards" (And I do mean "u").

Clever, glamorous Willa Brown is leading the fight for Negro schools and air-men to share in the new liberalized plans for Civilian Pilot training. Flying students can now get subsistence while learning, and such, but colored schools are not likely to share until bottle neck of 99th Pursuit Squadron ("Black Crows") and 100th ("Hooty Owls") is broken. Army has a two-year supply of Negro preliminary-trained pilots on waiting list and sees no sense in training more. All together boys, and we can lick this.

## SHORTIES—

Under consideration for appointment to that foreign correspondentship is Enoc Waters, Chicago Defender city editor (Hi Enoc)....Just published, "Negro In the Caribbean," 8th in the Bronze Booklet series by Eric Williams (Negro Folk Education, Alain Locke, H. U.)....The poem about Joe Louis in last week's Collier's rates reading—Joe Louis named the War....Commencement speaker at Howard U. is Pearl Buck....Gilpin Courts housing project in Richmond will still go to colored defense workers, despite arguments....Pending in Congress is bill to purchase Missouri farm on which Dr. George Washington Carver was born, for memorial. Carver has issued a new cook book listing several plants as edible, generally regarded as weeds.... Colored maids of wealthy white women in D. C. are being sent to driving school so they can act as chauffeurs for the duration. .... John A. Davis, Lincoln (Pa.) Prof., who promoted that successful conference on the campus last week, is now on staff of N. Y. State Commission On Employment Discrimination.... Damn that little Austrian house painter! BUY ANOTHER BOND, MISTER!