

NATIONAL GRAPEVINE

By CHARLEY CHEROKEE

PHAMUS PHAINT

That tittering you heard at the D. C. Recorder of Deeds building ground-breaking was occasioned by the sudden fainting of the "Envoy Extraordinary" to that African republic. Just before the President arrived, the "Minister Plenipotentiary" after supplementing his introduction was reading his "remarks." Apparently reaching a bad place in his notes, he fumbled and peered around nervously. He started again, got to the same place, fumbled again and then fainted dead away—kaplop! This almost stole the show from Elk Ruler Wilson who followed, but the President arrived just then and J. Finley got off his now-famous utterances: "Mr. President, every black man in America is behind you! If Hitler comes over here, we will stop him at the District line." The President had a "ball" and laughed heartily when the engine of the steam shovel refused to start at his signal. Congressman Mitchell was nowhere around.

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WHO'S WHO?

Seven dollars and a half will get your name in "Who's Who in Colored America." For \$10 additional you can have a photo. This price includes a short biography. Published every now and then, this purported line up of famous Negro Americans, with all its faults, is the best there is along this line. Most of the big-shot names are included. Currently, its editor, white and 73 years old, complains: "The publisher cannot and will not do any more of this hard work and financing.... He has asked his two sons to carry on this work. Knowing the difficulties of making Race collections, and the headaches of the past, they are not very enthusiastic about it."

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POLITICS

Four weeks to go and the pot boils over in Washington. The last and hectic mud-slinging stage is here. Rumor has it Finley Wilson wants to bolt the Republicans. The Negro New Deal office holders are sticking close to base and turning out achievement reports and denials

by the 'ream. Special investigation and research racketeers are flourishing as they turn out Democratic and Republican pamphlets and handbills full of fiction and devoid of fact. Recorder Thompkins has secured a congressional exemption from the Hatch act and Edgar Brown and others are ignoring it. Republican Emmett Scott and Democratic C. B. Powell are turning on the heat with screaming publicity. Everybody is promising they can deliver the Negro vote, even in Mississippi. Everybody's having a swell time. It's election year.

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ART WEEK

Negro artists get a break November 25 to December 1. This is National Art week when exhibits will be held in every community for the sole purpose of aiding purchases and sales of art works. Every artist, colored and white, worthy of the name will be invited to show his works and will have the chance of a lifetime to sell them. Church, school, home, club will all combine to help him. Negroes will be on local committees and Alain Locke of Howard is on the national committee. Get on board little chillun.

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THIRD CATEGORY

Writing in the Saturday Review of Literature, V. F. Calverton discusses: "The Negro and American Culture." Thoughtful and interesting, the author's style is also exciting. Says he: "They were days when 'things rode in the saddle,' money was triumphant, and literateurs, of all three sexes, were excitedly and excitingly romantic." Ha!