

NATIONAL GRAPEVINE

By CHARLEY CHEROKEE

CAMPUS CONSERVATISM--

Looking in on the college set this week, Charley heard it whispered that Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity considers calling on Brother Rayford Logan, militant Howard professor, to tone down a bit in his speeches denouncing defense discrimination. Who will bell the cat? Logan, who has been a pioneer and spearhead in the fight for the rights in the army and defense industry, fears neither man nor beast, and most likely would tell the brothers where to go. Down in Atlanta, they still tell of the time a white mob was seeking Rayford. Mobsters searched the Negro neighborhood thoroughly but couldn't find him because he was up on Peachtree street, in the middle of town, looking for the mob.

Doxey Wilkerson, another of the few militant Howard professors, is active in every fight. Because he is identified with the Washington Council of the National Negro congress, and because "The Dies of Texas" considers that organization Red, certain powers have labeled him a Communist and are out to get him.

THAT PHAMUS PHEUD

That art war Charley mentioned some time ago has flared forth again at Howard and even spread beyond the campus. Alain Locke's new art tone, "The Negro in Art," with its 400 aquatone and other illustrations has been pronounced by most critics as monumental, and the best thing ever done. However, some prominent figures in art at Howard, already peeved at Locke because he presumes to hold himself up as an authority in their field, pronounce the book putrid. The Howard gallery, which has achieved some fame of its own, seems to be an anti- Locke center. You take your life in your hand if you mention the new book within its walls. Some say the gallery floor is strewn with blond and brunette locks self-torn out in fits of artistic temperament.

THINGS TO COME

Emmer Lancaster, the Race Relations expert in commerce, has called a conference on Negro business to convene in Washington, on April 18 and 19. Commerce department will set up a sample store and other features, and all the Negro business moguls plan to attend.

George Haynes announces the third annual conference of church leaders to meet in Washington on April 17-18, to consider among other things the church and national defense.

The National Negro congress announces a job conference to be held in Baltimore, April 27 and invited delegates from all over.

The Washington Committee for Democratic action announces a Washington meeting April 9 to support labor's right to strike.

The Institute of Race Relations, sponsored by the American Friends committee will be held July 6 to 26 at Westtown school, Westtown, Pennsylvania

EMPLOYMENT FRONT

The National Negro Congress has sent appeals to Negro workers in the embattled Ford plant to stick with labor and side with the strikers. The congress is fighting to get 7,000 colored workers in the Glen Martin Airplane plant in Maryland.

Hearings on SR 75, the Senate Bill to prohibit defense employment discrimination, with Mrs. Roosevelt as chief witness, have been postponed until April 15.

The AFL recently granted charters to Negro carpenter and joiner locals in St. Louis and in the Virginia peninsular, but refused one in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The New York State legislature passed a bill last week making it unlawful to discriminate in defense employment.

The civil service has established an emergency replacement list for government employees without civil service status or rating, who have been dismissed or furloughed because of reduction in forces. They must have been separated since June 30, 1939.

That radio program last Sunday, featuring Negro artists and protesting defense employment discrimination, was arranged by Edward Lawson, Jr. (Urban League). Write the Columbia Broadcasting system, care your local station and express your thoughts.

UP IN THE AIR

The army insists on going ahead with plans for training that squadron at Tuskegee to be known as the "Black Crows." They can't understand why "you people" shouldn't be tickled to death. Mrs. Roosevelt unwittingly gave the plan a boost when she visited Tuskegee last week and took a plane ride with instructor Anderson and praised the Tuskegee student flyers in her column. The Associated Press immediately came out with an article predicting Tuskegee flyers would dominate the Jim Crow squadron because of their advanced training. Somebody ought to invite an Associated Press reporter to Harlem field in Chicago.

Robert Hircckley, Chief of CAA, promised Willa Brown, who visited his office recently, that there would be no reduction in colored pilot training units. Meanwhile, the government plans to inspect Riverside airport, owned by the Cloud club in Washington, with thought of using it as a training center for a WPA ground serviceman project.

LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER

Fort Benning in Georgia has requested ten WPA literacy teachers for 1,000 enlisted men below third grade level.....Congressman Mitchell has dropped his suit against two citizens and two policemen for moving his parked car.....Ashes of the Princess Anne academy main building, where six persons were burned to death, were not cool before the Maryland legislature had authorized an appropriation to rebuild it

Senator Pepper of Florida has introduced a bill to outlaw poll tax as a voting qualification in national elections.....White Connecticut army officers ordered to Ft. Blanding, Florida, took their colored cooks with them, but the cooks couldn't stomach the Florida racial prejudice and when local Negroes refused to work under their supervision they returned to New England.....Pennsylvania papers urge the state legislature to give Lincoln university a sufficiently large appropriation.