

# National GRAPEVINE

By CHARLEY CHEROKEE

## ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT

Carter G. Woodson, popularizer of Negro History, proposed 20 years ago, an "Encyclopedia of the Negro." Years later, Anson Phelps Stokes got interested and invited in the Negro scholars. Uninvited were Woodson and W. E. B. DuBois, until Alain Locke and Walter White complained of the slight. DuBois accepted the belated invite and was made Editor in Chief, Woodson wouldn't come. Guy Johnson of N.C. was thrown in for white flavor, and Rayford Logan put to work drawing a plan.

In 1938, the General Education Board gave \$150,000 for the project but apparently considered DuBois' leadership too "advanced" and vigorous and Logan's plans too militant. At any rate, things were tabled, some whispered "until DuBois dies."

Brother DuBois gets healthier every day, and now in January 1948, the General Education Board and Dodd of Dodd-Meade Company (publishers) have apparently gone ahead and named Fred Patterson, Tuskegee Prexy, Editor-in-Chief. Patterson has sent letters to some current Negro scholars inviting them to contribute.

The scholars we have asked about it don't like it, to put it mildly. They want to know what happened to Editor DuBois. They say Patterson is a nice guy, a nice Tuskegee President and no doubt well qualified as a Veterinarian (Pat holds a Hoss' Doctor degree), but they don't consider him qualified to indicate, edit, accept or reject their work. One scholar answered us in four words,--"To hell with it."

So what was dreamed by Woodson as greatest work yet on the Negro has a shaky future despite some promotion it will get from a well known mid-west news figure. Like it or not, it looks like just "another one of them things."

## INTO A COCKED HAT

Rep. McCormack (D-Mass) was debating rent control on the radio with Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) the other eve. (Maybe you heard 'em) McCarthy thought all controls and lack of them should be wholly in hands of the local housing authorities. But McCormack floored him when he cited the case of the St. Petersburg local body that wanted to raise rents of all Negroes and keep controls on rents of all whites. McCarthy, young and reportedly liberal, couldn't think of any answer and McCormack whaled him good with the race issue.

## FINGERS CROSSED DEPARTMENT

That Rodgers Bill (HR-3814) which passed the House and would erect another Jim Crow all-Negro vets hospital at Booker T's Virginia birthplace, comes up for Senate Hearings Feb. 3rd. Among others hoping to knock it in the head, and to stop the U. S. from sponsoring more segregation, will be Walter White of NAACP who will testify and pull no punches before the Vets sub-Committee of the Senate Labor-Welfare Committee (Senators Moss, Ball, Pepper, Hill, Thomas of Utah. Prayerful onlooker with fingers crossed will be Joe Albright, Negro Adviser in Vets, who fights against segregation.

Senator Barkley (D-Ky) has finally introduced a bill to transfer Slowe and Carver Halls in Washington, to Howard U for dormitories. If passed this will counteract Senator Cappers bill to give them to the Booker T. crowd to train colored waiters and maids, etc.

## MISCELLANY

Republicans made another grab for black ballots, appointing colored John Risher as a Chief Investigator of Discrimination in Civil Service at \$10,000 a year. Riser has a Senate Office Building office near that of Bob Church.

Walter White testified for NAACP on the Marshall Plan before Senate Foreign Relations Committee and indorsed the plan provided it is applied without discrimination based on race, creed, political barriers, etc.

Navy launched Lt. Dennis Nelson's study "The Negro in the U.S. Navy" with a press conference. Negro press men got in their digs for benefit of naive white press men and Nelson did well. Faux pas was reference of Navy "Brass" Capt. Fred Stickney to his interest in Negro matters as a "hobby." We don't want to be no hobby, Capt.

JOIN THE NAACP, MISTER, nobody can laugh off a million Negroes.

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