THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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CHARLOTTE AND THE KLAN

THE CITY had a visitor this week. The Mayor didn't greet him, however, for he was not a distinguished visitor.

His name is Thomas L. Hamilton, and he calls himself "The Grand Dragon of the Associated Carolinas Klans."

He came to Charlotte, lugging his unwieldy title. And, he *said* he formed a "Klavern" of the Ku Klux Klan.

He *said* his "Klavern" has several hundred members.

Now it is possible that Hamilton did form a "Klavern", that he did find several hundred persons among our 140,000 so misguided that they fell for his Ku Klux Klan.

It would be unusual if Charlotte did not have several hundred such persons, for they are everywhere. They are persons so uncertain of themselves that they need a secret society to enable them to make their influence felt. They are so frightened by their own lack of social position that they must do all in their power to lower the standing of others. They are so cowardly that they must travel in packs to express themselves. They are so lacking in respect for human dignity that they would impose by violence and threats of violence their subversive, un-Christian and un-American philosophy on a free, Christian and intelligent people.

Unfortunately there is no law preventing these pitifully weak yet insidious and irresponsible persons from trying to establish a tyranny of terror over Charlotte's Negroes, Jews, Catholics and actually anyone with whom they do not agree, no law save that of human rights.

* * *

THE decent citizens of Charlotte can only hope that our law enforcement agencies will seek out the local leaders of this "Klavern"—if it really exists—and keep their activities within the bounds of the law. If they disturb the peace, if they do injury to anyone they must be vigorously and promptly dealt with. Police Chief Frank Littlejohn has already promised opposition to the movement.

But how did Hamilton sell the Klan to Charlotte—if, as he says, he did form a "Klavern"?

Explaining the purpose of the night riders to *The News'* State Editor, Ashley Smith, he declared:

"Each new member must swear allegiance to the flag and pledge his full support and co-operation in maintaining white supremacy."

There is something wrong here with Hamilton's reasoning, if you can dignify his mental processes with the term.

You cannot support the flag, symbol of democracy, while trying at the same time to deprive a third of this city's population of its rights.

HAMILTON went on to say that the Klan did not limit itself to opposing the Negro. The Klan opposes "all un-American people," he said.

Our idea of an un-American person is one who opposes the principles of democracy on which this nation was founded, principles which have made it through the centuries a haven for the persecuted. *This is the Klan.*

Our idea of an un-American person is one who would subvert the law of the land, assume the role of judge, jury and executioner. *This is the Klan.*

Our idea of an un-American person is one who holds to such ideologies as the fascist "master race" theory. *This is the Klan.*

Our idea of an un-American person is one who does not embrace the concept of justice and human rights, concepts which have come to symbolize the American dream and the American accomplishment. *This is the Klan.*

These un-American theories are dangerous, of course. They are widespread through the Klan's membership and the mass of Klansmen holds to them fervently.

* * *

AMONG the leaders, however, theories are not very important. The blunt truth is that the "Dragons" and "Kleagles" of the Klan are not so much concerned with white supremacy and the persecution of the Jew and the Catholic. They are concerned with making money.

The blunt truth is this: the Klan is and always has been a lucrative, far-reaching racket.

The "Dragons", and the "Kleagles" have decked out their money-making schemes in that dress which will most appeal to the ignorant and the poor, but it's still a racket.

Throughout its inglorious recent history the Klan has been an instrument for the greed of its leaders.

Through the manufacture of cheap cotton masquerade garments which become expensive "robes" and "hoods" when sold by the Klan, the "Dragons" have milked the poor, misguided membership of millions of dollars. Dues have run into more millions.

The Klan is making a fool of anyone who pays it an initiation fee.

In pardoning Hamilton, it threw its Sunday punch at Charlotte. The Klan, he said, will "fight the Communism that has crept into the schools, the colleges and the political set up."

Hamilton's help is not needed. If we have Communists in our state, if Communists have "crept into the schools, the colleges and the political set up", we will fight them through a potent weapon which the Klan leaders ignore. That weapon is Truth.

FULTON'S FOLLY

NOW that the latest Fulton Lewis Jr. sensation is all over—an episode, incidentally, which has neither added to nor subtracted from his already inconsiderable stature as a commentator—it is possible to view the thing in calm retrospect.

We now know that Mr. Lewis' use of an Army major's diary to attack the late Harry Hopkins was a shameful abuse of journalistic ethics. Drew Pearson has revealed that Major Jordan tried unsuccessfully to peddle his diary to *Time* Magazine and to a representative of Walter Winchell. Both turned it down after examining its credibility.

Mr. Lewis should have done the same. Had he done so he would have discovered, as Pearson did, that Army files contained no complaints against the Russians over Jordan's signature. On the contrary, he was highly laudable of the Soviet military men who were stationed with him in Montana and his promotion was recommended by a Russian officer.

The story having been broken in a nationwide broadcast, there was nothing to be done except investigate. The sensation-starved House Un-American Activities Committee went into action. Hopkins was immediately cleared. Then Jordan attempted to entangle Henry Wallace. General Groves cleared Wallace. Finally, Jordan was charged with a C-47 transport complete with radar had been flown to Russia. Apparently he is misinformed about that, too.

It is a measure of our national hysteria, induced by the tension of the cold war with Russia, that such trumped up fabrications could command so much public attention.

There is the further conclusion, so aptly stated in the *Washington Post* editorial reprinted below, that we often forget that Russia was an ally, not an enemy, in the war against Germany. That explains many of the wartime relationships on which unscrupulous "patriots" are attempting to capitalize today.

From The Washington Post

PLOT TO WIN THE WAR

LIEUT. GEN. Leslie R. Groves has now stated unequivocally that neither the late Harry L. Hopkins nor former Vice President Henry A. Wallace ever approached him to get atomic secrets and that no pressure was ever exerted on him by anyone in the executive branch of the Government to give the Russians atomic materials. The only uranium that went to Russia, via lend-lease amounted to 475 pounds of unrefined material under license by the Board of Economic Warfare with the approval of the Manhattan Engineering District.

Nevertheless the stark, inescapable truth emerges from Major Jordan's revelations to the House Committee on Un-American Activities that there was a cabal within the Government some years ago determined to win the war against Germany. So intent were these schemers upon achieving victory for the United States that they were even willing to carry out in good faith the terms of the land-lease agreement made with our Russian ally by the President under authority granted to him by Congress. There is now no blinking the fact that a great deal of war equipment was shipped for use by the Red army on the Eastern Front in 1943 and 1944.

Even though Major Jordan erred about atomic secrets and appears to have been mistaken in thinking that the Russians received radar equipped C-47 planes even before these planes had any such equipment, it can scarcely be denied that the plot to aid Russia succeeded. In 1945, as the result of co-ordinated pressure from a Soviet offense on the east and an Anglo-American invasion from the west, Germany went down to defeat. The Jordan-Lewis story thus has the corroboration of history.

And who were these plotters within the United States? The Messrs Hopkins and Wallace certainly had a hand in it. General Marshall must have known all too well what was going on. The members of the Congressional Committees on Foreign Affairs and Military Affairs were probably privy to the plot. And it is impossible to escape a suspicion that the President himself lent aid and comfort to this effort to win the war But Major Jordan has not yet told all he knows. He has spoken mysteriously of a "Mr. X" and a "Mr. Y" who were involved in the ring. Who "Mr. Y" was we cannot guess. But we believe we know the identity of "Mr. X". His name, we think, was legion.

News From The Capital

Hoey Popular In Washington

By TOM SCHLESINGER
Charlotte News Special Writer

WASHINGTON

YOU'LL have to hand it to Senator Clyde R. Hoey. In these days Cagliostros and characters, and wits American humor and liking being what they are, you'd think that any politician with a name pronounced "Hooey" would be licked from the start.

And you'd also have good reason to believe that a person who invaded 20th century Washington with a 19th century frock coat (which he prefers to that an "English walking coat"), a stiff wing collar with white hair flowing over its back, four-in-hand ties and bootstrap pants (he is the tallest and a carnation in the Winter) plus high-button shoes, would scarcely be taken seriously.

Thus you've got to take off your hat to this picturesque lawyer and former governor—and one of the most popular figures in Tar-Heel politics since Civil War Governor Zebulon Vance—who started his 72nd birthday tomorrow.

His birthday celebration won't change his Sunday routine to any great extent. He will as usual teach the Hoey Bible Class at Shelby's Central Methodist Church. He's been doing that for 30 years, whenever he is home.

* * *

LIKE most of his Southern colleagues, Senator Hoey is a conservative who has frequently balked at some of the domestic legislation of the New Deal and the Fair Deal. However, he did not join the Dixiecrats in the Democratic Party's split last year and he did swing his support to Truman at the Democratic Convention.

Seldom during the past five years had he been in the headlines nationally until he took over the 3-percenter inquiry and broke the Senate's long line of fire-breathing Senators. LaFollettes, Nyes and Fergusons, to mention a few—with his courtly manners and sharp legally-trained mind.

At first Republicans scoffed and some Democratic administration lawyers grinned when Hoey succeeded heavy-handed Homer Ferguson of Michigan as chairman of the Senate Investigating Committee. The prediction was general that shop would be folded up in the committee that once Maj. Gen. Benny Myers to a perjurer's cell, dumped Representative Andrew May out of his Congressional seat to face bribery charges and then initiated a sensational hunt for Communists on the Federal pay roll.

Soon the critics reversed the field, and worried Administration men were wondering where next the axe would fall. As it was such stars as Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan, Maj. Gen. Alden Waitt, James V. Hunt and John Maragon found out. From the looks of the latter came almost universal applause for the manner in which the hearings were conducted.

Many colleagues said the soft-spoken Senator came closer to the characteristics of Harry Truman when he was chairman of the Senate's War Investigating Committee. Truman wasn't the brow-beating type of investigator, either. He—like Hoey—had a good staff and let the committee members and employees carry the ball except on rare occasions.

He made his mark in other ways, too. Frequently he was called upon to preside over the Senate—a job that fell to Truman when it was discovered that he could untangle parliamentary snarls and drive legislation through "the world's greatest deliberative body" with a spud thrust into both hands. Such practiced filibusters as the late Theodore G. Bilbo, and Glen H. Taylor have been cut off by the Senator before they were quite sure what happened to them.

The Senator's a hard worker all along the line, and is in his office, usually signing mail, by 9 A. M. every morning Congress is in session.

* * *

Hoey is as friendly as he is a hard worker. He often tells reporters that he can make no statement officially, but can't help revealing the facts in an "off-the-record" fashion. Even Drew Pearson, who pushed him rather brusquely in columns in the closing month of the past session, said that he wouldn't have made his report about the 3-percenter hearings if he had known the whole story.

Hoey's manners match his clothes. No one can stay mad at him. He is a model of 19th century courtesy and courtliness—never too hurried in Washington's pell-mell existence to exchange a pleasant word with everyone he meets, from colleagues to page boys.

* * *

IT'S Christmas card season here with the coming of election-year prospects doubling the activity in the various Congressional offices. . . . There's a possibility that a Woman of the Year—five administrative assistants may be a Capolinian. The name of Charles S. Murphy of Warren is rumored as a replacement for Clark Clifford. . . . Rep. Ham Jones is expected to hire around 230 enumerators or bell-pushers for the 10th District census next year. . . . Nell Koonce of Raleigh, one of Hoey's secretaries, will soon be married in Raleigh on Dec. 17. An ex-Wave, she will marry a naval lieutenant, Al Skonbery, stationed here.

Look for a decision finally on the Strickland Furniture Co. of High Point, case concerning a Government footlocker contract. Results of the investigation which was a prelude to the 3-percenter inquiries is expected later this month. . . . The 3-percenter report, too, is expected to appear before Congress reconvenes Jan. 3 . . . Among the visitors in town this week were Secretary of Interior Julius Krug with Hornet-Boss Phil Howser on the way to the Minor League meetings in Baltimore and Lamar Stringfield, composer, Durham, flutist, etc., who has written with Marian Sims, a Christmas cantata which the New York Presbyterian Church here hopes will replace "The Messiah". It will receive its world premiere here this month.

A little afield, but sources here say that Georgia's Governor Herman Talmadge won't run for the Senate seat of Senator Walter George who is up for a sixth term. . . . Instead he is expected to run again for governor and a possible opponent may be Ellis Arnall. . . . It now appears doubtful that labor is behind Reynold's possible run for Senator Hoey's seat. It will be recalled that the AFL canceled a "life membership" which was presented to him years after he introduced a bill similar in tone to the present Taft-Hartley bill. Who's behind him? Best guess, bangers-on think he might toss about some of the McLean riches. . . . Carolinian George C. Allen will leave for his new diplomatic post in Yugoslavia on Dec. 28. . . . Tar Heel Kenneth C. Royall, former Secretary of the Army, has joined the firm of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey of New York and Washington. The firm name was changed to Dwight, Royall, Harris, Koegel & Caskey. . . . Senator Hoey, on a two-day visit to Washington this week, put the squasher on any talk that he and Senator Graham would campaign together. "If hate a lot of invitations so I attend the same affairs," he said, "but so far the only places we have spoken together are in Shelby and Waynesville. And there is no official or unofficial coalition planned." Incidentally, it looks as if Senator Graham is trying to duplicate Senator Hoey's feat of speaking at least once in everyone of the 100 counties before election time rolls around.

Joseph And Stewart Alsop

This Atomic Mess

RESIGNATION of David E. Lilienthal from the chairmanship of the Atomic Energy Commission will left this vital sphere of effort in an appalling mess. The mess is none of Lilienthal's making, but his going has brought the situation into rather lurid relief. Hence there is now talk, in the very restricted circles where the situation is understood at all, of the possible need for a wholly new start next year.

The reason for Lilienthal's resignation was entirely personal. He simply did not like his job. He is one of the great administrators and public servants of our time, but he has no inclination to be a manufacturer of weapons of hideous destruction. When this turned out to be his real task as AEC chairmin, he had no enthusiasm for it. The sense of duty that kept him going was broken down by the most recent spasm of neurotic Senatorial inquisition, and he resigned forthwith.

Furthermore, Lilienthal's efforts have at least kept the mess in the atomic energy effort within reasonable limits. On this working level, the Atomic Energy Commission is adequately if not always brilliantly staffed. The various divisions of the AEC are operating pretty satisfactorily. The program can jog along for a while, without risk of immediate breakdown.

There is clear risk of eventual breakdown, however, in the state of affairs at top. It was already unwieldly to try to run a great industrial effort through a commission. If not replaced by a single qualified administrator, the AEC ought probably to be reduced from five men to three. What is even worse, however, is the enormous number of persons legally authorized to breathe down the commission's neck.

HOT BATTLE

This role is performed by the General Advisory Committee, by the Military Liaison Committee, and above all by the Joint Congressional Committee. These NECK-breathers represent an obvious sacrifice of efficiency to "safeguards." And their existence has also created sharply on the relationships within the AEC.

It has long been known, of course, that Commissioner Lewis Strauss is at odds with Chairman Lilienthal. This disagreement has been rendered crippling by Strauss' habit of running for aid to Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, or other members of the Joint Congressional Committee, or leaders of the Defense Dept.

Now, moreover, politics has crept in. While no doubt an able man, the President's recently chosen commissioner, Gordon Dean, is also the patronage appointee of the chairman of the Congressional Joint Committee, Sen. Brien McMahon.

As if these obstacles were not enough to repel any candidate for the succession to Lilienthal, the President has lately weakened the commission's support from the executive branch. The issue here has been the form of our co-operation in atomic development with the British and Canadians.

The explosion of the Soviet atomic bomb has removed every intelligible obstacle to the fullest Anglo-Canadian - American co-operation. One of the strongest lessons of Dr. Vannevar Bush's "Modern Arms and Free Men" is that we are likely to benefit the most by full co-operation. Chairman Lilienthal fought for full co-operation from the first. But the White House and the State Dept. have alike shrunk back from asking Congress for the necessary exceptions to the "secrecy" rule.

As a result, the recent controversies with the British here would have been comic, if they had not been tragic. Sir John Anderson, Sir Alexander Cockcroft, representing the British Government, went into the talks completely briefed, completely united and completely aware of what had to be accomplished. Although Secretary of State Acheson had been strongly urged to take personal charge of the American side, our representatives were six representatives of the AEC and the State and Defense Depts., all divided among themselves, all uncertain of policy, all unauthorized to act. Complete failure was only narrowly avoided.

These are the real reasons why the President is having such difficulty in finding a successor for Chairman Lilienthal. In the end, indeed, it seems clear that the President will have to choose between two alternatives. Either he will have to name another of the dim hacks who are becoming so common in vital Government jobs. Or he will have to promise some qualified man his own energetic support in any reforms the new chairman may think necessary after a year's experience.

Marquis Childs

Optimism Fades

WASHINGTON

THE contrast between Europe immediately after the end of the war and Europe today goes deeper than the surface of physical recovery. It seems to me to sum up as follows:

In 1946 and '47 we were agreeably surprised to see that the European invalid was on his feet. After the long and terrible years of the war, the vigor and normality displayed were astonishing. We were quick—too quick—to conclude that the damage had been exaggerated.

An easy and facile optimism was the immediate result. A few years of the Marshall Plan would put everything to rights again.

The observer who tries honestly to see beneath the surface cannot come away now, nearly five years after the end of the European war, with any such optimism. The erosion and corruption resulting not from one but from two World Wars have cut deeply into the fabric of civilization in Western Europe.

This means, of course, that far greater patience, skill, understanding and resolution must come from the United States and Western Europe working in unison if the values of that civilization are to be conserved and extended. There is a suspicion that in trying to run before he could walk the invalid may actually have done himself harm while deceiving the rest of the world into believing falsely in his recovery.

But in my opinion it does not necessarily follow that we should be overcome by pessimism. On a more realistic basis than two or three years ago, it even may be possible to see some small reason for optimism. In 1949 American policy in Europe—as contrasted to the Far East—has moved cautiously and tentatively forward.

SOME GAIN

A gain has been recorded in Germany. The ultimate result is not guaranteed. But at least a dangerous drift toward more violent and virulent nationalism in the Nazi pattern has been checked by positive action on which the Western allies were in general agreed.

That action has even greater significance than has been so far revealed. The agreement ratified by Secretary of State Dean Acheson's visit to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer covers two major points of policy to be implemented in the coming year.

Point No. 1, Adenauer agreed to put into effect a carefully worked out program of decartelization grounded in new laws to be adopted by the West German government. This is in accord with an order issued by United States High Commissioner John J. McCloy.

The laws are directed after the system of anti-trust laws in this country. But, in addition, special courts will decide—to preclude the contested decisions. German businessmen could refer proposed mergers and combines to such courts to determine whether the contemplated steps were in violation of laws forbidding cartels. This, it happens, is more than the surface cannot come away now, nearly five years after the end of the European war, with any such optimism. The erosion and corruption resulting not from one but from two World Wars have cut deeply into the fabric of civilization in Western Europe.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Chapman Stays Dry In Wet Washington

WASHINGTON

COLORADO is a dry state, at least atmospherically speaking, but not half so dry as its own son, Oscar Chapman, the new Secretary of Interior.

Washington, on the other hand, is wet. From the noon martini to the midnight nightcap, there is a constant round of wetness: "The ambassador of Argentina requests the pleasure of your company . . ." "The American Aeronautical Association invites you to be present . . ." "The Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Snyder etc. . . ." So it goes.

The white-engraved cards come in the mail and by hand, to the office and to the home, and no man in public life can "regret" them all.

As a hostess covets a Cabinet member as a hobby-some covets a crooner's autograph. If he accepted half the bids, he could reduce himself to a happy state of alcoholic incompetence in a fortnight.

But Oscar Chapman, by secret methods of his own, has discovered how to be dry, yet sociable. In short, he has lived through sixteen years of Washington wining and dining without taking a drink.

Or rather, he takes a drink every time, but never drinks it. That's his secret.

Caught red-handed in his deception, Chapman confessed: "Well I do it this way. At a cocktail party, for instance, I never refuse a drink. I take the glass and just hold it in my hand. Then, when the waiter comes around with more, I pretend I've just had a refill.

"If it's a state dinner, with toasts for the guest of honor, I put the glass to my lips like everyone else, but the champagne stays in the glass."

Then with a sad shake of his head, the Secretary of the Interior lamented: "I hate to think of all the liquor that has been poured out uselessly for me!"

Czarist Uranium King

ONE by-product of the Congressional investigation of alleged secrets sent to Russia in 1943-44 is a demand for the deportation of the world's leading uranium magnates of the world, who was given permission to ship uranium to Russia in May, 1943.

He is Leo Pregel, a Czarist Russian who has lived in exile in France and the United States for the past 22 years. As a result of recent publicity, the Immigration Bureau of the Justice Dept. has been considering a clamor that Pregel be deported.

However, close examination of the facts on file at the Justice Dept. would indicate that Pregel may be a victim of public hysteria, also, perhaps, of competition from American commercial forces.

The uranium shipment which he sent to Russia, according to the testimony of Lieut. Gen. Leslie Groves, had the official O.K. of the Manhattan Project. The license number was 1643180, given by the U. S. Government to Chemalloy, 40 Exchange Place, New York City, the official purchasing agent of the Soviet Government, for 500 pounds of black uranium oxide and 500 pounds of uranium nitrate.

The fact that a Czarist Russian was at that time the only private individual able to sell uranium is in itself an interesting story.

Pregel, whose wife was from a wealthy Russian family fled from Moscow in 1917, just ahead of the Bolshevik purge. Living in France, he invested money in the Belgian uranium trust and was one of the first experts to predict that unlocking the secret of the atom would not only decide the outcome of the war, but the future control of the world.

In an interview with The Miami News, Jan. 12, 1941, Pregel made exactly this prediction.

Supplied Uranium To U. S.

LONG before the war, Pregel, a multimillionaire, had become the sole sales agent of the Belgian uranium trust, and came to this country permanently in 1940 after the Nazis overran France. He established Radium & Uranium Corp. and acquired an interest in the Port Hope uranium mines in Canada. Late in 1941, he became the sole sales agent for Canadian uranium and when the United States first began to experiment with the atom, it was Pregel who delivered the first shipment of uranium to Columbia University—five tons—on June 7, 1941, even before Pearl Harbor.

Pregel got in wrong with the British because he opposed shipments of uranium to England, and Winston Churchill at one time was on the verge of deporting him. More recently he has been in competition with the Vanadium Corp. in Colorado and New Mexico. He now has his own Caribou mine in Colorado where he produces pitchblende and uranium. American interests have been trying to block him.

Pregel is a member of the French Legion of Honor and is one of only three Americans to receive an honorary membership in the French Institute of Engineers, the other two being Dwight Eisenhower and Herbert Hoover.

French Communist Purge

MAURICE THOREZ, the French Communist leader, is worried over reports that he will be purged by Moscow. A prediction by this commentator was picked up by the news agencies and cabled to the French newspapers. Following this, Moscow invited Jacques Duclos, the No 2 French Communist, to attend the Cominform meeting in Hungary last week while Thorez stayed home, which has caused Thorez to ask his Russian friends what is wrong.