

National Grapevine

By Charles Chorokee

QUIT KIDDIN' YOURSELF! Take jobs frinstance,—you know dam' well war pressure and nothing else is giving Negroes work. When the pressure goes, Negro workers go. Negro labor leaders probably couldn't do anything about it even if they weren't too busy playing race "Messiah," to try. It's make-it-now-or-never, but 500,000 of the three million able workers still crying for jobs are Negroes, chums, frozen out by prejudice, priorities, and non-proximity.

Then there's justice, a conveniently blind old white gal. White guy, Ecklund, known in Washington as "the sniper," slipped up behind five colored men and blew out their brains in cold blood. Just didn't like "niggers," and boasted about murders to friends. But it took two trials to convict him of just second degree murder, and he was allowed to escape and enjoy a week end of freedom while second jury debated. Nabbed by an auxiliary cop not in the "know," he had pockets full of money and knew contents of sealed jury verdict. He'll be out of jail in less than five years. Compare Odell Waller, who had provocation enough for 10. You know what he got, he killed a white man.

And Army aviation, Pfui! War department insists it "does not desire to prohibit" colored lads from taking the aviation cadet exam. But those who seem to meet general training specifications are warned not to resign from their jobs, and are told bluntly: "Eligible list for colored applicants is much longer than the quota that can be accommodated with existing facilities." However, existing facilities for white boys are so adequate that the Army can thumb its nose at Civilian Pilot Training program and say: "We don't need you no mo'."

Negro organizations going 'round proudly waving endorsements and telegrams from the White House. Why Hell, chums, don't let that throw you. Right now the President will endorse anything with Negro in the title—Negro Mop Wielders of America, Ink., or any other. It's funny, chums. As funny as old "Jim Crow" Rankin saying: "I'm one of the bes' friends the Negra ever had." Ha! Don't go getting any ideas. If you think the war has made you white, just go down town and stick your head in somewhere, like Roland Hayes did last week. You" need mor'n liniment for what you'll get on it. Lots of back-patting going on, beautiful articles about Negroes in all the flag-bedecked magazines, but chum, it don't mean a thing!

JOB COMMUNIQUE

War Information reorganizing under Elmer Davis is appointing two or three more good publicity men, including Ted Poston of WPB and Al White (Associated Negro Press.) Ted Berry of old OFF, disgusted with inside attitude toward Race Relation is resigning. Friends urge him to stick . . . Bob Weaver (Manpower) busy with a three day conference of his field men addressed by Altmeyer, McNutt and McSherry; has time to keep his eye on evidences of expansion within CoFEP . . . Appointment of Gen. Phil Fleming (FWA) to act as head of WPA gives Bill Trent (FWA) and Al Smith (WPA) same boss . . . Anyone in D. C. over two days is suspected of being after a job, anybody's job and Black Cabinet is relieved now that Howard Gould of Chicago Urban League has returned to Windy City after a three week D. C. sojourn . . . Information's specialists are not faring so well since Congress frowned on this activity. Poston leaves Weaver for

OFF (now OWI.) Dutton Ferguson (WPA) is leaving Al Smith for an out-of-town spot. Henry Moon (FWA) now serves NHA in another capacity, etc. . . . Employment Security Review, journal of USES has July issue devoted to placement of Negroes and other minorities, informative if discouraging reading . . . Idea to have Great Lakes Naval station news open to Claude Barnett (ANP) or some specially named correspondent of color, advocated by Tom Roberts (Agriculture) is bitterly opposed by Chairman McLean of CoFEP who favors his white ex-Hampton protege, Apter, now in the Service . . . Emmett Scott getting \$8,000 from Sun Shipyard has appointed Brud Holland assistant at \$3,000 . . . Edgar Brown's fast one did not work with Elmer Davis, who unlike OPA, investigated Brown before accepting his offer to investigate Flagstaff arm riots at OWI expense . . . Black Cabinet decided against formal organization, will carry on as usual.

WAR-FRONT COMMUNIQUE

Low point was reached by the Flagstaff, Ariz., riots during which one colored trooper was killed and another wounded, in the usual fracas over the usual discrimination in near-army-camp towns, and the terrible beating of a colored soldier in Houston by white M.P.'s for using only available telegraph station in white waiting room. However, Rayford Logan and Alain Locke of Howard university pushed inter-cultural relations, and plans proceeded to get movies made of Negroes in the army and in war industry.

Mary Bethune (NYA) loaned to WAAC's moved heaven and earth and finally got 40 tropicolored ladies enrolled at Des Moines in officer training in spite of national efforts to discourage Negro enlistment. Next batch go as privates August 24, but have chance to work up to officers. Meanwhile Bethune and Bill Hastie (War) broke up a Red Cross double-play when they denounced Red Cross plans to set up segregated Jim Crow recreation facilities for colored soldiers in New Guinea, Australia, Ireland, etc.

However, Red Cross Chairman Norman Davis is going ahead with plans to ship Negro recreation and morale officers abroad immediately. (Red Cross gets your unrelently condemnation on this, they won't fight tradition and try to break up segregation in the U. S. South, but will fight tradition and introduce segregation in England, Australia, Alaska, etc..... Give 'em Hell!)

With all due credit to William Pickens, Jessie "Oh" Thomas, John Whitten and other treasury bond sellers, they have no glamour or "bond appeal." Hell, Charley, and all of the Charley fans would buy a bond any day if that heart-throbber Leana Horne, or Freddie Washington, or Marva Louis, or Willa Brown, or somebody, put the pressure on. How 'bout it?

RACE RELATIONS COMMUNIQUE

Proving that "giving 'em Hell" straightens 'em out, Westbrook Pegler did an about face and came out with a forthright statement anent real tragedy of being a black man in a white man's world . . . The Roland Hayes beating by fly cracker cops in Rome, Ga., was promptly pounced on by Axis propaganda, inasmuch as Hays has sung often in Germany, Italy, and all Europe and is well known. Dark people in India, China, Burma, and South America heard all about it, and how . . . Judge Landis, cornered, said last week: "Any big league manager can have 1 or 25 Negro players if he wants to" . . . Government regulations set by Congress demand that free governmental information releases and bulletins, etc., be distributed only upon specific request. If you "want on" mailing list of Bob Weaver (Manpower) Bill Hastie (War,) or CoFEP, or War In-

formation, then write and say so, or write Charley and it will be forwarded. Stop standing 'round bellyachin' about "What is Hastie doing?" and "What is Weaver doing?" and write and find out . . . The lynching at Texarkana was the only one always occurring just as N.A.A.C.P. assemblies in convention, and was duly noted by the Axis . . . George Gallup of the "Gallup" poll, is talking to you, in that July Reader's Digest article, read it . . . Dies of Texas says Lester Granger is a Communist, Lester says he ain't. Dies says he does not wish to go where Lester told him to go . . . Some brave messages were sent to N.A.A.C.P. convention, and some brave speeches made. After reading 'em, re-read first topic of this column . . . Charley hopes Detroit's Senator Diggs (Colored State Senator) will agree to run against Congress Tenerowicz of Sojourner Truth in-fame.

FLASHES

Builder Sam Plato just finished with Sparrow's Point houses in Maryland, will construct Langston dormitory, second hotel for Negro women government workers in D.C..... Builder Archie Alexander is an in-city bridge in D.C..... Three hundreds students at Howard U. are to be deferred to complete their education if they will enlist in army reserves..... Medico Chirurgical society (D.C. Negro doctors) insists it will oust all doctors guilty in the Freedmen's mess if McNutt will make names public..... D.C. schools will have 35 white and 10 colored physical instructors to toughen up the kids for later army service..... "March on Washington" meet in D.C. is now planned for September. Charley couldn't laugh this week as promised, too many serious things..... Southern Pacific R.R. agrees to return sick and minors among 1,000 Negro workers lured to southern California by stories of labor shortage in fruit packing, to their Alabama and Tennessee homes. Oldsters are stranded, all because fruit growers wanted to take a poke at Manpower Service and WPA..... And fight a good fight against enemies home and abroad.