

Oliver Twist Turns

That the sore thumb may be sore, not so much because of the big bruise on the end as because of the belligerent way in which the owner bangs it with a hammer, has been demonstrated again this week—this time by the Jews of Berlin and by the "liberal" elements in all nations who pose as friends of an oppressed minority.

The occasion for the most recent outburst of racial (or religious) feeling has been the showing in Berlin of a film adaptation of Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist." Students who are not dependent upon English courses for their knowledge of literature will perhaps remember the novel. It is the story of an indigent child of nineteenth century England. As a toddler he is turned into the streets of London to fend for himself in a city that was feeling the growing pains of the industrial revolution. Young Oliver underwent all the horrors of capitalistic society. No Marxist ever painted the evils of the factory-city system as well as Dickens, the respectable Victorian.

Anyway, Oliver met a lot of rough characters. One of them was named Fagin. Fagin taught young boys to steal. Fagin was portrayed in the novel as "a Jew." Fagin was also portrayed as a scoundrel of the first water.

With rare adherence to the original script, the movie makers (British) made Fagin out to be an unsavory character who taught young boys to steal. They also make him out to be a Jew. And there lies the source of trouble. Phoney liberals all over the world have tabbed the film "anti-Semitic." This week mobs of Berlin Jews banged the tender sore thumb by rioting before the Berlin theater where the film was showing.

Naturally the Russian-controlled press in Eastern Berlin seized the opportunity to whoop it up. The Russians, no fools in matters of propaganda, have pointed to the film and to the firm treatment of Western Berlin police gave the rioters, as examples of the true "anti-Semitic" nature of the Socialistic British. They have also managed to drag in the Capitalistic United States, and prove all sorts of "anti-Semitic" things about this country.

It goes almost without saying that the charges of "anti-Semitism" are absurd. If we are to scrub up Dickens because of his portrayal of a fictional character in a way that was altogether common in his day, so then must we bowdlerize Shakespeare and the Bible, Chaucer and many other greats and near-greats of this and other literatures. It would follow, too, that Nigger Jim in "Huckleberry Finn" would become just another character—and a pretty lifeless one without Mark Twain's superb artistry in painting racial traits—lovable traits in Jim's case.

Viewed as propaganda, "Oliver Twist" is much less "anti-Semitic" than "anti-British." The Russian press and the liberals who aid it have neglected to point to one Mr. Sykes, cohort of Fagin, who is an altogether British type. They have failed to point to the white background of the novel as an indictment of the British heritage. Both these factors are equally as pronounced as any "anti-Semitism."

Nobody can blame the Russians for doing what comes naturally. It is an ideal tactical situation for the Communists. Nor is it too easy to find fault with the Jews who have a right to be pretty sensitive after their unpleasant experience with violent anti-Semitism—an anti-Semitism of a kind that need not be put in quotes.

But one is hard put to sympathize with the long-haired individuals whose sense of social responsibility is such that they pounce all too eagerly upon poor old Oliver Twist as an example of British hatred for the Jews.

It has all the earmarks of the venerable challenge: "Lets You and Him Fight."

This is Brotherhood Week - -

Attack the Undemocratic

In connection with the current National Brotherhood week, February 20 to 27, the Oregon Daily Emerald is printing the following editorial, submitted to it by Paul C. Smith, editor and publisher of the San Francisco Chronicle.

National Brotherhood week is sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc., and is under the chairmanship of Nelson A. Rockefeller.

The purpose of the conference is:

To promote justice, amity, understanding, and co-operation among Protestants, Catholics, and Jews; and to analyze moderate, and finally eliminate intergroup prejudices which disfigure and distort religious, business, social, and political relationships, with a view to the establishment of a social order in which the religious ideals of brotherhood and justice shall become the standards of human relationships."

Mr. Smith writes:

"Hatred," wrote Maurice Maeterlinck, "is the heaviest load that man can bear on this earth."

In this week of Brotherhood, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, we have a time for thinking out ways and means for dispersing not only the forces of hate, but the concomitant evils of intolerance, disunity, discrimination, and the bonds upon civil rights.

This is not to be merely a sweet, seven-day ride on clouds of sentimentality. It is actually a time for acknowledging publicly the unselfish work of a group of people whose fight goes on day by day, year by year.



The firmly rooted prejudices that exist here and there in this world cannot be changed at once by law. But general betterment will surely come through unremitting attack on the undemocratic enemies of brotherhood wherever they exist. Education, economic comfort, and health are heavy weapons in this attack.

Americans everywhere owe it firm allegiance.

—PAUL C. SMITH

On the newspaper committee of the conference are many prominent personalities of the American press. Chairman of the com-

mittee is N. R. Howard of the Cleveland News. Included in the list of committee members are: Marquis Childs, national columnist, Washington, D. C., and Gardner Cowles, head of Cowles Publications, publishers of Look magazine and the Des Moines Register-Tribune.

Oveta Culp Hobby, former director of the WAC, and wife of the publisher of the Houston Post, Palmer Hoyt of the Denver Post, Roy A. Roberts, president of the Kansas City Star, and Paul C. Smith, editor of the San Francisco Chronicle.

Lest Anniversary of March 4, 1933, Be Forgotten

Hoover, Years Later, Gains Reward

COMING UP ON March 4, and likely to pass unnoticed because of the change in the date of the presidential inauguration, is the 16th anniversary of the eviction of a beaten and bitter president.

Today Herbert Hoover, the man who was evicted from the White House four presidential elections ago, blamed for the slump and called bull-headed and anti-social, is back in Washington. The only living former president is now chairman of the Commission on Organization of the executive branch of the government (the Hoover Commission).

HOOVER DOES not look his 74 years. Though mellowed somewhat by years of outstanding work, he still drives himself and others relentlessly. He has not been able to overcome his obstinacy and domineering ways; though today they just call it "firmness in his convictions."

Experience has taught him that the best way to iron out a disagreement with his associates is over a meal. So Hoover seldom eats a meal alone.

In Washington Hoover lives in a simple suite at the Mayflower hotel, from where he walks to work every day. Much of his work however, is done from his apartment in the Waldorf-Astoria Towers in New York.

HIS PERMANENT HOME, though, is Stanford, California, and it was at Stanford university



Herbert Hoover—1933
Stiff Collar and Bull-Headed

that Hoover got his degree in engineering. This had led to mining engineering jobs all over the world.

His knowledge of Europe secured for him the job of directing the U.S. relief work there after the first World War. He was elected president in 1928 mainly as a result of this work.

SINCE 1947 he has been boss of the commission organizing the executive branch of the government. The nation's forgotten president has won himself prestige in his new role as its elder statesman. In this role he is a much happier man.



Herbert Hoover—1949
Soft Collar and Mellowed

She was only a moonshiner's daughter, but I love her still.

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

THE OREGON DAILY EMERALD, published daily during the college year except Sundays, Mondays, holidays, and final examination periods by the Associated Students, University of Oregon. Subscription rates: \$2.00 per term and \$4.00 per year. Entered as second-class matter at the post office, Eugene, Oregon.

BILL YATES, Editor
Bob Reed, Managing Editor

VIRGIL TUCKER, Business Manager
Tom McLaughlin, Ass't Bus. Mgr.

Associate Editors: June Goetze, Boblee Brophy, Diana Dye, Barbara Heywood
Advertising Manager: Joan Munnaugh

UPPER NEWS STAFF

Stan Turnbull, News Editor
Tom King, Sports Editor
Dick Cramer, Sports Editor
Tom Marquis, Radio Editor
Walter Dodd, Feature Editor

Warren Collier, Chief Night Editor
Don Smith, Ass't Managing Editor
Ken Metzler, Ass't News Editor
Ann Goodman, Ass't News Editor

UPPER BUSINESS STAFF

Helen Sherman, Circulation Mgr.
Eve Overbeck, Nat'l Adv. Mgr.
Bill Lemon, Sales Mgr.
Leslie Toozee, Ass't Adv. Mgr.

Cork Mobley, Ass't Adv. Mgr.
Virginia Mahon, Ass't Adv. Mgr.
Donna Brannan, Ass't Adv. Mgr.
Jack Schuaidt, Ass't Adv. Mgr.

Scott and Sons

Complete automotive
Repairs and 76 service.
Fender Work

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL
Thorough Lub. job plus
5 quts. Triton oil.....2.75
Speedy Dependable
Work

Ph. 732 947 Franklin