

Truman K. Gibson Resigns Post As Civilian Aide to War Secretary

Mr. Truman K. Gibson, Jr., for three years Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, has resigned to return to the practice of law in Chicago, Illinois, the Honorable Robert P. Patterson, Secretary of War, announced today.

In accepting Mr. Gibson's resignation Mr. Patterson wrote him:

"In view of your five years' service you are entitled to have your resignation accepted, but I assure you that I regret to see you leave.

"You have served your country in a critical time with marked ability and with wholehearted devotion. In behalf of the War Department I express our deep appreciation for what you have achieved. I hope that we can count on your assistance as problems come up in the future. With your background of experience, your advice will be of particular value."

Mr. Gibson, in his letter of resignation, had commented as follows on the War Department Negro policies:

"As a result of the combined efforts of you and Mr. McCloy's offices, real progress has been made in the treatment and utilization of Negro personnel in the Army since the inception of the expansion program in 1940. This progress has produced profound changes in the attitudes of many field officers. However, this progress and the attitude changes emphasize the rusty condition of the tools with which we began our work in 1940. Even now the situation is still far from being ideal. The Army's inflexible Negro policy, developed shortly after 1915, had continued too long. This policy was based in a large part on the unscientific view that Negroes possessed traits and habits that made the inherently inferior to whites and that therefore they could not and should not be used except in limited numbers as enlisted men and officers in the Army.

"This inflexible policy and the attitudes held by many about Negroes made for a static condition in the Army. When the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940 required the utilization of large numbers of Negroes, many of them with superior education and training, the Army was unprepared to deal with the situation. As a result the War Department has had to resort to various expedients in order to cope with more than 700,000 Negroes that have been in the service since 1940.

"There is every indication that the type of planning for Negroes that occurred prior to 1940 has been discarded. There is, therefore, much hope for the future. The approach to the problem of using Negroes is no longer based on the assumption that they are inherently inferior to other soldiers. The approach now is to determine the best possible military usage of the 10% of our population that may be a determining factor in any future war in which this country is engaged. The policies that will make for the best military usage will be supported by a nation united in the conviction that the burdens of military participation are being equitably distributed over all of our population and that the responsibilities of military service are being assigned on the basis of ability.

"When policies are finally adopted that will achieve the best possible military utilization of all segments of our population, there will be little doubt in the minds of a majority of Negroes that a system of Universal Military Training should be supported."

During his five years in the War Department, Mr. Gibson inspected nearly every major Army installation in the United States and in the Mediterranean and European Theaters of Operation abroad. He was awarded the medal for Merit by President Truman in September, 1945. The Medal was presented to him by retiring Secretary of War Stimson in a ceremony attended by War Department officials who had worked with him.

Mr. Gibson is a graduate of the University of Chicago where he obtained both his college and law degrees.

New Lane President

JACKSON, Tenn.—(ANP)—Dr. D. H. Yarbrough is the new president of Lane college. He succeeds the late Dr. James F. Lane, son of the founder, Bishop Isaac Lane. Dr. Yarbrough was a professor of sociology at Wilberforce university, on leave of absence with the Red Cross service overseas. He is a doctor of philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh.

Southern Life Depends on Negro Workers

ATLANTA—(ANP)—The toll of Negro workers constitute the basis for the easy life whitesoutherners enjoy.

The story of the Negro worker's major role in southern economy was recently disclosed through W. Hardin Hughes' article, "Economic Value of the Negro to the South," by the Southern Regional Council. Hughes wrote:

"For three centuries, the Negro has been an important factor in the economic development and maintenance of the south. As a slave, while occupying a status little better than that of a beast of burden, the Negro made possible the development of the southern plantation, the wealth and ease of the Southern gentleman, and, indirectly, contributed to the material prosperity of the entire nation. As a freedman, the Negro continued to render an abundance of cheap physical labor without which even a partial rehabilitation of the south would have been delayed. The old-time southern aristocracy, stripped of its power and influence by the 'war between the States,' and holding to a master-slave ideology of human labor, found its economic problems most difficult.

Whites Avoid Work

"Only gradually, over a period of 75 years, has the southerner's conception of work been modified. The belief that physical labor is an affliction and a disgrace to be avoided, while not as widely held as formerly, is still a retarding hangover from the days of slavery. Even now, were the Negro's physical services suddenly removed from the south and the colored people 'sent back' to some distant region designated by the race-baiting politicians, a chaotic condition of affairs would certainly follow. Millions of white folk, confronted with the necessity of physical toil, would, no doubt, throw up their hands in despair and pray for the return of the Negro. The 'grandeur' of living and the much-boasted 'southern hospitality' would, without the assistance of the Negro, become events of the past.

"Not only the south, but the entire nation, is the recipient of essential benefits from the Negro's participation in the economic life of America. Thirteen million people, one-tenth of our production and labor and consuming a somewhat smaller proportion of our total production, must be considered an economic asset. The purchasing power of the Negro population, in spite of relatively low standards of living is enormous.

"As long as 1920, the Negro purchasing power in this country, as estimated by the United States department of commerce, was \$2,000,000,000. At that time, the Negro population was approximately 10 and a half million. In 1942, the 13,000,000 Negroes in the United States spent in the neighborhood of \$4,500,000,000 for consumer goods and services, an amount two and a half times as great as the total exports to all South American countries.

Negroes and City Market Support

"Even with conditions as they are, the city markets of the south are positively affected by the numerous Negro consumers. In 1943, for example, the 149,119 colored people of New Orleans spent the major portion of their \$75,000,000 income in the markets of that city. In Memphis, a Negro population of 121,498 spent a correspondingly large part of their approximately \$70,000,000 income. Similar facts could be presented for the other cities of the south.

"In the cities of the north where discrimination against colored people is less severe, the income of Negroes and their expenditures for consumer goods and services are somewhat greater. The 168,843 Negroes of Baltimore, one-fifth of that city's population in 1940, owned homes valued at \$8,598,100. A somewhat larger Negro population in 1942 made consumer purchase estimated at \$9,890,000.

"The largest Negro market in (Continued on Page 2.)

RECORD CROWD EXPECTED TO SEE JOE LOUIS HERE IN EXHIBITION ON DECEMBER 11th

The appearance of Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis in Portland on the night of Tuesday, December 11th is going to be a sellout if inquiries concerning seats to be considered. Already hundreds of people have tried to reserve seats to see the champion although no opponent has been named as yet. Or rather opponents as the champion is to box two different leather pushers over a four round route each making a total of eight rounds. It apparently does not matter who Joe is to box as long as the public sees him in action. But, there is always the chance of something happening although that chance is about 10,000 to one. The bouts are to be exhibition bouts, but just suppose some ambitious young fighter gets a notion in his head to try to K.O. the 'Champ'. We think we will see the fur fly and also the ambitious young fighter. However, there is always that possibility that the next heavyweight champ may now be an 'unknown' and why couldn't he be found in Portland. Improbable? Yes, but not impossible.

On the same card with Joe on December 11th Portland fans will see Roy Miller in action against an opponent as yet unnamed also. Roy Miller has made himself popular with Portland fight fans by winning every bout that he has had here. First by banding together a group of fighters and round K.O. after outboxing and outfighting Proctor all the way.

Battalion Now Doing Guard Duty

WEISSENBURG, Germany — (ANP)—The 969th Field Artillery battalion, stationed here, was scheduled to perform security guard at the trial of the German war criminals starting at Nurnberg, Nov. 20.

The 969th distinguished itself at St. Lo, a turning point in the allied offensive from the west, and again at Bastogne, stonewall in the Battle of the Bulge.

Philadelphia Pastor Asks Mayor To Put Ban on "Strange Fruit"

PHILADELPHIA — (ANP)—Charging that the play, "Strange Fruit," is an "open attack on the evangelical church" the Rev. Melvin M. Forney, pastor of the Third Baptist church here, declared Sunday that he would ask Mayor Bernard Samuel to band the Production here.

"I hope that an aroused Christian conscience will drive this show out of Philadelphia this week," Rev. Forney said in a sermon at his church. "I intend to call this matter to the attention of Mayor Samuel, and knowing the mayor as I do, I believe he will act in his official capacity and close the show."

The play opened last Monday at the Forrest theatre, and is scheduled to continue through this coming week prior to its New York premiere.

Mr. Forney, son of the late Rev. Dr. William B. Forney, militant leader of the Lords Day alliance of Pennsylvania, asserted that "we allow too many of the depraved minds of moral degenerates to affect our thinking through their books and plays."

"We must put a stop to this practice," he said, "for if we listen to depraved minds we will have a depraved society and a moral degeneracy, which we are dangerously close to today."

In his sermon, he contended that "Philadelphians have sunk to a new low in allowing the presentation of 'Strange Fruit,' which he said he saw at last Saturday's matinee 'after its nature was drawn to my attention'."

"The play," he said, "could be construed as being a direct attack upon the Evangelical Christian church. The most important experiences of our Christian life are held up to ridicule. Conversion is smeared, salvation is smeared, salvation is mocked, and church membership is a joke."

"One of the characters in the play — and a rotter, at that — speaks of joining the church while he is drinking. Then, as he is playing the part of a miserable sinner doing one of the lowest acts of life, he states that he is going to join the church, and infers that he is going to live the decent life. This is, of course, a farce."

After his sermon, Mr. Forney indicated that he would not only seek a ban on the play, but would lead a campaign for stricter cen-

LOCAL RESIDENT RECEIVES AN INTIMIDATING LETTER

Mr. R. A. Lindley, 103 N. McMillen Street received an intimidating letter on Monday of this week from a Vancouver resident who signs himself J. C. Conners, in which he stated in part what would happen to Mr. Lindley if he was in Waycross in the state of Georgia. Previously Mr. Lindley had sent a letter to the editor of the Oregonian, daily newspaper in which he referred to Portland as the "City of Thorns". Conners letter was in answer to Mr. Lindley and was mailed to Mr. Lindley and not the newspaper.

he original letter sent by Mr. Lindley follows:

Race Discrimination
To the Editor: Why is it such a glaring fact that the people of Portland or "The Rose City" are so intent on denying jobs to colored people? There are thousands of them willing and able to do different jobs, but every time they apply for them they are told, "I'm sorry, we want whites." It should be called "The City of Thorns." I have several men in my house who are nice, decent fellows, who get up every morning looking in the papers and running all over the city in quest of jobs, only to get the same answer. That is most discouraging and when this discouraging haven't passed since the great war was ended to abolish such an evil practice.

Surely this thing can't keep on. The people must surely see that if they are not given jobs soon there will be an awful big job of caring for these people and instead of getting work done they will be paying money out of their earnings for people to stand around and do nothing. For after all people have to live and somebody is going to pay.

We are not asking for charity or pity. All we ask is a chance to earn a decent living.

R. A. LINDLEY,
103 N. McMillen St.

The intimidating answer he received was dated November 23rd and was mailed from Vancouver, Washington on November 24th. It read:

Just read your article in today's Oregonian. Who in Hell brought you out here anyway. It's a dam clinic no one outside of Kaiser sent for you, and if you happened to be in Waycross, Ga., you would be taken care of properly for

signing your name to an article like you wrote. (signed) J. C. Conners
Vancouver, Wash.

This is not the first time that this J. C. Conners wrote intimidating letters. He wrote a threatening letter to the editor of the Portland Inquirer some time ago. This letter was read into the minutes of the Tax Payers League. It is not known whether J. C. Conners is a man or a woman or a pseudonym used to throw the Postal Authorities off the track. The first letter sent by Conners was sent to the Postal Authorities as this one will be. No evidence of any other letters have been received by this publication but, if and when we find others, they will be published.

Full Employment Bill Rewritten

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—With the "leak" that the administration's full-employment bill has been rewritten by House members Carter Manasco of Alabama, and William Whittington of Mississippi, liberal forces in the nation's capital are saying that the reactionary farm bloc is in the saddle.

It is pointed out that Manasco and Whittington, inhibited by their fears of decent wages for cotton pickers and domestic servants in the south, have virtually rendered the bill impotent to deal with unemployment.

Coupled with the behind-the-scenes butchery of the full employment bill is back-to-the-states move of the U. S. Employment service, liberals are saying. The first is in process and the latter has been accomplished.

In addition to carrying an innocuous version of full employment, the newly written bill is believed to include these provisions:

1. An annual "economic report" by the President to congress, setting forth his recommendations for normal public works and loans. If conditions warranted, emergency public works would be proposed to help relieve the employment slack. This annual report would take the place of the job "budget" proposed in the original Wagner-Murray-Patman bill. The original "budget" plan contemplated attempted estimates in advance of any rise or fall in employment with recommendations for federal spending gauged accordingly.

2. A board of economic advisers to assist the President in gathering (Continued on Page 2.)

Kentucky to Be First Dixie State Hit in Equal Education Fight

LEXINGTON, Ky. — (ANP) — The Negro's all-out attack to crack Dixie's unequal jim crow educational system is expected to begin in this state.

That prediction was made here last week by Dr. W. D. Funkhouser, dean of the graduate school at the University of Kentucky, in a report to the university faculty on graduate work in Negro institutions in the south. A dramatic appeal was made on Oct. 17 by Dr. R. B. Atwood, president of Kentucky State college at Frankfort, before legislative council to admit Negro students to state-supported colleges for professional and graduate courses, not available at Negro schools of higher learning.

Dr. Funkhouser included in his report a series of meetings this summer in Durham for the states of North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia when Negro educators pictured by facts and figures the unequal jim crow educational system in the south.

"Kentucky is a border state and is one of the first in which Negroes will make an attempt to secure admission to white institutions," he said. "There is no question but that test cases may

be expected in the very near future and I cannot see how any court can do anything other than follow the supreme court's ruling in the Gaines case."

He reported that one librarian at a Negro college testified that less than 25,000 titles were in the school library. No college can be expected to do creditable undergraduate work, much less graduate work, "unless it had at least 25,000 to 30,000 titles in the library," the librarian said. There is not a single Negro institution in the United States in which a student can secure a doctor's degree, Dr. Funkhouser added.

H. L. Donovan, president of the University of Kentucky, put the matter in the hands of state legislators.

"The responsibility for any action along this line lies with the legislature," he commented. "It's entirely up to that group."

Meanwhile, Negro educators have expressed confidence that the courts will base a favorable ruling on the celebrated Gaines case, which means that the state will have to provide equal educational opportunities for Negroes, or throw open the doors of white tax-supported institutions to Negro students.