

'Charter of Human Freedom'...

What is this document which President Truman called "An American charter of human freedom in our time"?

It was drawn up by the presidential committee on civil rights, headed by President Charles F. Wilson of the General Electric Co., and makes 35 recommendations in the field of civil rights.

It urges the enactment of federal anti-lynching, anti-poll tax, and fair employment practice laws, three issues which have torn Congress with bitter struggles.

It recommends that Congress and the State Legislatures outlaw segregation and discrimination based on race, color, creed, or national origin, in such places as trains, buses, schools, hospitals, theaters, hotels, restaurants, the armed services, and private employment.

It proposes that the states outlaw "restrictive covenants" by which property owners bind themselves not to sell or lease to "undesirables."

The 15-member committee said these measures, and many others, are needed to bring the nation nearer to full realization of "the American way" of freedom and equality.

"We need to guarantee the same rights to every person regardless of who he is, where he lives, or what his racial, religious or national origins are," the report said.

It declared "the time is now," for three reasons: moral, economic, and international. The committee's view of the international aspect was that "the United States is not so strong, the final triumph of the Democratic Ideal is not so inevitable that we can ignore what the world thinks of us or our record."

Concerning segregation, the separation of a minority from other people, the committee said the "separate but equal" idea, as when a state has one school system for white persons and another for negroes, "is one of the outstanding myths of American history" because:

"It is almost always true that while indeed separate, these facilities are far from equal."

The committee criticized, without naming names, what it called "irresponsible opportunists who make it a practice to attack every person or group with whom they disagree as 'Communists.'"

It said "we cannot let these abuses deter us from the legitimate exposing of real Communists and real Fascists," and added that "the same zeal" must be shown in defending our Democracy against one group as against the other.

The committee said "public excitement about 'Communists' has gone far beyond good judgment and calmness, and a state of near-hysteria now threatens to inhibit the freedom of genuine Democrats."

Concerning Federal employees, the committee said the government has a duty to dismiss disloyal workers, but their civil rights must be protected, and procedures should be worked out for this protection.

Letters are still coming in, as answers to our plea for them. Here is one from Phillip Goode, of the Business and Accounting Department.

"I cannot indorse too heartily your recent editorial, 'Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman.' I read it to all of my friends, many of my students and finally pinned it on the office wall.

"I believe every student wants to be proud of his school and every graduate, his Alma Mater, but unless he knows of the true traditions of courage, integrity and courtesy, he may find himself in the predicament of the little boy who wants to express his unswerving confidence in his family, but can think of nothing better to do than throw a handful of sand and say, 'My daddy can whip your daddy.'"

"So, it was extremely gratifying to me to see that the Battalion intends to keep this description of Sully Ross... before the Aggies all semester."

"Why not all year and every year for the benefit of each succeeding generation of students? A dedication to right principles hardly can be too often reiterated."

"It seems to me it should be an essential duty of college publications to inform the students of the real traditions of the school—real life incidents when students, graduates and even faculty members (if possible) de-

President Truman set up the committee last December 5 to study how present laws and governmental agencies may be "strengthened and improved to safeguard the civil rights of the people."

In the group are two industrialists, two labor leaders, two college presidents, four church leaders, four lawyers, and the director of an educational fund.

Two of the 15 members live in the south: Frank P. Graham, President of the University of North Carolina, and Mrs. M. E. Tilly of Atlanta, an official of the Women's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Church.

Examples of what the committee considers violations of civil rights were discussed at length:

Some of these were: Six lynchings in 1946; police brutality; "unfair" court trials of persons from minority groups; the wartime mass evacuation of Japanese-Americans from the West Coast; racial discrimination in the armed services; barring of some alien groups from American citizenship; denial of voting rights.

The report said all the recommendations were a "general consensus" of the committee except that on two matters where there was a "substantial division of views," these were: 1. The committee recommended that the Federal Government refuse to grant funds to any state government or other agency—for public housing or hospitals, for example, if there is to be segregation in the use of the money.

A minority of the committee, while favoring an end of segregation as an "ultimate goal," opposed making this a requirement for the giving of funds.

2. The committee recommended that the states enact laws banning discrimination in admitting students to the public and private schools. Church-supported schools would be exempted. A "substantial" minority of the committee was opposed to such laws.

The committee said federal and state laws should be enacted to prohibit discrimination in employment.

Concerning poll taxes, the committee said the seven remaining states which require their payment before a person can vote ought to abolish such taxes themselves, but if they don't do it "promptly," the federal government should pass a national law.

The poll tax states are Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Each section of the nation can find in this charter a blow at prejudices rampant in it are strongly attached. They are under attack because we have failed to "clean house" in our own communities. However many sections of this report may anger Texans, anger is not and never has been a solution to a problem. We have a hard job to do, but this "charter of freedom" indicates that it must be done.

ported themselves with honor under trying circumstances. There must be a wealth of such stories somewhere. The Battalion would perform a real service in digging them up. Perhaps a contest could be sponsored and an award given to the student presenting the best true account of an incident illustrating this phrase, or if you do not care to delve into the archives, history can be started from this date by offering an Oscar to the Aggie who best typifies this appellation for the year—only it would be a Sully instead of an Oscar.

"Just a couple of suggestions. I'm sure you have many such ideas to carry out your plans of keeping this description before the Aggies, but if you should run out, see me. I've got a million."

The matter of presenting a "Sully" award every year will be considered seriously. There are many awards now, for military proficiency, scholarship, and other matters. There should be a place for encouraging conduct that reflects the best traditions of the A. & M. College.

Two ads got jammed together in the Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald and read this way:

"LOST — Thursday night, white-faced roan bull, weight 1400 lbs. probably downtown or on Lincoln Park bus."



As MacKenzie Sees It...

UN Has Failed, But No One Dares Let Group Collapse

The mood of those who are concerned with the welfare of the United Nations is one of increasing fear that our Peace Organization, which was to unite mankind into one world of friendship, already is an irrevocably tragic failure as the result of the fierce conflict between the Communists and the Democrats.

One strives eagerly but vainly to recall some greater accomplishment by the U.N. than that of last Monday when the political committee, after a long and bitter battle, finally achieved unanimity. It adopted a resolution condemning all forms of propaganda likely to provoke or encourage any threat to peace.

Well, it's good to find our peace organization at least agreeing that it is against war! Apropos of this, one is reminded of the story about the late President Calvin Coolidge and the Sunday sermon. I've forgotten who first related the tale but suspect it was Mrs. Coolidge herself who told of asking Cal, upon his return from church, what the minister preached about.

"Sir," replied the ever laconic Coolidge. "What line did he take?" persisted Mrs. C.

Let Family Go Hungry... Scalers Peddling Ducats For TU-SMU at \$75 Pair

By WILLIAM C. BARNARD DALLAS, Tex., Oct. 31 (AP)—Things have come to a pretty pass when a reporter has to advertise to get tickets to a football game, namely the SMU-Texas affair here tomorrow.

We ran the ad in desperation because Lester Jordan, Business Manager of Athletics at Southern Methodist, is backed up against a wall by one thousand war veteran students who want tickets for their wives and there is no way to reach him for a quick talk. The last we saw of Jordan, he looked terrible—frayed at the edges and baggy around the eyes and his voice was a croaking whisper that kept repeating "no tickets, no tickets."

Of course he is wrong. We learned from our ad that there are at least 329 tickets available, and two of which can be had if you are the kind of fellow who would let your family go hungry this winter. The sad truth is that the SMU-Texas game has made scalpers out of a lot of honest people and if the weather continues nice the scalping is going to amount to a mass-

sacre. And with friends descending on Dallas from all directions and wiring us to "please arrange tickets" we are apt to be in the wrong end of the massacre. Apt is a mild word.

Ticketholders are asking as much as \$30 each for end-zone ducats. The 30-yard line kind are priced at from \$35 up. The original price of the tickets was \$3 but that was before the SMU-Texas game began to look like the hottest event since the Chicago fire.

"I have two good tickets," one caller said gently, "and I have in mind a good suit of clothes—say a \$75 suit of clothes. Do you bite, friend?"

We didn't. "This is just plain robbery," another fellow said, and he was so amused he could not restrain his giggles. "I feel just like a bandit, but I'm asking \$25 apiece for the worst seats in the Cotton Bowl. Just how bad do you want to go?" Not that bad.

"I hear tickets are selling for (See SCALPING on Page 4).

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Actor-Producers Often 'Burned' But Still Try

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD — Many stars have been badly burned by attempting their own movie productions, but not Robert Young.

He is planning to produce a second film, a comedy called "Family Honymoon," in January. Bob's first venture, "Relentless," was happy for two reasons: He was able to get color (a rare item); he got it into England before the 75 per cent tax went into effect. Now he's eager for more.

Interesting note about Bob's current opus, "Sitting Pretty," is that he expected to play the role of Belvedere, the baby sitter. Then he found out the part was going to Clifton Webb. Bob took the picture anyway. His philosophy: "I want to be associated with good pictures, no matter what role I get."

Betty Grable's new contract with 20th-Fox is a lulu. It is a seven-year, no-option deal which reportedly will gross Betty \$3,500,000. It calls for two films a year, no outside pictures and no stage work. The blonde beauty is very happy about it, as who wouldn't be.

Dennis Morgan was asked if another "Two Guys From" film was planned for him and Jack Carson. "Over my dead body," he answered "unless it was a straight story or one with a good comedy angle," still, the series is box-office gold...

Nora Edgington Flynn may not know it yet, but her role in "Don Juan" will be about 30 seconds and she'll get no billing. She'll play her husband's last amour in the picture, and Errol indicates that such is the real-life case...

Tony Martin joins the parade to England. After "Casbah," he plans to make a film in the Isles, whence comes half of his fan mail. He's also being mentioned for "Song of Norway"...

Sweden's latest gift to Hollywood is Marta Thoren, a dark-haired beauty who is playing the Reddy Lamarr role in "Casbah." She came from the same dramatic academy that produced Garbo, Bergman, Hasso and Lindfors.

Winners of Cadet Review Named

Winners of the marching competition at the Cadet Review held at the football game last Saturday were announced by the military department yesterday.

First place for the First Regiment was taken by "C" Infantry; first place, Second Regiment, "B" Field Artillery; first place, Third Regiment, "A" Air Force; first place, Fourth Regiment, "A" Composite; and first place, Freshmen Regiment, Company 8.

Contempt Actions May Face Obdurate Hollywood Writers

By MAX HALL (For JAMES MARLOW)

WASHINGTON, (AP)— This week a group of Hollywood writers have been charged with contempt of Congress because they wouldn't give "yes-or-no" answers to the question "are you a Communist?"

That means a court trial is possible. Ultimately the case may go to the Supreme Court.

Already, in the yelling and pounding of one of the noisiest committee hearings ever held on Capitol Hill, both sides are preparing for this court trial.

You can see it in the asking of the questions by the committee attorney, Robert E. Stripling, and in the way the witnesses reply.

What is contempt of Congress? It's a violation of a law which says—

Whenever a person who has been summoned as a witness before a congressional committee ignores the summons or "refuses to answer any question pertinent to the question under inquiry," he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

He can be fined \$1,000 and jailed for one year.

A subcommittee of the House un-American Activities Committee, in citing John Howard Lawson, Samuel Ornitz, and others for contempt, has stated flatly that they have "refused" to answer questions and therefore have violated the law.

Now, if the full committee, then the House of Representatives, and finally a Federal Grand Jury all agree with this view, the case will go to trial in the Federal District Court here.

If this happens, the jury must decide the issue of whether these men legally did "refuse" to answer. The witnesses haven't admitted they "refused." Some have insisted they weren't refusing, they only wanted to answer in their own way.

Each witness would begin talk-

ing about his right under the constitution and the committee's right to ask such a question, and chairman J. Parnell Thomas would begin banging his gavel and demanding a yes-or-no answer.

If a trial is held, the defendants, judging by their testimony this week, will argue that the question "are you a communist?" is unconstitutional and the committee had no right to ask it. They have insisted that their civil rights are invaded by an inquiry into their political beliefs.

There have been several jury convictions for contempt of Congress. None of them has yet reached the Supreme Court.

Attend Registrars' Meeting

Registrar H. L. Heaton and his assistant Ray G. Perryman left for Fort Worth yesterday to attend a meeting of the Registrars of Texas.

They will return Saturday afternoon.

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