

DREW PEARSON

ON

THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:

(CAPS) AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT HOSPITALITY STIFFENS TOWARD RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE MISSIONS; USA'S GRAND DRAGON GREEN TELLS KLANSMEN HERMAN TALMADGE IS PRO-LABOR; USA'S COLDEST TOWN TURNS DOWN BLACK-MARKET OIL. (END CAPS)

WASHINGTON. --FOR TWO YEARS THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TRYING TO CRACK THE "IRON CURTAIN" AND INSPECT A RUSSIAN PROJECT THAT MIGHT TEACH US NEW LESSONS IN HOW TO CONQUER THE SOUTHWEST'S GREAT "DUST BOWL." BUT REPEATED APPEALS FOR A LOOK-SEE HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THE RUSSIANS. AS A RESULT, THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL NOW STIFFEN ITS OWN HOSPITALITY TOWARD RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE MISSIONS.

THE RUSSIAN PROJECT IS A SCIENTIFIC "SHELTER BELT," PLANTED WITH TREES TO SAVE THE SOIL FROM EROSION. REPORTEDLY IT WAS STARTED MORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO, BUT AMERICAN SOIL EXPERTS DIDN'T LEARN OF IT UNTIL AFTER THE WAR. BY VISITING IT, THEY HOPED TO LEARN NEW METHODS FOR CONTROLLING THE RESTLESS TOPSOIL IN OUR OWN SOUTHWEST.

DESPITE SOVIET SECRECY, HOWEVER, THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SO FAR HAS TURNED THE OTHER CHEEK AND SHOWN RUSSIAN EXPERTS ALL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE, EVEN THOUGH THE RUSSIANS ALWAYS CARRIED CAMERAS AND ASKED EXHAUSTIVE QUESTIONS.

FOR EXAMPLE, A RUSSIAN MISSION INSPECTING THE FOREST PRODUCT LABORATORIES AT MADISON, WIS., WANTED TO KNOW THE CUBIC MEASUREMENTS OF EACH BUILDING, HOW MANY PEOPLE EACH WOULD HOLD AND INTRICATE DETAILS ABOUT THE EQUIPMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEMINAR AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR OWN RESEARCH.

ALSO THE SOVIET EMBASSY ALWAYS SENT MORE PEOPLE THAN STIPULATED, SUCH AS A RECENT MISSION TO OREGON STATE COLLEGE. ARRANGEMENTS WERE REQUESTED FOR TWO, BUT FIVE SHOWED UP AND STAYED ON UNTIL THEY WORE OUT THEIR WELCOME.

FROM NOW ON, U.S. HOSPITALITY, IF AT ALL, WILL BE FRIGID.

--THE MERRY MORTICIAN--

SENATOR KENNETH WHERRY, NEBRASKA'S "MERRY MORTICIAN," CAN'T RESIST A SNICKER WHEN INDIAN NAMES ARE READ ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE.

THREE YEARS AGO IT WAS HE WHO DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NAME, "WINNIE LEFT HER BEHIND," AN INDIAN WOMAN WHO HAD A CLAIM BEFORE CONGRESS. SENATOR HARLAN BUSHFIELD OF SOUTH DAKOTA REPLIED--WITHOUT DEVELOPING THE THOUGHT--THAT HE THOUGHT THERE WERE SOME WITH FUNNIER NAMES IN THE SENATE THAN MOST OF THE INDIAN NAMES.

LAST WEEK WHERRY AGAIN JUMPED UP WHEN THE READING CLERK MADE AN ERROR IN READING THE BILL BY MONTANA'S SENATOR ZALES ECTON TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A PATENT-IN-FEE FOR LAND TO AN INDIAN LADY, "MABEL TOWNSEND PETTY ON TOP."

IMMEDIATELY WHERRY WAS ON HIS FEET.

"WHAT'S THAT?" HE SNICKERED. "WHAT WAS THAT NAME?"

NONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES SEEMED INTERESTED. WHERRY SUBSIDED AS THE CLERK CORRECTED HIS READING TO: "MABEL TOWNSEND PRETTY ON TOP."

--INSIDE THE KKK--

GRAND DRAGON GREEN CAME BACK TO ATLANTA THE OTHER DAY VERY IRATE TO FIND THAT DURING A TWO-WEEKS' ABSENCE, SOME OF HIS KLANSMEN HAD KICKED OVER THE TRACES AGAINST HERMAN TALMADGE.

SO, RESUMING HIS ROLE OF GRAND CYCLOPS OF KLAVERN NO. 1, GREEN GAVE THE KLANSMAN A LONG PEP TALK. HERE ARE THE MINUTES OF WHAT HE SAID:

DR. GREEN WAS ALSO SORE BECAUSE SO FEW WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND BECAUSE ONLY SEVEN WERE INITIATED. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED EVEN SORER BECAUSE SECRETS WERE LEAKING OUT OF KLAN MEETINGS. SO HE STARTED OFF BY BLASTING DREW PEARSON FOR REPORTING THAT HERMAN TALMADGE WAS NOT FOR THE WORKINGMAN. GREEN SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH HERMAN, AND THAT HERMAN WAS GOING TO BACK UP LABOR STRONG.

"SINCE DREW PEARSON CAME OUT AND SAID THERE WAS A BIG ROW IN THE KLAN ABOUT SUPPORTING TALMADGE," PROCLAIMED THE GRAND DRAGON, "IT PROVES THAT WE STILL HAVE A RAT PRESENT WHO IS TELLING ABOUT EVERY MOVE WE MAKE. I WANT ALL KLANSMEN PRESENT TO TRY TO FIND THIS STOOL PIGEON. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUSPICIONS, COME AND TELL ME. I AM GOING TO FIND THAT DIRTY RAT IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO."

DR. GREEN ALSO SAID HE THOUGHT THE REASON NO MORE PEOPLE WERE JOINING THE KLAN WAS BECAUSE PEARSON HAD SCARED THEM.

THE GRAND DRAGON REMINDED THE KLANSMEN THAT THE HEARING ON THE NEGRO POLICEMEN IS COMING UP BEFORE BOND ALMOND, A FORMER KLANSMAN. THE DATE, HE SAID, WAS NOT ANNOUNCED, BUT GREEN WAS SURE A DECISION WOULD BE HANDED DOWN THAT WOULD SUIT THE KKK.

THE KLANSMEN WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SWAINSBORO PARADE WHICH THE GRAND DRAGON SAID MEANS MUCH TO THE KLAN BECAUSE IT SEEMS THERE HAS BEEN SOME TROUBLE WITH THE NEGROES AND THIS WILL PUT THEM IN THEIR PLACE.

SEVERAL KLANSMEN WANTED TO KNOW WHY THE KLAN WAS NOT MORE ACTIVE IN ATLANTA. THEY WANTED TO SEE SOME ACTIVITIES SIMILAR TO THE OLD DAYS. DR. GREEN PROMISED THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE HE WOULD SEE THAT THEY GOT PLENTY OF ACTION.

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"THE YEAR 1948 IS GOING TO BE A HOT YEAR FOR THE KU KLUX KLAN," HE SAID. "THERE WILL BE A LOT OF PARADES AND CROSS-BURNINGS."

HE ALSO SAID THE KLAN HAD BEEN BUSY IN MANY WAYS THAT IT HAD NOT TOLD ITS MEMBERS ABOUT, SINCE HE HAD BEEN AFRAID TO TALK TOO MUCH ABOUT KLAN ACTIVITIES BECAUSE DREW PEARSON OR SOMEONE MIGHT ANNOUNCE IT BEFORE IT COULD EVEN TAKE PLACE.

NOTE--MEANWHILE A NEW KLAVERN IS BEING ESTABLISHED IN CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 289 KLANSMEN,

--COLDEST TOWN IN U.S.A.--

THE HARDY LITTLE TOWN OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN.--COLDEST CITY IN THE U.S.A.--WOULD RATHER BUCK 40-BELOW TEMPERATURES THAN BUY FUEL OIL ON THE BLACK MARKET. HEARING OF THE TOWN'S ANTI-INFLATION FORTITUDE, PRESIDENT TRUMAN, HIMSELF, HAS PROMISED TO SEND AN EMERGENCY CARGO TO THE RESCUE--AT REGULAR PRICES.

INTERNATIONAL FALLS ALMOST STRADDLES THE CANADIAN BORDER. LATEST COLD SPELL PUSHED THE MERCURY OUT THE BOTTOM OF THE THERMOMETER. SIMULTANEOUSLY, CERTAIN UNSCRUPULOUS OIL DEALERS BROUGHT IN FRESH SUPPLIES AND JACKED UP THEIR PRICES.

RATHER THAN PAY BLACK-MARKET RATES, MANY CITIZENS CLOSED THEIR HOMES AND DOUBLED UP WITH RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS. ONE ANGRY GROUP THREATENED TO OVERTURN AN INCOMING TRUCK, AND THE NERVOUS DEALER STARTED ARMING HIS TRUCKS. OTHER CITIZENS WROTE TO THEIR CONGRESSMAN, YOUNG EX-PARATROOPER JOHN BLATNIK, WHO IN TURN WENT TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. MR. TRUMAN PROMISED IMMEDIATE ACTION.

NOTE--THE OIL INDUSTRY WILLINGLY SENT TEN TANK CARS TO ANOTHER MINNESOTA TOWN, ST.CLOUD, WHICH HAD LESS NEED THAN SHIVERING INTERNATIONAL FALLS. THE REASON: ST.CLOUD IS IN THE DISTRICT OF POWERFUL WAYS AND MEANS CHAIRMAN HAROLD KNUTSON, WHO WRITES THE TAXES.

(END PEARSON RELEASE FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4.)

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