

# Colbert County Reporter

Volume 52

TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1963

No. 42

## Hoover Calls Attention To Professional Racketeers

In recent weeks, nationwide attention has been focused on the inner workings of a sinister criminal syndicate known as "La Cosa Nostra." This federation of professional racketeers is a strong arm of organized crime in America. Its illicit operations span the country from coast to coast, netting its criminal hierarchy hundreds of thousands of dollars daily.

The relentless determination of cooperative law enforcement is beginning to close the circle of secrecy protecting this unholy alliance. It is clear that the continuing struggle being waged against organized crime is beginning to pay dividends.

As stated in my message here in January, 1962, a successful penetration at that time was long made in to "the innermost sanctum of the criminal deity" an action which was "reading an analysis of the professional vice racket." Information furnished by the FBI since June, 1962, by a Federal grand juror, a member of "La Cosa Nostra" since 1920, has corroborated and emphasized the facts developed by the FBI as early as 1961 which disclosed the makeup of this gangland force.

As is evident from a look at the cold-blooded and ruthless operations of such a group, organized crime today is an appalling threat to our democratic principles. Through their unlawful dealings—thieving, gambling, usury, extortion, bribery, blackmail and murder—underworld kings have grown into a dominating force on the national scene. Most have amassed great wealth and accumulated major holdings in widespread business enterprises. Some unions are controlled and exploited by hoodlums. Criminal influence in some areas is even felt in the courts, the city halls, the legislative chambers and the law enforcement agencies. This is a shameful burden on a free people.

Recent disclosures in the fight against organized crime serve, in a larger degree, to magnify the enormous task which lies ahead. To know the identities of underworld "kasses" and the intricate organization and operations of their "families" and "regies" is, of course, not enough. The concerted drive by Federal and local authorities must be accelerated, and it must be enthusiastically supported by public-spirited citizens in every community.

It would be tragic indeed to lose the momentum and advantage gained thus far because of the lack of public support. Actually, the role of the citizen in the fight against organized crime is relatively simple. It requires nothing more than the discharge of the responsibilities belonging to law-abiding individuals. In a single basic act, such a contribution may appear to be insignificant, but when combined with similar efforts of millions of other Americans, its potential is overwhelming. Most important, illegal betting and shady deals with the underworld should be avoided. Citizens should stand for law and order, report criminal activities, testify in court when needed and work for crime prevention. They should keep informed on local matters and support clean government on all levels. Herein lies a great challenge for our society.

Law enforcement cannot achieve total victory over organized crime without the cooperation and assistance of the honest citizens of each community—individually and collectively.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

## Kennedy When

The House coalition that lopped \$88,000,000 from the foreign aid bill—an act branded as "dangerous partisanship" by President Kennedy—followed the precepts of former Congressman John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The young congressman, Victor Lasky recalls in his book, JFK: The Man And The Myth, frequently sided with the House economy bloc in opposition to excessive Fair Deal spending.

In 1950, in support of a proposal by Republican John Taber for \$600,000,000 across-the-board cut in federal spending, Kennedy raised the question: "How long can we continue

## Colbert Killer Is Found Dead In Cell

A Littleville man charged with murdering a county sheriff and the Littleville Police chief was found dead in his cell at Russellville Tuesday.

Sheriff James Hovater of Franklin County said that cause of death was not established immediately.

The man, Troy Thornton, 41, had been charged with two counts of first degree murder in the fatal shooting Aug. 18 of Sheriff Herman (Red) Cook, Colbert County, and Littleville Police Chief Neal Pace.

Thornton was also charged with two counts of assault with intent to kill in the wounding of two other officers.

Thornton's body was found about 5:30 a.m. by a Russellville police officer who was taking a prisoner up to his cell.

Hovater said Thornton had asked a deputy for a drink of water about 10:30 p.m. Monday.

A doctor had checked Thornton Sunday afternoon after the man fainted. The physician said that Thornton appeared to be all right.

Cook and Pace were shot to death during a moonshine raid. Thornton was captured the following day.

Dr. Wayne A. Vay, toxicologist from Huntsville, was scheduled to perform an autopsy to determine cause of death.

## "90 YEARS AGO" BREAD RIOTS IN MOBILE

One hundred years ago this week, women in Mobile, hungry and ill-dressed, rioted in the streets, carrying banners proclaiming "Bread or Blood" on one side and "Bread or Peace" on the other.

Many of their wives of soldiers at the front rendered desperate by their suffering, the women gathered on the Spring Hill Road and armed with knives and hatchets, marched down Dauphin Street, breaking into stores to obtain articles of food and clothing which they needed.

Almost immediately following the demonstration, leading citizens of the city met to form the Confederate Society of Mobile, the purpose of alleviating such suffering and to set up an Executive Committee to try to fix prices.

Among the notable citizens present at the meeting were William T. Hamilton, a Presbyterian minister, and Langdon, editor of the Mobile Advertiser.

According to the account of the meeting later published in the Mobile Tribune, Langdon spoke out strongly against those who purchased blockade goods as well as those who sold them.

"If there should be a failure in the great cause," he is reported to have said, "it will be the fault of those at home, not of the brave heroes who are now in the field fighting for 311 days."

The newspaper account further intimated that Langdon stated that in a single article of Yankee production could be brought to land on our soil; that we ought to break up blockade running entirely, except on Government account, remarking that the women, who are ever ready and willing to help the great cause, would work and make our cloth and clothing.

deficit spending on such a large scale with a national debt of over \$285 billion.

Again, and more pertinent to the House action last week, Kennedy told the Boston Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 19, 1951:

"We cannot reform the world... Uncle Sugar is as dangerous a role for us to play as Uncle Shylock... the 30 billions of dollars we are spending in Europe have yet to prove that they have made for self defense in that area, but whatever is true there, to repeat such a procedure in Asia or the South Pacific is impossible."

"We cannot abolish the poverty and want that for centuries has characterized this area. There is just not enough money in this world to relieve the poverty of all the millions of this world who may be threatened by communism."

"The vision of a bottle of milk for every Rotterdam is a nice one, but it is not only beyond our grasp, but it is beyond your reach."

Lasky: As a partisan son of Massachusetts, he voted in 1952 to slash \$14,000,000 from the appropriations of TVA, explaining his state was "in danger of losing two basic industries, a textiles and shoes, to the South."

With New England fragility, he also voted regularly against floor control navigation and atomic power projects.

## EDITORIAL GRIST SCHOOL BEGINS ONCE MORE

September brings a profound change in the lives of millions of Americans. These are the members of what might be termed "the younger set." For September is the month when school begins once more. For three long months the school doors have been closed. Now in September they open again, and it is back to the books and the blackboards.

Shakespeare, in his famous lines on the seven ages of man, gave a typical view: "... the whining school-boy, with his satchel and his shining morning face, creeping like snail unwillingly to school." For the typical boy (and, no doubt, the typical girl) is supposed to hate school as the devil hates holy water.

This, of course, is a vast exaggeration. For modern education, whatever its faults may be, is enormously different than in Shakespeare's time. Incredible new worlds have been opened, or are being explored. The frontiers of knowledge are being advanced at an almost unbelievable speed. The youth of today is offered opportunities that would have been unimaginable even a few years ago. The opportunity is there. It is up to each individual whether it shall be used to the full or not.

One more word from the past is in order. When Aristotle was asked how much educated men were superior to those uneducated, he said, "As much as the living are to the dead."

## NOT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT

A study of the President's 1964 budget itemizes 117 spending requests that could be cut without hurting national defense or essential services—for a saving of \$9.1 billion.

There is, of course, plenty of room for debate as to what is essential and nonessential in many spending areas. But, certainly, the time has come when there should be overwhelming agreement on one thing—that it is no justification for the entry, or the maintenance, of a large number of government business operations when private, taxpaying business enterprise is able and willing to do whatever needed jobs are involved.

This should be an unchallenged and unchangeable national policy on grounds of principle. Then, on the grounds of pure necessity, it should be primarily demands at a time when a potential soaring deficit behind the curtain of most of us to begin to comprehend, presents a cruel threat to what is left of the dollar's worth.

## "MEDICAL HUMANITICS"

The new science of electronics is a complex mystery to most of us. But we do know that it is a performer of miracles. All manner of tasks are performed with incredible speed and accuracy, and human minds and hands are freed for other and more rewarding duties.

Now electronics is reaching into medicine. "Medical humanitics" is the descriptive term given to a dramatic new approach to research, treatment and management of long-term illness and injury. It combines highly sensitive modern instrumentation and auto processing equipment to maintain fast and frequent checks on patients, singly and in groups, and to produce a new kind of quickly retrievable health record.

Involved, according to Dr. William A. Spencer, Director of the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, are the first steps toward the medicine of the future. "The physician of today must deal with a rising sea of data, all needed to define the nature of an illness and to prescribe for it. Now, Dr. Spencer goes on, "... by using electronic aids—collecting millions of tiny pieces of data about a patient at his bedside, then feeding them into a computer—we are speeding up and increasing the flow of information between the doctor and the patient. We are coming up with more accurate clues—and some we didn't even suspect. This means that the patient gets better treatment because it is ultra-precise and individualized."

No machine, no matter how efficient, will ever take the place of the doctor. In medicine, as in so many other crafts and professions, human skill, human knowledge and experience, human understanding will always be the basic essentials. But in this new which to deal with a multitude of problems and needs. And we are

## OUR MEN IN THE SERVICE

BAUMHOLDER, GERMANY (AHTNC) — Army PFC Wayne A. Uley, son of Mrs. Mary E. Staggs, Route 1, Sheffield, Ala. was graduated from the 8th Infantry Division Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy in Baumholder, Germany, in early August.

Uley received four weeks of training in various military subjects with emphasis on leadership and combat tactics. The purpose of the academy is to broaden the soldier's professional knowledge and to instill in him the self-confidence and sense of responsibility required of a capable leader.

Uley is a truck driver in the 8th Supply and Transportation Battalion's Company B in Germany.

He entered the Army in February 1962, completed basic training at Fort Chaffee, Ark., and arrived overseas the following July.

The 18-year-old soldier attended Colbert County High School.

Uley is a truck driver in the 8th Supply and Transportation Battalion's Company B in Germany.

He entered the Army in February 1962, completed basic training at Fort Chaffee, Ark., and arrived overseas the following July.

The 18-year-old soldier attended Colbert County High School.

## Wallace Thrills A Crowd of 5,000 Here

Gov. George C. Wallace vowed Monday to "fight like Churchill" to keep the public schools of Alabama segregated.

Wallace appeared at a Labor Day celebration in Spring Park, and told a cheering crowd of 5,000 that the Federal government is not dealing with a "demoralized Cuba" but with "Southerners" who still want some freedom (and) who are going to fight.

"I am not a Chamberlain. I will fight like Churchill," Wallace told the crowd.

His speech came a few hours after he issued an order delaying the start of a white school in Tuskegee, which was ordered by the Federal to admit 15 Negroes.

Wallace told the local rally that the school board of Macon County, in which Tuskegee is located, had been intimidated and threatened by the Justice Department in trying to comply with the Federal desegregation order.

"I want to tell you 'we've done something' today to put off the opening of the Macon County schools in Tuskegee until next week," Wallace said. "You know they got 23 colored schools in Macon County and their white and now they want to take over one of the three."

"I want to charge this," Wallace added, "that while the school board was sitting there to comply with court order they had somebody look over their shoulder and the Justice Department was looking in the other way and the object of that was intimidation and threatening."

He said the Federal government had told the people of Alabama, "you must do so and so or we will put you in jail."

## Farmers Expected To Hire Extra Help

MONTGOMERY — Alabama growers and farmers who expect to hire extra help for their fall crops harvest need to understand the provisions of the State Child Labor Law.

Alabama Industrial Relations Department Director Jack Giles pointed out that 16 years is the legal minimum age for the employment of minors during school hours.

"The only exception to this rule is the child who works for his own parent or guardian on his own home farm," Giles said.

According to records, more than 4,200 minors under 16 were employed in agriculture during school hours last year. Fifty-seven percent of these youngsters were in school grades below normal for their ages.

"At the present time the importance of an education cannot be minimized. The lifetime success of these boys and girls as citizens and as wage-earners will be in direct relationship to the amount of schooling they receive," Giles said.

The director emphasized the fact that there are no laws restricting children under 16 from working on farms before or after their regular school hours, on weekends or on holidays when classes in their area are not in session.

Besides meeting the standards of the Alabama Child Labor Law and school attendance requirements, employers must also meet the Federal regulations.

Additional information concerning the Alabama law may be obtained by contacting the Child Labor Division of the State Department of Industrial Relations, Montgomery, Alabama.

## Check Snake's I.D. Before Lowering Boom

AUBURN — Wait... don't kill that snake yet.

"First check on his standing in the community," advises Earl F. Kennamer of Auburn University.

"What too many folks forget," continues Kennamer, Extension Service fish and wildlife specialist, "is that not all snakes are the bad sort. As a matter of fact, most of them aren't."

"A few troublemakers like the copperhead, coral, water moccasin and kill him outright or at worst drive him away."

"Remember, confront a snake face to face only when there's no other way."

## Jones Rating Zero On Voting For Sound Money

United States Representatives George Andrews and George Huddleson received high ratings for the first seven months of the Eighty-eighth Congress by Americans for Constitutional Action.

The ratings for the entire Alabama delegation to the Congress of the United States are as follows:

Senator Lister Hill — 22%, Senator John Sparkman — 14%, Rep. George Andrews — 80%, Rep. Carl Elliott — 0%, Rep. George Grant — 50%, Rep. George Huddleson — 73%, Rep. Robert Jones — 0%, Rep. Albert Raines — 8%, Rep. Kenneth Roberts — 17%, Rep. Armistead Selden — 40%.

According to ACA Congressmen George Andrews and George Huddleson were voted for Sound Money; for a Private, Competitive Market; for National Sovereignty and for Local Self-Government. The remaining Alabama delegation except for George Grant has voted the majority of the time for Inflation; for Governmental control of the economy; for Internationalism and against National Sovereignty.

In issuing these figures, Charles A. McManus, ACA's Executive Director, said, "These scores are unofficial and have been calculated from the votes contained in ACA's Congressional Record and Tally Tie-official ratings will not be compiled until Congress adjourns for the first session and will be published in the ACA INDEX 1963."

Americans for Constitutional Action is a nonpartisan political organization which recently honored 154 Republican and Democratic Members of the United States Congress for their noble voting records in support of legislative measures which serve to sustain, strengthen, and defend the spirit and principles of the Constitution of the United States as these were defined by the founding fathers of our Republic.

ACA's Board of Trustees is composed of such prominent men as Admiral Ben Moreell, Chairman of the Board and organizer and Commander of the famed World War II Sea Bee; the Honorable Herbert Hoover, our 31st President; Charles Edison, former Democratic Governor of New Jersey; Edgar Eisenhower, and other nationally known Americans.

Twenty-seven Senate and Fifteen House votes on issues, which in ACA's opinion have a bearing upon safeguarding the God-given dignity of the individual and promoting sound economic growth by strengthening constitutional government, are included in this preliminary evaluation. Such issues as Expansion of the Rules Committee; Mass Transportation; Youth Conservation Corps; Feed Grains Program; the Debt Limit; Increase and authorization of an additional \$455,500,000 for Area Redevelopment Act, were used in the analysis.

ACA's Executive Director stated: "It is imperative that the electorate of the Members of Congress know how their Senators and Representatives are voting on issues which have a direct bearing upon their family budget, their individual freedoms and the future of their children."

With this information they can determine whether their representatives are fulfilling their campaign pledges."

helpful reptiles should be left alone and allowed to keep up their good work."

"Only the bad boys should be done away with. And then, only carefully."

"If you've noticed a prowling rattler or some other poisonous snake around your home, here are Kennamer's recommended methods of snake disposal."

"First, try the safe approach. Kill the thing without having to face him by applying hepatichlor or dieldrin in either the spray or granule form about the house. That should either kill him outright or at worst drive him away."

"Remember, confront a snake face to face only when there's no other way."

"Take it easy," says Kennamer. "Keep in mind that a snake can use its tongue to taste things. Many get rid of rats, insects and other annoying pests around the home. These

## THESE WOMEN!

By d'Alessio



"Sure, sure — he popped the question, all right... After a seven-course dinner," he asked "Got any bicarb?"