

'Curly' Brooks, Defeatist On the Leash of Chicago Tribune



The speeches of Sen. Capper, associate of Brooks, were praised by the pro-fascist sheet "Publicity" which was banned from the mails on May 8.

Senator Capper is fearful, he said in a statement this week, that unless Congress acts to help preserve the framework of private business and industry in the nation, the government itself may be the only business left operating when the war ends.

Capper as a man who "shuns politics in favor of sound statesmanship." Capper contributed an article in February, 1941 to Scribner's Commentator, which was for a time one of the leading pro-Nazi publications.

Senator Johnson of Colorado permitted a number of his speeches to be used by the Viereck propaganda machine.

It was revealed at the Viereck

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By Adam Lapin

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)
(This is the third in a series on the leading defeatists in Congress who are running for re-election.)

WASHINGTON, May 18. — Labor leaders in Illinois have been referring to Senator C. Wayland Brooks as the "Charlie McCarthy" of the Chicago Tribune.

That just about sums up Brook's career in the Senate.

Brooks is the Washington representative of Col. Robert McCormack, publisher of the powerful defeatist Chicago Tribune, which day and in day out snipes at the administration, at the war effort, at Great Britain and at the Soviet Union.

As such, he is one of the key defeatists whose repudiation in the November elections is essential to the war effort and to national morale.

Unfortunately most of the leading

defeatists in the Senate like Senators Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota and Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina are not up for re-election this year.

RETIRE HIM THIS FALL

By retiring Brooks to private life the people of Illinois can, however, take a crack at the whole defeatist bloc in the Senate, which is solidly behind the Tribune candidate.

Two other Senators running for re-election have been too closely associated with the appeasers in the Senate to permit of any confidence in their future performance. These are Senators Arthur Capper of Kansas and Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado.

Capper, a Kansas Republican, once had pretensions to being something of a progressive. But he is now the favorite Senator of Elmer J. Garner, editor and publisher of

Publicity, a fascist, anti-Semitic sheet which appears in Wichita, Kansas.

Many of Capper's leading speeches are reprinted in full in Publicity.

On April 10 of this year Garner was called before a Grand Jury here for questioning. When Garner got into Washington, his first call was at Capper's office and he visited Capper several times subsequently.

FRIEND OF SEDITIONIST

A Grand Jury in Kansas City indicted Garner and his son for criminal conspiracy and 10 counts of sedition including efforts to prevent recruiting into armed forces.

The Department of Justice said that it found "thousands" of seditious utterances in Publicity. On May 8, Postmaster General Walker ordered the Wichita Post Office to bar Publicity from the mails.

Following these developments, Capper was asked to comment on

the steps taken by the government against Garner. He said that he had "known Mr. Garner for many years" and that they had been "newspaper friends for 25 or 30 years."

While the Justice Department considered Garner clearly guilty of sedition, Capper confined himself to saying that the Wichita pro-Nazi "seems to be indiscreet in his opinions, too radical in his views."

On April 22, 1940, Father Coughlin's Social Justice paid tribute to

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trial that Johnson also turned over some of his constituents' letters to Prescott Dennett, Viereck's Washington representative who organized several dummy committees for the Nazi agent. These letters were used to compile master mailing lists for the Viereck groups.

That Brooks is the most important and dangerous of the defeatist Senators running for re-election seems obvious.

KU KLUX KLAN TIES

Brooks has had close ties with the Ku Klux Klan, and on Aug. 27, 1940 addressed a Klan rally at Rockford, Ill., which was attended by 60,000 persons.

One of Brooks' speeches, "Three Steps to War," made on Feb. 21, 1941, was mailed under the frank of Senator D. Worth Clark of Idaho by George Hill, Rep. Fish's secretary who acted as Viereck's Capitol Hill agent.

Senator Wheeler picked Brooks as one of the trusted appeasers he placed on the Senate Interstate Commerce Subcommittee which conducted an anti-Semitic witch-hunt against the movie industry.

As recently as March 12, the Chicago Tribune quoted a speech by Brooks which attempted to create distrust of the Soviet Union and indicated opposition to the policy of sending military aid to the Red Army.

While Brooks' speech was not particularly coherent or grammatical, his meaning in the following passage seems plain enough.

"We have decided to the best interest of the American people to help Russia defend her own land, but she has not indicated as yet that in return for our help she would aid in any way in our battle against the Japanese. But through their communistic activities Russians have constantly indicated they would like to destroy our form of government."

MCCORMACK STOOGES

Short, stocky and curly-haired (he likes to be known as Curly), Brooks has a reputation of being quite a rabble-rouser before an audience which is sympathetic to his ideas. He has little standing in the Senate where he is thought of mainly as a rubber-stamp for the Chicago Tribune.

Brook's association with the Chicago Tribune dates way back, almost 15 years.

In 1928, Jake Lingle, a reporter for the Tribune who had close underworld connections, was killed in a gang war. Lingle was accused of taking graft from the wrong gang.

The Tribune was anxious to have the prosecution handled the right way; it did not want to take any chances of having the Tribune

linked with the Chicago underworld during the trial.

So the Tribune hired a young lawyer called Brooks to be a special prosecutor in the case and to work along with the District Attorney. He got the conviction of a minor St. Louis gangster called Leo Brothers.

Old-time Chicago reporters who are now in Washington state that Brooks protested his innocence to the end and that many rumors floated around to the effect that the conviction was a frame-up designed to white-wash the Tribune.

BROOKS GETS REWARD

In any event, Brooks became Col. McCormack's political favorite. The Colonel pushed him unsuccessfully for governor in 1936 and finally made him a Senator in 1940.

The chief reason given for Brook's victory in the Republican primary in April was that he had the full, although under-cover backing, of

Gov. Dwight Green and the Republican state machine.

In the final election on Nov. 5, Brooks will have an exceptionally strong opponent in Rep. Raymond S. McKeough who has an outstanding record both on domestic and foreign policy.

McKeough has supported all steps to prosecute the war effort, while Brooks voted against the amendments to repeal the restrictive provisions of the Neutrality Act and against draft extension.

In contrast to Brooks who voted for the Byrd and Connally anti-labor amendments, McKeough has been a consistent champion of all progressive social and labor legislation.

The CIO and the AFL in Illinois as well as nationally, are united in backing McKeough in his race against Brooks. This will be one of the most important Senatorial contests in the fall elections.