

'Chicago Tribune' Scents a Plot Against U.S. by Rhodes Scholars

Unfolds 'Conspiracy to Overthrow the Republic,' Make America a British Colony; Names Three as 'Sitting for Oxford in Congress'

By Jack Steele New York Herald Tribune 10-03-43

CHICAGO, Oct. 2.—"The Chicago Tribune" has "uncovered" what it has labeled as a new "conspiracy" to "overthrow the republic." The "conspiracy," according to editorials and news dispatches published by "The Tribune" during the last month, is being engineered by Americans who studied at Oxford University as Rhodes scholars.

Colonel Robert R. McCormick's editorial pages, as the final stroke in the "exposure" in the last week, have accused American Rhodes scholars of fostering a dastardly plot to restore the United States to its pre-revolutionary war status as a British colony.

In the course of this editorial campaign, "The Tribune" has pictured Oxford as a sort of gigantic school of sabotage where the Rhodes scholar has been trained "to betray his country."

"The Tribune" has greeted former Rhodes scholars as subversive companions of "Eastern admirers of royalty," "international bankers" and Wendell L. Willkie—all of whom it has accused of participating in a super-plot to have this country join in a post-war "super-state" to the destruction of American independence.

The First Clue Is Found

Its "exposure" of the Rhodess scholars' purported part in this plot, to which "The Tribune" has devoted many columns, began late in August, when Colonel McCormick discovered that Representatives J. William Fulbright Democrat of Arkansas, and Robert Hale, Republican of Maine, were former Rhodes scholars.

Mr. Fulbright was then stumping the country for his resolution to pledge the United States to post-war international co-operation, and Mr. Hale was speaking for the Ball-Burton-Hatch-Hill resolution.

"The Tribune"—to unfold the history of its "exposure" chronologically for the benefit of readers who might have missed any of the chapters—began its campaign rather cautiously on Aug. 26 with an editorial that declared in part: "No Rhodes scholar can escape the suspicion of being, consciously or unconsciously, an alien agent. All of them have been subsidized by foreign money. the schol-

arships were created to corrupt Americans and it is obvious they have been successful in part to what extent we do not know."

"The Tribune" set out at once to resolve its own doubt and, three weeks later, published a dispatch under a Washington dateline declaring that three American Rhodes scholars "who were educated in England in the hope that they might bring the United States back into the British Empire" were "sitting for Oxford" in Congress and that forty-six others were occupying "important positions in the Federal government."

Messrs. Fulbright and Hale and Representative Charles R. Clason, Republican, of Massachusetts were the members of Congress listed as Rhodes scholars. Elmer Davis, director of the Office of War Information, was the only well known name among the other forty-six Rhodes scholars listed as being Federal officials.

Still taking a cautious line, "The Tribune" commented editorially on Sept. 20 that "no fair-minded person would accuse all Rhodes scholars and American Oxonians of subversive activities or even of intent to overthrow our government and substitute British dominion rule, but the conduct of Representatives Fulbright and Hale and of Elmer Davis throws them all under suspicion."

Three days later, after the House had passed the Fulbright resolution, "The Tribune" observed that it had been introduced by a member of Congress "who in his formative years was sent as a Rhodes scholar to Oxford to learn to betray his country and deprive it of its independence."

The climax of the "exposure" was reached last Monday when, after none of the Rhodes scholars listed by "The Tribune" had bothered to answer its invitation to affirm their "loyalty to the United States," the newspaper published another editorial entitled "Fingerprint Them."

After declaring that Cecil Rhodes had founded the scholarships "to establish a secret society aimed at extending British rule throughout the world, and particularly over the United States," "The Tribune" said:

Nation Warned of "Conspiracy"

"The Rhodes scholars, who are supporting various international schemes, insist that the United States as a sovereign nation must cease to exist. They maintain that through pacts and alliances it must become the tail of the British kite in any post-war world acceptable to them. . . .

"Any man who chose to have himself educated in a foreign country, no matter what country it was, must fall under suspicion along with the Rhodes scholars. He deliberately turned his back on the advantage of an American education to be schooled as a foreigner. It is inevitable that the alien viewpoints gained through study in foreign countries during impressionable years will be retained.

"With the Oxford conspiracy before the nation as an example, it would be wise now for Congress to pass a law requiring all foreign-educated Americans to register with the Federal government, and it might be a good idea to have them fingerprinted as well."

In another editorial on Thursday, "The Tribune" cited a speech by Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist party of the United States, in which he declared that Russia would not aid the Allies against Japan, as following opportunely "in the wake of the exposure by 'The Tribune' of the influence exerted by the Rhodes scholars in this country."

"Unlike Mr. Browder, the Oxonians are respectable," the editorial added. "Like him they represent an alien influence. Together they are working to overthrow the republic. Browder would . . . it the humble servitor of the Soviets. The goal of the other is to return us to the status of a colony of the British Crown."