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The South's Resistance To Desegregation's Shrinking

By BEAM PRICE
Associated Press Writer

Slowly the hard core of southern states which take an uncompromising stand against integration is shrinking. With the opening of another school term this fall, the battle line of die-hard segregationists is drawn back upon only seven states — Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Virginia.

NEXT BASTIONS

Virginia and Florida are under heavy pressure to begin desegregation as the result of federal court actions and could be the next bastions of the pro-segregationists to crack.

The South is now split on the public school segregation-integration issue on an axis stretching from Fort Smith and Little Rock, Ark. through Nashville and on through Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem. In all these cities steps toward integration have been taken.

Change seems to be brewing, especially in the Midwest. Immediately after the May 17, 1954, decision of the U. S. Supreme Court holding racial segregation in the public schools unconstitutional, there was a sort of stunned silence throughout the region.

Gradually there developed a highly vocal opposition which expressed outrage and defiance in no uncertain terms from Virginia to Texas.

DIXIE IS DIVIDED
That is not longer true. On the matter of ultimate compliance with the Supreme Court's decision, the South appears to be breaking up into communities.

It may well be that even in the communities there is developing a split along economic class lines over the integration question.

Even in Deep South states some minor cracks are beginning to appear in the otherwise monolithic white opposition to any form of integration.

In Atlanta, for example, a Negro minister, the Rev. William Holmes Borders, said that if the Negro vote continues to increase he might run for mayor. One Negro already has been elected to the city school board.

In Atlanta's last city election Negroes cast some 19,000 votes for mayor. In all, the winner, William B. Hartford, received 37,612.



"At Least We Know That's Strictly For The Byrds"

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SOUTH CAROLINA
Even in South Carolina some ministers have been circulating a statewide petition for a more moderate approach to the school integration question.

In another Deep South state, Alabama, the Negroes are developing a formidable leadership.

It may be that the decisions to make a start on integration in the six cities are manifestations of whatever it is that is fermenting beneath the surface.

In Charlotte, Little Rock, and Nashville, for example, the people who make up what the sociologists describe as the power structure are moving openly for the first time to the side of compliance.

Nashville and Little Rock were under federal court order to begin integration, but in all probability both cities could have obtained further delays by insisting on tests of recently enacted state laws.

On the advice of their attorneys the school boards in these two cities went ahead with integration plans, holding that further litigation would be costly and useless. National Guardsmen, ordered by Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus, prevented immediate mixing in Little Rock.

The three North Carolina cities of Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem were under no court compulsion whatsoever. Their action in simultaneously announcing plans to begin desegregation on a token basis only if Negroes will be admitted to white schools in all three cities was done with two purposes in mind.

They wanted to prove that a law under which school boards may assign students to schools as they see fit really works and, further, by announcing desegregation plans in all three cities at once, they made it hard for the opposition to concentrate on any one point.

SCHOOL BOARDS ACT
For the last three years the North Carolina school boards, each made up of leading citizens, have been meeting together secretly in hotels and restaurants to work out their plans for beginning desegregation.

When four strongly pro-segregationist organizations turned up at a Nashville school board meeting to protest the admission of about 126 first grade Negro children to previously all-white schools, the board listened politely and impassively.

Among those who appeared was a literant, pro-segregationist John Kasper, who has twice been convicted of contempt of court for interfering in school matters.

DAVIS ANSWERED

Spokesmen for the four organizations were answered by Maclyn P. Davis Sr., an industrialist and son of Nathan Davis, former U. S. ambassador to Great Britain. Davis represented the Nashville Community Relations Conference, which is made up of 17 civic organizations.

Davis presented a statement that Nashville will not allow the friendly relations which have prevailed among the groups in this community to be marred by disorders such as occurred at Canton. There, riots broke out over admission of 12 Negroes to the local white high school last September again in December. Kasper figured in both.

In Little Rock, which is about 27 per cent Negro, school Superintendent Blossom pointed out that five days after the 1954 Supreme Court decision, the school board issued a statement saying it intended to comply.

Blossom conceded in an interview that perhaps 90 per cent of the white people in Little Rock were opposed, but that the leading citizens had called to applaud the board's stand and to pledge support to law and order.

"Our job," said Blossom, "is not to interpret the law. Our job is to see that the law is followed. We have an obligation to develop and maintain a good educational system."

STAND APPLAUDED

In Charlotte, J. P. Hobson, vice chairman of the school board, said that after the desegregation announcement there were telephone calls from the board members that generally the community had accepted the decision calmly.

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After the protests came the letters and calls from the people of influence supporting the action.

In each of these three cities — Little Rock, Nashville and Charlotte — the newspapers have played a leading role in conditioning community acceptance.

Each of the three cities is approaching segregation from a different angle, but in each the objective is the same — minimum compliance for the time being.

HOW IT'S DONE

Little Rock is desegregating in the high schools. Nashville in the first grade and Charlotte in both elementary and high schools.

In Little Rock some 20 or fewer Negroes are involved, in Nashville 126 first-graders, in Charlotte two elementary and two high school students.

Both Nashville and Little Rock will pupil transfer programs under which parents who object to children attending racially mixed schools may apply for transfers, subject to approval by the board of education.

In Charlotte pupils are assigned to the schools by the boards under a pupil placement law.

Nashville elected the first-grade approach because as School Supt. M. A. Bass put it:

"It was our thought that we should start students in beginning desegregation who by themselves would not be trouble makers."

Why so few to begin with? "We don't want more than we can supervise at first. We want to learn by doing."

In Little Rock, Blossom explained the reasons for beginning in the high schools. "After research we found we would have less integration in those grades, which was important to us in the transitional period."

Hobson in Charlotte conceded that admission of the four Negroes was designed to prove to the federal court that the pupil placement plan was working.

City Council's Big Chicken Flies Home

ONE of City Council's most celebrated chickens came home to roost this week and after much embarrassed hesitation, Council let it light.

"I move," said Councilman Steve Delinger, "that we do what the judge told us to do" in the Park Rd.-Woodlawn Rd. zoning dispute. It was one of the biggest surprises since the last time Little Orphan Annie found Daddy Warbucks alive and well.

What the judge ordered was obedience to a state law which requires, on petition of owners, the zoning for business of four corners of an intersection when two corners have been zoned for business use.

The law is rather ridiculous on its face but it has been quite legible in the statute books all along. And after ignoring timely urgings from city planners to have Charlotte exempted from the law, Council quite clearly had to obey it. At the end, Council had put itself in the position of yielding jurisdiction to zoning local four-corner intersections to the General Assembly and of having to be forced to obey the law under which it consciously remained.

Council, of course, is not the victim of this case. The victims are local residents who have a right to expect that "four-corners" as well as other zoning cases be settled by elected representatives close to the people—on the basis of local investigation and experience rather than by the rule of an inflexible formula written in Raleigh.

This is no attempt to roast Council over old costs. It is a rebash prompted by the persistence of some councilmen in scoring their decisions by percentage points. Councilman Baxter, for example, attempts to justify the Council majority's

frequent rejection of professional advice in this way: "They say we haven't been taking the advice of our experts but the planning board record shows that we have followed their recommendations 88.7 per cent during the last 16 months."

If government was baseball, Council would be the champ. But 88.7 per cent isn't good enough when the remaining 11.3 per cent includes avoidable errors in a case that directly affects the structure of zoning and the equitable solution of difficult local controversies.

The City-County Planning Commission restated its stand on the four-corner zoning law on August 6. The planners said:

"This provision of the state statute eliminates local discretion on one type of property in the community while the zoning of all other lands is very properly left to the discretion of local legislative bodies. The law precludes any local consideration of the individual circumstances that may affect the proper zoning of corner properties, such as the character and use of adjacent properties, the effect of a zoning change on adjacent properties, the most equitable location for zoning district boundary lines, and similar matters. Recognizing the undesirability of this state statute, many communities in North Carolina have, by special act of the General Assembly, had themselves exempted from this provision of the law. The Planning Commission placed itself on record as being in favor of securing exemption of Mecklenburg County from the uniform corner zoning provision of the state zoning enable statute at the next session of the General Assembly."

We trust Council has placed this letter in its active file, as we have in ours. It might help boost that batting average.

Here's To Careful & Selective Buying

BEFORE leaving for his golfing holiday at Newport, Dwight D. Eisenhower gave a finger-wagging lesson to newsmen on inflation. Like all amateur economists, the President had a cure.

"I am not advocating a buyers' strike, but I know this he said: "We should buy selectively and carefully."

Encouraged perhaps by the flutter of interest among reporters and intrigued possibly by the utter simplicity of his prescription, Mr. Eisenhower elaborated: "We should not be spending recklessly and adding fuel to the flame."

When they got the word, 60 million housewives, all struggling mightily to make ends meet in an inflationary econ-

omy, must have quietly swallowed their gum, with today's shrinking dollars and rising prices all a household can do is buy selectively and carefully. The only alternative is a one-way ticket to the poor house.

Sure, the bum with a dime in his jeans may dream of tossing it away recklessly on a fillet mignon. But a dime will only buy the after dinner coffee and he knows it. This is undoubtedly what is meant by selective and careful purchasing. He could have blown the whole dime on a cigar. But he was careful. He ordered coffee.

How Politicians Win A 'Moral Victory'

THERE is a lot of fanciful doubletalk being bandied about Wisconsin about the unexpected triumph of Democrat William E. Proxmire in that state's senatorial election. It seems that old line Republicans are saying that the upset represents a "moral victory" for the "real" GOP in Wisconsin—meaning, presumably, the McCarthy wing of the party. What makes it a "moral victory"? Why, the defeat of Walter J. Kohler Jr., an Ike-liker and longtime foe of McCar-

thy within Republican ranks in Wisconsin, they explain. Thus, it is reasoned that Proxmire's victory actually strengthens the "real" GOP.

Perhaps.

But it can't help recalling the late Mark Twain's account of a fight in which his antagonist punched him in the nose and threw him to the floor. Describing the action, Twain said: "Seizing my opponent's fingers firmly with my nose, I pulled him down on top of me."

Moral victory, indeed!

Food And Population: Some Solutions

THE most-maligned food firm in the universe is undoubtedly the outfit that introduced French fried grasshoppers and roasted bumblebees to the United States not long ago. Just about every editorialist in the country rolled up some verbal artillery to damn these delicacies and their distributors. Now, the same company has announced a new product—chocolate-covered ants—and righteous indignation has flared anew.

The thought of munching bugs turns us green, too. But not too long ago tomatoes were considered to be poisonous and totally unfit for human palates. "Osteitis" sneered Dr. Johnson in his famous dictionary, "a grain which in England is generally given to horses." (This was before breakfast foods.) Pig is still shunned by whole populations. Onions were once regarded as nourishment for witches. The apple is still subject to suspicion in

some societies. Many small children persist in thinking of broccoli as spinach and say to heck with it.

Tastes change, however, and so do the necessities of nature. As the world's population grows and food becomes scarcer perhaps even chocolate-covered ants—and broccoli—will be universally accepted.

Better ants than the cure for our population problem suggested last week by John Rader Platt, associate professor of the University of Chicago: "A community could provide a positive incentive for reducing births, to cite one example, by giving young couples a present of several hundred dollars cash for every child they would be 'to levy a tax on children.'" Bring on those ants.

ANTI-SEASICKNESS SHIPS

REPORTS from Moscow of a new type of ship in which passengers cannot become seasick will be received with skepticism by those who have studied the problem.

Inventors of many nations have been occupied with "cures" for well over a century, some tackling the ship and others the passenger.

right while the ball was rolling around it. His ship was said to have cost 200,000 pounds, but soon became a failure.

The White Star Line toyed with Bessemer's brainwave before trying less expensive methods. One of these was a patent bunk, intended to be independent of the ship's motion.

Bernard Shaw, during his sea journeys, relied on sagging his knees when moving about the ship, and other travelers have had their own pet systems.



'What About The Problems Of Inner Space?'

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Editors' note: While Drew Pearson is touring the Mediterranean, his column is written by his junior partner, Jack Anderson.

WASHINGTON
They refuse to be quoted. These government doctors believe the Asiatic flu scare has been exaggerated to sell commercial vaccine. Six big drug companies are working triple shifts several days a week to meet the tremendous demand for vaccine.

Meanwhile, the United Nations medical chief in the Middle East, Dr. Pierre DuPage, has canceled orders for American vaccine on the grounds it won't be needed. He has told associates that Asiatic flu lessens in severity as it spreads, therefore the vaccine will be useless by the time it would arrive.

Doctors Divided
Dr. DuPage has probably handled more Asiatic flu cases than any single doctor. One day alone he reported 2,000 new cases at a refugee camp at Haifa, Lebanon.

Flu Scare Helps Big Drug Companies

Other doctors insist there is no way to forecast whether Asiatic flu will gain or lose virulence this winter. They point out the disease is highly contagious and usually kills 15 to 20 per cent of an infected community. The vaccine can prevent such epidemics, they say.

Six Have Died
Of 30,000 reported cases in this country, only six have ended in death. At least two of these, doctors found, were not caused by the Asiatic flu.

Some government medics agree with Dr. DuPage that the virus is losing its virulence, that the main effect of the new vaccine will be to boost the drug companies' profits.

Preventing Epidemics?
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the vaccine: Merck, Sharp & Dohme; Lederle Laboratories; Eli Lilly; Pittman-Moore; National Drug Company; and Parke Davis & Co.

The retail price ranges from \$8 to \$8 a vial, which contains enough vaccine to inoculate one dose should give immunity from four to six months. The companies refused to reveal how much of the purchase price is pocketed as profit.

Cole's Capers
Congressman Sterling "Stubby" Cole (R-Vt.) is taking pains to burn bridges behind him when he leaves Congress to head the new International Atomic Energy Agency.

He has been nominated by President Eisenhower for the job but still must be approved by the United Nations. After Cole is sworn in, he will be the new world atomic energy czar, he slipped a rider into the law which authorizes American participation. This special sleeper would permit Cole to count the time with IAEA toward federal retirement benefits.

No other international agency offers Americans the same deal. Biggest beneficiary is Cole rider would be Cole, himself, who has 22 years of congressional service behind him and doesn't want to lose out on any benefits.

Van Zandt Protests
Cole also wanted a promise from House GOP leader Joe Martin to restore his seniority rights if he should come back to Congress after his term as ZEA head. This infuriated Congressman James Van Zandt (R-Fa) who is second in seniority on Cole's floor.

Cole has reputation on Capitol Hill for nickel napping. A few weeks ago, he did just about everything except call the FBI to find two missing \$8 deers.

He announced he had purchased them for his kids from surplus congressional stock. Surplus sales are always carefully scored, but House Clerk Ralph Roberts could find no record that Cole ever paid his \$16.

People's Platform

'Forgive Them'

Editors: The News: Charlotte
THIS is an open letter to Miss Dorothy Geraldine Counts of Charlotte.

— CARSON CONDER
Past President
Harding High Booster Club

Dear Miss Counts:
As a former pastor of Harding High Church, I am sure that Jesus must have smiled down on you when you held your head high and ignored the mistreatment heaped upon you.

Now let me tell you why I am convinced that you are right. As an office holder in my church, I attended an official board meeting this week during which our district superintendent made a plea that we accept an appointment of \$900 per year, for three years, as our fair share of support for the ONLY Negro Methodist church in Charlotte, that they might purchase a new church.

I know that you must be just as confused as I, and many other Christians, are wondering and a few of the species of the human race behave as they do sometimes.

It will probably be of interest to you to learn how the news of a few students' misbehavior was received in my home.

My oldest daughter, who graduated from Harding in 1956, was coming home for lunch from her summertime job when some friends who are still students at Harding, stopped her and told her of the morning's happenings. My daughter rushed home and with tear-filled eyes told me how ashamed she was of the bad name this would bring to Harding and to Charlotte and to a so-called Christian civilization. She would have been glad to take your hand and welcome you to school and then escort you through the crowds that gathered. You see, a couple of years ago she went to Lake Junaluska as a delegate to the Methodist Youth Conference. She returned and said, "Daddy, I have dedicated my life to full time Christian work. I think I will be a missionary. She didn't ask at the conference if she would be working with Negroes with Indians, with Chinese or with any race. She just made a pledge to seek mankind wherever she was called, to tell them about the love of Jesus Christ.

I imagine there were some Methodist youth in the crowds Wednesday who attend a Methodist church and contribute money to expand the mission program of our church and our Lord but they forgot that missionary work is the expression of love and kindness begins at home. Please

Do you see, Miss Counts, why we must try to understand, and not be bitter?

In a very short time, I hope Wednesday's events will have been forgotten and you will have come to learn to love and respect your new school and what it stands for. You will have come to be proud of Harding High School for graduating such men as Rev. Paul Young, one of the leading Methodist missionaries of our conference, Rev. Col. Troutman, pastor of a local Baptist Church, and Paul Pearson and Roy Ford, two All-American football players, plus innumerable others who have made their contribution to the sciences and professions of our country. You will come to love this school just as my two daughters who preceded you.

I will close by paraphrasing some famous and well known words of the Bible: "Yes, Dorothy, there are some Christians in the neighborhood of Harding!"

Carson Conder