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Will The Hard-Opened Door To The Future Be Closed?

By RALPH MCGILL

Editors' Note: If memories were longer, southerners might remember what it was like before free public education grew strong after the turn of the century. So Mr. McGill suggests in this column from his Alabama Constitution, asking whether people and politicians are now going to undo the hard work of almost 60 years.

schools costing an average of \$25 each, under teachers receiving the average salary of \$25 a month, we are giving the children in actual attendance five years worth of education a day for 92 days only in the year—such means will never educate the people."

EXAMPLES

APPARENT determination of the four or five southern states to abolish their public schools in the segregation controversy is the more incredible if one reviews the South's long struggle to have education.

As the 20th Century began in 1900, southern education suffered from a greater neglect than any other public institution in the region.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The report of the U.S. commissioner on education for the year 1900-1901 showed southern schools to be wholly inadequate, poorly attended and poorly taught.

The national average, then, as now, there was a greater proportion of children to adults than in the North. In addition to this, about 80 per cent of the southern population lived rural and sparsely settled. School terms were confined to a few winter months.

FIVE CENTS A DAY

In 1901 Charles W. Dabney of the University of Tennessee, said: "In the southern states, in 1901 the situation was so deplorable that it attracted the attention of northern philanthropists. George Foster Peabody was the first to help. John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his father poured \$3 million into their General Education Board

In 1900-1901, for example, Alabama's legislature gave the university a mere \$100,000. Until 1904 Louisiana had a limit of \$15,000 on annual appropriations for Louisiana State University. The total yearly income for the 63 colleges and universities of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas was \$63,943. This was less than that of one of the major eastern universities.

We know, looking at history, that the damage done by the Civil War in property losses was great. The poverty which followed was harsh, often brutal. But the greatest damage done the spirit and soul of the South grew out of the lack of education. The children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of the adults of those postwar years had not had a fair chance.

PHILANTHROPY

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Southern Education: A Long Hard Path

between 1902 and 1909 to help the South toward education. The crusade for public schools was preached at barbecues, picnics in churches, courthouses, schools, fairs, and camp meetings. There was opposition. Some persons of influence and intelligence did not believe in free public education. Others did not want the Negro to have it.

Poverty lay heavily on the South, but nowhere was it as burdensome as on the farms—especially the many small ones. The man in the faded denim, his unbuttoned wife, and his pinched but eager children had already shown their resentment in the Populist revolution. Industry made what bread they had more bitter.

"THE FORGOTTEN MAN"

Walter Hines Page described them in a great speech for free education as "the forgotten man."

Education was the paramount need. Without it neither industry nor agriculture could grow. Without it, the best of the young people would continue to go north. By 1903 a certain momentum was attained. Standards of admission and graduation, which were widely debased, were tightened. Public education came to the South.

It began to be seen that education was necessary, too, for the growth of spirit and life itself. In these 58 years education in the South has come a long hard path. Teachers and parents have sacrificed and labored for it. The despair of the first years of the century are but memories for the old, or stories to be read in books. Now in the last half of the 20th Century, can it really be true that the political leadership of four or five southern states is going to close the door to the future in the face of another generation of children?

The Entire Community Is Reassured

THE nonsuit granted in the case against Judge Basil M. Boyd is reassuring. It would have been tragic had sufficient evidence existed indicating actual criminal intent on the part of the City Recorder's Court judge.

Our disagreements with Judge Boyd have been many. But we have never taken the view that the manner in which he conducted his court constituted a violation of the law.

On the basis of the evidence presented by the state, Superior Court Judge Walter J. Bone's decision to grant a nonsuit was just.

The trial of others in connection with alleged irregularities in Judge Boyd's court will continue naturally, we will not discuss these cases editorially while they are being tried.

We do insist, however, that the nonsuit in Judge Boyd's case is by no means a vote of judicial confidence in the local court system. Fortunately, the system is being repaired and substantial steps toward restoring and maintaining order in the operation of City Recorder's Court have already been made. Other improvements in the system will likely come on the basis of an Institute of Government survey of court procedures. The public should insist that every necessary improvement in procedures be taken to prevent the recurrence of this year's unfortunate chain of events.

Germany: Once More To The Chessboard

HARDLY had the Chinese dragon left the State Department to its habitual slumber when the German nightmarer returned.

There had been a longer interval, but except for that fact the rising crisis in Berlin resembles its Quemo-Matsu cousin. This is where we came in.

The Russians have announced plans to withdraw occupation troops from East Berlin, and to hand over control of trans-East German routes to the East German Communists. We will concede nothing have another choice. We must tolerate whatever annoyances the East Germans plan, perhaps even another land-water Berlin blockade, or we must make some move to dissolve the German occupation and look toward unification.

We can rather easily predict Mr. Dulles' course: He will take steps, including if necessary another airlift, to maintain the German status quo. Most of the real action will be jawaction. That is, we will have piece No. 10388 about how we are not going to yield before the Communist gunpoint. In this instance, if any lightning concession would mean a halfcocked or jerry-built solution of Germany, Mr. Dulles would be right. But he would be right only incidentally, since it is, and has been, boringly clear that Mr. Dulles does not accept the Soviet call to the chessboard; and that he has no interest in any kind of geopolitical bargains with Moscow if they mean he must surrender his preaching podium.

Of course the Russians are merely making another move in their vast game of harass and withdraw—but this time

they have moved with singular deftness. In hopping his attacking piece to West Berlin, Mr. K. has chosen himself an issue—Germany—which is not East-West alone—but a source of growing division and unrest this side of the Iron curtain.

In the most recent West German election, President Adenauer's party poured many marks into a costly defensive defeat of the West German socialists, who made reunification the issue. There is much anxiety about the future of Germany, both because of its strategic future, its growing power and wealth, and because it continues to be the major East-West dagger. This anxiety prevails particularly among non-Communist left-wing parties in Europe—parties which, while sympathetic to the West politically, are convinced that the present stalemate will lead to disaster.

Thus when George F. Kennan called in his last winter's Reith Lectures for some thinking about "disengagement" in Germany and central Europe, he created consternation in Adenauer's camp, while it gave a boost to the Dulles jig, while he became, though a most haughty conservative, the darling of liberal European socialists.

All the straws in the wind over the Rhine point to a feud just as much family as it is East-West. Perhaps with renewed vocal blasts against "appeasement," and possibly with another airlift, the German question can be fed for a while again. But observers have detected a really serious intent in the latest move from the Kremlin; and the sooner we find positive counter measures, the sooner we can talk real relaxation with Mr. K.

Price Of Triumph: Southerners Lose Committee Power

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON THE ideological scorecard for the Nov. 4 election shows that the working strength of conservatives in the Senate has been reduced by 20, or better than a fourth of the total membership.

In only two states—New York and Vermont—were senators replaced by men who may take position on some issues to the right of their predecessors. But both these two—Senators-elect Keating and Pevsley—consider themselves modern Republicans and are well to the left of the Old Guard.

MEN MOST CONSCIOUS

The men today most conscious of the disparity between the present balance of power and the old

Virginia, has steadily lost ideological ground on its Democratic side and can count in all cases only on Sen. J. Allen Frear Jr. of Delaware. But Frear drew consistent support from five of the seven Republican members. Next year only two of that five will be in the hands.

Due to the size of the Democratic victory Byrd will be under pressure to accept more Democrats of the liberal persuasion while Republicans will be deprived of a comparable number of places.

STRIKING EXAMPLE

The finance committee, which handles tax and money matters, offers a striking example. Its chairman, Sen. Harry F. Byrd of

hit by the southerners to maintain their civil rights position. In the next Congress, however, their growing isolation in their committees will be almost as striking as their isolation in their party. They will still have great power merely to obstruct action, but they are astute politicians who will realize that this is a negative power only, which could do great damage to the Texas leaders they want to keep at the helm.

TRADING ASSET

This has a significance going far beyond any one vote or series of votes in any one field. The ability to deliver a committee majority for or against a given proposition is a valuable trading asset. It has long been used to the

party when it comes to settling up committees. Due to the operations of the seniority system a senator's future depends greatly on his original committee assignments. The very best of them rarely display any of the milk of human kindness when such assignments are in question.

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson will be compelled to revise radically present rates of every important committee to take care of his new working majority. The net effect may make his own task harder in some ways, but if it is the price of last week's triumph,

How To Fill Those Back Row Seats

SHEA a tear for Thad Eure, North Carolina's secretary of state. It's his job to decide where the people's representatives will sit in the 1959 General Assembly.

Usually, there are no problems. But this year's gruesome exception.

Consider, for instance, the 29-seat back row of the House of Representatives.

Tar Heel Republicans are almost albanished to this particular Siberia and, over the years, the territory has acquired what might be called a GOP stigma.

But on Nov. 4 the Republican bloc in the House was trimmed to four members. Like it or not, 25 good Democrats are going to have to sit back there. That raises a delicate question: Which 25?

"Eure has received some pathetic letters from western legislators," reports the RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER, "imploping him not to put them on the back row."

It figures, in Mecklenburg and elsewhere, the House's back row became a campaign issue. Much was made of the indignity of being assigned to the legislature's outfield.

Since the shame will likely remain, let the seating charts be made subject to daily revision. Democrats as well as

Republicans would become automatically eligible for the back row upon committing the following bipartisan indiscretions:

- 1—Oratory lasting more than 10 minutes, non-stop.
2—Remarks during debate of "widows and orphans," "our glorious republic," "creeping socialism," "history proves," "the thin entering wedge," "you can't change human nature" or "our founding fathers."
3—Attacks on Mecklenburg's "dang city slickers."
4—Proposals that another study commission get to work on reapportionment.
5—Introduction of legislation calling for a statewide liquor referendum.
Only 29 seats in the back row, Mr. Eure? We may have to expand it.

Modern Education

IF you're inclined to brood about the decline and fall of stern educational disciplines, here's an item guaranteed not to brighten your day: We have just learned that home economics classes in a certain school are now being taught how to make biscuits—with a ready-mix.

From The Richmond News Leader

LETTERMEN IN THE LAB

UP in Asbury Park, N. J., a school board has come up with the season's finest scheme for promoting education. Henceforth a large varsity "A" will be awarded to all students with a yearly average of 90 or better. The blue letters awarded these varsity scholars will be the same size as those awarded athletes, but will have a distinguishing "gold lamp of knowledge" on the cross bar.

It is a scheme we gladly commend to Richmond's high schools. All four of our local high schools regularly award letters to outstanding athletes, but none of them does anything very remarkable for outstanding students. Both Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall maintain public honor rolls, and Teajay offers red honor ribbons in addition, but neither Maggie Walker nor Armstrong even maintains an honor roll as such. Compared to a top halfback, a top biology student is a man unhonored and unsung.

It is time to redress this balance, to get away from the foolish illusion fos-

tered by the song about getting along with the beautiful girls. It may be fine to be a football hero, but what about a physics hero, or a Latin hero, or a fellow who can pivot around on a French verb and throw to any base? The eggheds of this world, no less than the tackles and guards, merit some of that easy recognition of grandeur that goes with a varsity letter.

When these honor high school students get a little older, of course most of them will be able to compete for Phi Beta Kappa keys but with the demise of the vest and the watchfob even a PEK key isn't much of an external mark to shoot for. The trick: A few lettermen in the labs might take the curse off being smart.

Somewhere in this land of capitalism, there must be someone willing to invent for a price, a slip cover that will stay in place for a reasonable length of time. — LEVINGTON LEADER.

'Gosh, I Think We're Outnumbered'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON WHILE Carmen De Sapina, chief boss of Tammany Hall, was the chief issue defeating the Democrats in New York, another Italian-American, also a Democrat, was securing a tremendous victory in Ohio. Mike Di Salle was elected Governor of Ohio in a record-breaking sweep.

Once Irish & Yankee

Today the governor of Massachusetts, Foster Furcolo, is Italian in a state once dominated by the Irish and the Yankees. The new Republican governor of Rhode Island, Christopher Del Seato, is Italian. The Democratic senator from Rhode Island, John Pastora, is Italian,

Where, O Where, Have The Irish Gone?

recently re-elected. On the other hand, Thomas D'Alessandro, long-time mayor of Baltimore, was defeated for the Senate. The mayor of Detroit, Louis Miriam, is also Italian, while there are 12 Italian-American congressmen in the House of Representatives. Not all of them come from the big eastern cities. Dante Pascoli is elected from Florida. Roland Liberman comes from Chicago. The others are: Hugh Addonizio and Peter Rodino, both of Newark, N. J.; Victor Antono, Brooklyn; Silvio Conte, Pittsfield, Mass.; Emilio Daddario, Hartford, Conn.; Dominic Daniels, Jersey City; John Dell, Jeanette, Pa.; Paul Fino, Bronx, N. Y.; Robert Glavin, North Haven, Conn.; and Alfred Santangelo, New York City.

Why No Irish?

In Cleveland the other day, the writer met his mayor, Anthony Celebrezze. Cleveland is one of the best-run cities in the U.S., has had a succession of not-

able mayors dating back to Tom Johnson. Harold Burton, later appointed to the Supreme Court, Frank Lausche, later mayor and senator, and Tom Burke, later a senator, Celebrezze, who is giving Cleveland an equally good government, is a Democrat, elected by many Republican votes, just as Mike Di Salle was elected governor of Ohio with the help of Republicans.

Alongside Mayor Celebrezze, as I was elected governor of Ohio with the help of Republicans. Alongside Mayor Celebrezze, as I was elected governor of Ohio with the help of Republicans.

At The Races

Gossard, the diplomatic corps is that the Russian speculators at the "International" at Laurel, Md., were placed in

People's Platform

Southerners Just A Bit To The South

Editors, The News: I NOTICE that you are professing ignorance as to what or when a southerner is. Shades of Cam Morrison! I think you know better. I think you know that a southerner is a white man who will not send his children to school with Negroes under the Pearsall or any other plan. However, if you really don't know this (and I understand your schools in Charlotte are mongrelized) I believe you will find southerners just a bit to the south of you. —R. A. PARKS

Why The Unions Are Necessary

Editors, The News: Charlotte THE City Council's reaction to the excellent idea by Mrs. Martha Evans for a five-day work week for our city policemen is one of the big reasons why we have to have labor unions. Only pressure groups seem to get results.

Our law enforcement officers deserve our respect and gratitude as well as decent pay and working hours. I'm sure the county policemen are in the same boat. By all means these men should have time off or extra pay for the time spent in court when it is in addition to their regular hours.

Not too long ago those same city councilmen voted \$40,000 extra for a person (who had already agreed to do a certain job for a certain price) because he asked them to. It seems to me that they should have asked for no bids or made him live up to his contract. Our newspapers and many of our leaders worry quite a lot about the need for big salaries for the heads of our different departments. I agree they deserve much more but if there is just so much money for sal-

News Has Shown Education Interest

Editors, The News: Charlotte WE appreciate your help with the observance of American Education Week in Charlotte.

'Tax Robbers' Should Be Voted From Office

Editors, The News: I wonder just how stupid our politicians can get. We are already being robbed in all kinds of ways, and now we are being

Millions of dollars are being spent, given away and wasted foolishly. Will the voters ever wake up and vote these tax robbers out of office? Before the board election got cold they are already talking of another bond election. —PARKS A. YANDLER

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Just For The Run

"I am just here for the race," he continued. "I have to go back to New York tomorrow to protect outer space, and we are afraid of an attack right here on earth. We are willing to leave outer space to God, but you don't seem to trust