



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1958

North Carolina Must Spurn This Knife

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out. . . . And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee. . . .

THAT Biblical admonition from an alien age and surrounding world appear to be the sanction under which Virginia and Arkansas are shutting down schools under the threat of desegregation.

Certainly a system of free, universal public education is the right eye and hand of a democratic society.

The weapon by which this right hand is to be cut from these states is, as so many have said, a double-edged knife. It cuts both ways.

To be sure no Negroes will enter the schools. But neither will any whites enter them.

It would be wholly inappropriate now for North Carolina to assume an attitude of self-righteous superiority because she has managed in pursuit of her middle way to avert the use of this treacherous knife. To witness this tragedy elsewhere is little more comforting than to witness it on our own soil.

Yet as the ground of massive resistance begins to quake treacherously for Virginia and Arkansas the firm ground of moderation and accommodation begins to seem more stable than ever. It bypasses the humiliating alternative of seeing social mores broken down, as in Little Rock, at gunpoint. It bypasses the other alternative of closing schools and leaving children, who have not been consulted, without sure means of education. It seems clear that any possible "private school" system which would work equitably, and without costing a new fortune, would be so close to present public systems that it would be interpreted as such by the courts and judged accordingly.

In the Pearsall Plan there was installed in this state a compromise which is anism for closing schools in "intolerable" situations. It has been our firm

resolution to take the course of law and order—with emphasis on the essential goal of getting on with education of both races—which has kept us from having to use this drastic mechanism. Let us not gloat, but simply be thankful that this is so.

At the same time it should be recognized that barring a change in outlook the road ahead for a moderate middle way will be difficult. The Supreme Court has not explained, but has left to a pronouncement "in due course" its support of reversal of the Lemley decision, which would have granted a two and a half year stay of integration at Little Rock. Until that explanation comes, we have no way of knowing precisely how it will interpret "all deliberate speed" in light of the inference that Judge Lemley's own competence to interpret it. The indications are, however, that the Court is determined to press ahead with implementation of its 1954 decision—even at the risk of provoking more disorderly, riotous resistance.

At the other pole, men of the school of Gov. Foy Kohler Almond seem determined to press their last-ditch resistance to the Court till school doors may be barred and weeds grow waist-deep on the playgrounds.

The increasing friction between these two poles—unless the President dispenses with his own cruel extremities of weak words and federal troops and assumes some leadership—will only create more trouble. It will also incline men to take adamant positions under one standard or the other.

The peril of that increasing polarization of opinion is a peril to North Carolina, whose citizens have chosen to ignore both extremes. In this tragic day when we witness Virginia and Arkansas reaping the whirlwind they have sown in "massive resistance," we will do well to rededicate ourselves to any and all efforts to save our public schools for all children.

The Community Takes A Giant Step

DOUBTING Thomases to the contrary notwithstanding, the City School Board has taken a seven-league step toward a single public education system for Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Even the more impatient proponents of a merger should have been gratified last week when a joint session with the County School Board was finally viewed with approval. The city board made it known with commendable firmness that it was not dragging its feet and that progress was indeed being made.

This is precisely what the community wanted to hear. Now that the matter is settled, let both boards roll up their sleeves and get to work on the practical problems involved in consolidation.

Certainly this is no time for ancient jealousies to rear their hoary heads. If ever there was a need for a friendly spirit of cooperation it is now.

Out Of The Pan And Into The Fire

WHILE other nations scrap among themselves about Quemoy, Arab nationalism and possession of the Davis Cup, West Germany is only interested in winning friends and influencing allies. In fact, one of the fledgling republic's magazines, *Bunz*, has offered a list of "remarks" German tourists may safely make to natives of other countries in order to "make them like us more."

When in France the German traveler is advised to say, "I admire the beauty of your women and the wit of your men." He will tell the Swiss that their "railways are the best" and the Spaniards that they are "the last aristocrats of Europe."

The formula is very simple, says *Bunz*. Merely tell the people "what they most like to hear about themselves."

So far so good. But what if a pleasant prepared for one neighborhood happens to leak to another? An Israeli might enjoy hearing praise of his ability

to give the Arabs whatfor, an observation not likely to warm the cockles of an Egyptian's heart. A Turk might want to hear that he has a perfect right to Cyprus, the very thought of which would launch a thousand ships from Greece.

It would be nice to know what North Carolinians would "most like to hear about themselves." But to whatever it is the odds are 6 to 5 that South Carolinians would be offended.

Greensboro undoubtedly likes to be called "North Carolina's great city." But not even Greensboro Freebirths would welcome hereabouts after making a crack like that in Guilford.

As for Mecklenburg, something like "I admire your Declaration of Independence" might be mistaken for sarcasm and touch off an international incident.

Maybe those German tourists had better just chuck the flattery, smile blandly when asked to comment and mumble something inoffensive like "Isn't it nice the Nazis lost?"

From The Greensboro Daily News

LORDS OF CHARLOTTE

THE Charlotte Chamber of Commerce in an effort to honor visiting dignitaries will confer on them the title "Lord of Charlotte."

The last lord to pass through Mecklenburg, it will be remembered, was not given what you'd call a rousing reception. He was Charles, the first Marquis and second Earl of Cornwallis.

We can't help wondering what the "Home's News" boys—for that was the name Cornwallis bestowed upon them—would think of this action.

This is not to mention, of course, John McKinnitt Alexander and the other signers of the, you should pardon the expression, Mecklenburg Declaration. That alleged document broke all of Charlotte's bonds with Old Country royalty, one would have thought, in perpetuity.

But, no, the Chamber of Commerce has gone and got the big boys. Now descendants of signers and revolutionary soldiers are creating baronies, earldoms,

et cetera, and handing out titles to visitors. Come to think of it, though, we seem to recall that they began making "dukes" out of the local gentry for benefit of Carolina Carrousel festivities for some time. So perhaps this was only a logical development.

What are we to make of it? Only what a famous Charlotte citizen, Harry Golden, has been saying all along—that Americans "made a dreadful mistake kicking out the British completely. Otherwise we'd have Princess Margaret over here in Washington, and the American craving for royalty would be satisfied."

As it is, we have to make do with "Miss America," "Apple Princesses"—and "Lords of Charlotte."

Twenty years ago a lot of people didn't get along earning the salary they can't get along on today. — GASTONIA GAZETTE.

People's Platform Congressional Campaign Puts Voters To Sleep

Charlotte Editors, The News: THE campaign for Congress in the Tenth District is putting me to sleep. I am a recent arrival in the city. Yes, I come from the North. It is a beautiful country where there is a heated rivalry between the Democrats and the Republicans for office. All candidates come out swinging. They don't pull any punches. They give each other the devil.

I am convinced that this is the only way for politics to operate.

Editors, The News: I've read The News' editorial page since a sapling in my teens. In the great majority of cases I disagree with its opinions on national and international policy. Never, however, have I read such unbridled, unbridled rubbish as I did in The News of Sept. 18 in an editorial captioned: "One Day Soon: A Puppetteer Theater."

That editorial, which purported to be a reiteration of Eisenhower's well-reasoned stand on U. S. policy in the Formosa Strait, easily equals anything one might read in any slavish Communist medium. The editorial was patently anti-anti-communist, cowardly, and filled with half-truths. It's disgraceful that free men's eyes and minds were subjected to it; indeed, it's unworthy of intelligent criticism.

J. R. CHERRY JR.

Can Politicians Be Too Lousy? It is the only way for issues to be made and for the voters to get an idea what the candidates really think about the issues and what they intend to do about things in general.

Here the congressional candidates are too busy being nice to each other. Neither seems to have any strong conviction about any real hot issues or about each other.

How is a new arrival going to be interested in such a campaign? And how can the candidates themselves?

JEROME EDWARDS

Voters Get Service From Rep. Jones Lincolnton Editors, The News: MOST of the important work of a congressman is done off the floor of the House.

Rep. Jones has an important assignment on the Appropriation Committee where a great amount of his time is spent. Even so he has a near perfect record of attendance and voting on the House floor.

Another important part of a congressman's work is taking care of the requests of his constituents. There are thousands of Democrats and Republicans who can attest that Charlie Jones has done a superb job. I personally know of two instances here in Lincolnton County where for 40 years people walked a half mile to get their mail out of a rural box. Charlie Jones went to work on it and now their mail is delivered right to their door.

This is the kind of service the people of the Tenth District have been getting from their congressman and I don't think the voters will soon forget the efforts of Charlie Jones in their behalf.

CHARLES EUREY

Give The Southland Its Freedom, Please Charlotte Editors, The News: EGYPT, India, Ghana, the Philippines, etc. have been freed. We are free. Free the South and let us have a free and independent nation—free from integration, unionism, communism and the Washington establishment.

—MACK SINCLAIR

Let Him Have Dose Of 'Own Medicine' Lincolnton Editors, The News: I REALI with very much concern I tempt that letter on school buses in People's Platform, Sept. 15. I just wonder why the writer doesn't travel by plane if he's in such a big hurry he can't wait a few minutes for some student to get off the bus. Does he have any children or grandchildren on board?

Well, I'm a mother, also a grandmother 14 times and I think God for and if he cannot see the stop sign on the school buses he should have his eyes tested. Furthermore, they should take his driver's license away from him.

This flight further resulted in a race riot the following week, and led to Linn County, Georgia, the British equivalent to our

Sen. Herman Talmadge of Georgia "tamming."

However, behind what happened in Georgia is a very amazing story of how dedicated people from all walks of life are organizing to find a solution to the problem that our political leaders have been unable to resolve—the explosive challenge of Little Rock.

Moral Rearmament The movement is called Moral Rearmament. Its formula is human understanding, nothing less. But its impact is being felt all over the world, particularly in the Far East.

Friendly Throughs Police were struck not so much by the orderliness as by the friendliness of the thousands of white and colored workers. A newspaperman said, "This is what the Communists boasted never could happen in the south." — COLUMBIAN U. S.

far in bad weather, how would he like to walk so far, and it pouring rain? Such folks as he should have a dose of their own medicine, don't you think? I've been a reader of The News a good many years and this is the first time I've seen an editorial so bad I've written to the People's Platform.

—MRS. ED. HART

Surely the actions of these youths in Britain do not represent the majority of Sir Winston

Churchill's own Great British Empire, as Fabius of Little Rock claims the actions of a handful of hoodlums represent Arkansas, and, as the Communists claim, represent the America of Abraham Lincoln, Ralph Bunche, Billy Graham, and Martin Luther King.

An interesting bit of factual information appeared in the May issue of a science journal. It seems that a professor at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, made a study based on the genetic distribution of the population of the U. S. This study shows that according to U. S. standards (one-sixteenth of a drop of "Negro blood" in solution with fifteen-sixteenths of "white blood" formulates a full-blooded "Ne-

gra" — whatever that is), there are 28 million "whites" of Negro ancestry; that contrary to the 1860 census there are not 16 million Negroes here in America but 43 million; and that between the ten-year period of 1841 and 1861 there were 155,500 Negroes who are consciously or unconsciously "passing" as "white."

I mention the above study to bring out the fact that we are not engaged in a racial struggle for identity but within such a race, as Americans, there is a searching struggle to build from the ruins of the past a New South in which we can ALL live with reverence pride and with dignity.

— CHARLES JONES

'Please! Please! Be Kind To The Poor L'l Kitty'

STREET VENDOR'S CRY

HODGES

BUDGET REQUESTS

Truman To The Rescue

Quemoy And The Democrats

by ROWLAND EVANS JR.

TRUMAN eminent a Democrat at Mr. Truman's rescue.

WASHINGTON THERE is a touch of poetic justice about Harry Truman's support of the Eisenhower-Dulles decision not to let Communist dictate American action in the Formosa Strait. One Democrat has never, however, made party policy, even so.

TRUMAN eminent a Democrat at Mr. Truman's rescue. The countryside is full of other Democrats, including Dean Acheson, who out of deep conviction or a hope of partisan advantage are raising fundamental questions about the Eisenhower-Dulles policy. These questions have not yet reached the full-blown stage of an outright protest. It is a bit premature for this. The most serious matter of the off-shore islands may in the end prove to be more successful than the critics fear.

Neither the Democrats nor the privately complaining Republicans of whom there are many, are likely to ever-commit themselves too soon.

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Drew Pearson's Georgians Flock To Integrated Play

Sen. Herman Talmadge of Georgia "tamming."

However, behind what happened in Georgia is a very amazing story of how dedicated people from all walks of life are organizing to find a solution to the problem that our political leaders have been unable to resolve—the explosive challenge of Little Rock.

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