

EDITORIALS

HISTORY MADE BUT NOT ENOUGH

It is certainly encouraging to find that a white man can be convicted in North Carolina in a case involving the rape of a Negro woman. That Negroes can be convicted, and sentenced to death, and executed, for rape of white females, needs no demonstration beyond the records of the courts and Death Row at the State Prison. At present a 15 year old Negro boy is awaiting execution for rape of a middle-aged white woman.

That the attorney of a white defendant charged with rape of a Negro woman found the evidence so strong against his client that he offered a plea of "assault to commit rape" rather than take a chance with the jury, is pretty good evidence of how strong a case the state had against Bruce Combs in Wake County Superior Court last week.

That the plea of guilty to the lesser charge was accepted by the State through the prosecutor and judge would seem merely to add to the already ample evidence that whether rape is a capital crime or not depends a good deal on the race and sex, respectively, of the rapist and his victim. The courts constitute an agency for the implementation of the inequities in the society of which they are a creature.

Combs escaped conviction of the crime that carries the death penalty, not because of the weakness of the evidence against him, which was admittedly so strong that his attorney gave up the idea of trying to get an acquittal. He was saved from jeopardy of his life rather in spite of the evidence. About the only thing that was said in extenuation was that he had been good to his parents!

But the picture is not all dark. According to the news report, "veteran court officials could not recall a previous case in this State in which a white man was sentenced to prison for such an offense against a Negro woman." At least it has now been established that in North Carolina the crime of rape can be taken official cognizance of when the victim is

officials could not recall a previous case in this State in which a white man was sentenced to prison for such an offense against a Negro woman." At least it has now been established that in North Carolina the crime of rape can be taken official cognizance of when the victim is colored and the aggressor white.

An interesting sidelight on the social situation which makes it almost out of the question for the law to operate without regard to color in such a case is that throughout the long newspaper stories on the case the Negro woman victim, age 20, was referred to by her first name.

SURPRISING

What is surprising to a long resident of North Carolina about the Student Assembly matter is not that the white students decide to invite the participation of Negro students. It is rather that the action was so disturbing to some of their elders in high places.

For years North Carolina has taken the lead among the states of the South in rational thinking and action on public matters, including those which are interracial. There are numbers of societies, associations and meetings whose membership is made of both races. Student groups made up of Negro members have for several years held meetings practically all over the state, in churches, colleges both white and Negro, and in other places. In his long statement recently released to the press Dr. Frank Graham called attention to the above facts, which must be known already to Governor Cherry and Secretary of State Thad Eure and to the other dignitaries at the Capitol who seem to fear such dire results from the meeting together of Negro and white students in a model General Assembly whose function is entirely educational and which has no

powers not embraced in mere discussion and publicity.

Negro citizens are largely at a loss to account for the peculiar and unexpected attitudes of some of the leaders of the state government. The explanations they have so far voiced throw no light on the matter. Governor Cherry's statement to the effect that he does not believe in inviting people to take part in something for which they have expressed no desire is one of the more bizarre of these comments. It is true that people do sometimes ask for invitations, but it is far more usual for the first move to come from those in position to do the inviting.

The more one thinks about the thing the more it assumes the proportions of a tempest in a teapot; and the tempest was not stirred up by the students. The letters which have appeared on the editorial page of the *News and Observer* on the subject up to this writing have all expressed approval of the Student Assembly's action.

Perhaps some of our state officials are taking the whole thing too hard. Perhaps they will find that having an interracial meeting of students under the Capitol dome will not excite anyone.

SUDDEN DEATH

Traffic accidents took 77 lives in North Carolina in October of this year, 16 more than in October of last. In addition 143 persons were injured in street and highway accidents. The totals for the year through October were 561 killed and 3,313 injured. The report on the automobile casualties sounds as though it were the report from some active war front.

Over and above the tragedy of the figures themselves two other facts are extremely depressing, but should also be challenging. One is that the death and injury rate is on the increase; the other can best be presented in the words of T. Boddie Ward, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles: "The pathetic part of this report is that practically, if not all, of these accidents and fatalities could have been avoided through careful, efficient and courteous driving. So long as motorists continue to drive carelessly and recklessly with a total disregard or the safety of themselves and others, the tragic toll of human life will continue to be extracted."

Structurally and mechanically the modern automobile is safer than ever; but many cars are old and defective in some respect because of the long wartime suspension of manufacture. Motorists know what kind of car they have, and should take the fact into consideration, for their own safety and that of others. Now that bad weather may be expected at any time extraordinary care should be exercised.

The restoration of the pre-war speed limit did not do any good in promoting safety at a time when so many old cars were still on the highways, but careful and responsible driving rather than low speed limits is really the solution to the problem.

FEET OF CLAY

President Truman's popularity seems to be wearing well. But there is one class of Americans whose admiration for him is probably less than whole-hearted. If these persons find his name somewhat tiresome, it may be said in his defense that the President is entirely innocent and unwitting. It is all because he plays the piano, and fond parents of young boys have been holding him up to their small sons as an example. "Willie, practice your lesson. I bet President Truman never had to be scolded and nagged into paying attention to his music when he was a boy."

Yes, the President's name is probably not too greatly loved among the reluctant young male devotees of the pianoforte in this great nation.

Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it. —Lincoln.

I have always noticed that God is on the side of the heaviest battalions. —De La Ferte.



Second Thoughts

By G. L. HALLIBURTON

At Christmas time, we celebrate the coming into the world of the baby who grew up into the man destined and chosen to give humanity a new conception of man's relation to God and to his fellows. To the extent that our observance of Christmas neglects and by-passes that central theme, we miss the true message of the day. The joy, the fun, the high spirits, the gift giving — all are legitimate parts of the Christmas atmosphere and what would Christmas be without them? But the primary secret of all these things is the fact that the first Christmas day ushered in a new era for the world because it brought the birth of the Christ.

Let us not be lulled by the commercialization of Christmas and its deplored because they detract from the real meaning of the day. The Christmas which we get and hope to get, and the often corresponding selfishness with which we give, are in direct contrast with the spirit of the occasion. From this the children fortunately receive us to some extent; for we give to children in the true Christmas spirit, expecting nothing in return, and hoping only to make them happy with our gifts.

For most adults the happiest memories of Christmas are those of their own childhood, and if they are parents, of those when their own children were young enough to believe in the great miracle of the day. The poet Wordsworth said, "Heaven lies about us in our infancy." As adults we often become so involved in the preparations for Christmas, in frantic list-making and frenzied purchasing, in pre-season worries and preoccupations, we have been subjected to such a barrage of children in the true Christmas spirit, expecting nothing in return, and hoping only to make them happy with our gifts.

For most adults the happiest memories of Christmas are those of their own childhood, and if they are parents, of those when their own children were young enough to believe in the great miracle of the day. The poet Wordsworth said, "Heaven lies about us in our infancy." As adults we often become so involved in the preparations for Christmas, in frantic list-making and frenzied purchasing, in pre-season worries and preoccupations, we have been subjected to such a barrage of children in the true Christmas spirit, expecting nothing in return, and hoping only to make them happy with our gifts.

For most adults the happiest memories of Christmas are those of their own childhood, and if they are parents, of those when their own children were young enough to believe in the great miracle of the day. The poet Wordsworth said, "Heaven lies about us in our infancy." As adults we often become so involved in the preparations for Christmas, in frantic list-making and frenzied purchasing, in pre-season worries and preoccupations, we have been subjected to such a barrage of children in the true Christmas spirit, expecting nothing in return, and hoping only to make them happy with our gifts.

Let Us Not Forget.

By W. L. GREENE

NON-PARTISAN VOTERS ORGANIZATION NEEDED IN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina needs more and more of some things and a little less of some others. We speak now of statewide organizations. The need for the kind of organization which improves public health, public education, participation of the masses of the citizenship in use of the ballot, social programs of the churches, and recreational facilities of a community type is a growing need on a statewide scale. Whenever ALL citizens of the several communities of the Commonwealth are not represented adequately by the work of the statewide organizations which function in their areas, additional organizations should be developed.

What we need less of are those would-be statewide organizations which definitely overlap and compete destructively with organizations already doing a good and needed work of expansion and development. The AF of L, for example, not only in North Carolina but in the nation failed to represent adequately ALL labor. The CIO was the answer to the need for another nationwide organization to fill in the gap. Again the old Interracial Commission failed to attack several problems in its field. Two necessary supplements developed: the Southern Regional Council and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. It took both of these to offer a sufficiently broad program to challenge the overlooked problems evaded by the older and now defunct organization. Both of these newer and strictly southern groups together still fail to complete the picture.

What we need less of are those would-be statewide organizations which definitely overlap and compete destructively with organizations already doing a good and needed work of expansion and development. The AF of L, for example, not only in North Carolina but in the nation failed to represent adequately ALL labor. The CIO was the answer to the need for another nationwide organization to fill in the gap. Again the old Interracial Commission failed to attack several problems in its field. Two necessary supplements developed: the Southern Regional Council and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. It took both of these to offer a sufficiently broad program to challenge the overlooked problems evaded by the older and now defunct organization. Both of these newer and strictly southern groups together still fail to complete the picture.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. M. W. Williams

Subject: The message of Christmas To The World Luke 2:1-20.

Key Verse: "On glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

More than nineteen hundred years have elapsed since Isaiah's prophecy: "Unto us a child is born," was fulfilled, and each Christmas men, women and children the world over celebrate its birth. We look forward to it with the eagerness akin to the time when the Hebrews did. They did not group its full meaning neither do we. But as the years come and we get more understanding, our flickering light becomes brighter. Bethlehem (house of bread) the place of his birth has a background — Rachel, the mother of Benjamin, died and was buried there; Ruth and Boaz lived there; David was anointed there and the

Bread of Life was born there (Jno. 6:35).

THE FIRST MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD TODAY.

The shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go on to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass." Luke 2:15. The Bethlehem of the heart could properly be interpreted as accepting the Saviour of the world who was born in Bethlehem. Paul brings it out in talking to the Galation Church, "Until Christ be formed in you" (Gal. 4:19). And in our mad rush for worldly things, Christ Himself, speaks to the world: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). The early Christian Church, through the early Good Tidings, the dream of the world. And he has pleased

BETWEEN THE LINES

By DEAN B. HANCOCK FOR ANP

THE CHRISTMAS PROBLEM

How swiftly pass the years. Life a mighty yesterday seem the years of our youth, with their lightness of heart and buoyancy of spirit and their gladsome dreams of a great tomorrow, which is our serious today. The Christmas of our childhood was real Christmas; for our hearts were then untouched by hate and harmful influences which have poisoned the fountains of life. In our innocence we were monarchs of merriment and joys that knew no bounds.

Christmas was Christmas, because our hearts were right. Too soon we learned of life's deceptions and hypocrisies and its hates and chicaneries which tore from our eyes the veils of innocence which shut out the perils of a wicked world. We loved everybody because we trusted everybody and everybody loved and trusted us. We entered into the Christmas season as into some promised land where once a year we plucked the purple clusters of Eschol and ate to our heart's content.

Those days in prospect make of memory a beautiful thing that charms away the sorrows of the hour. And then came the sad disillusionment that things were not as they seemed, and that life was real and earnest and the grave was not its goal. The seriousness of life came down upon us like a mighty pal that shocked us into a realization that even Christmas was largely a sham, made so by the ugly fact that man's inhumanity to man was like an angel with flaming sword guarding the Paradise of real Christmas joy.

And so today we know that the 25th of December, instead of being Christmas, is just another day which reminds us of a blessed event which we deprecate oftentimes in hilarious celebration. Bethlehem is forgotten. Forgotten is its babe, the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Today we know that the exchange of greetings, presents large and small, Christmas carols and Handel's Messiah do not make Christmas. Neither do trips across the country and big Christmas dinners with accustomed trimmings. No, Christmas is far deeper than these outer manifestations which are often like painted fires to him who shiver in the cold.

Christmas has become a problem and it is the problem of trying to have Christmas without Christ. In a world of hatreds and prejudices and hypocrisies and murders and bloodshed and wars and slanders and evil designs and trickeries; with hunger and starvation and mourning and nakedness and dire distress stalking forth like hobgoblins of horror to vex, the unhappy sons of men, the problem of Christmas cries aloud for a solution.

How in this unhappy world are we poor mortals to really have Christmas without the Christ? We forget always that we cannot save the world by nations and races and groups and organizations and ideologies and systems. If the world is to be saved it must be saved by persons. In the last analysis Christmas is not a matter of the world but of ourselves individually. If the problem of Christmas is to be solved we must reduce Christmas to its lowest terms and that is the individual. If the individual is Christhearted and Christminded then there is Christmas; but if not, there can be no Christmas. Sooner or later the problems of life must be reduced to their last analysis.

At first Christ inquired "whom do ye say that I am?" He finally reduced it by saying "Whom do ye say that I am?" Joshua at first was concerned for the righteousness of Israel but he finally arrived at the point where he said "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." In the days of the Greek Sophists, when men were so intellectualized in their thinking that philosophy became disorganized and incoherent, moral foundations were undermined. There was philosophical chaos and then appeared old Socrates, loftiest genius of the ancient world, with his dictum "Know thyself." Because it was impossible for men to grasp matters in their entities, it became expedient for them to reduce the horizon of their thinking and know themselves.

It is even so in having Christmas. We cannot solve the problems of mankind and the world. We cannot stem the tide of trouble that is tearing the world from its spiritual moorings. If we cannot save the world we must save ourselves. If we cannot bring Christ into the world to give it Christmas, then let us let Christ into our individual hearts. That will be Christmas. Hear him, "behold I stand at the door and knock."

At first was concerned for the righteousness of Israel but he finally arrived at the point where he said "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." In the days of the Greek Sophists, when men were so intellectualized in their thinking that philosophy became disorganized and incoherent, moral foundations were undermined. There was philosophical chaos and then appeared old Socrates, loftiest genius of the ancient world, with his dictum "Know thyself." Because it was impossible for men to grasp matters in their entities, it became expedient for them to reduce the horizon of their thinking and know themselves.

The Parliament Of Man

By RUTH TAYLOR

The Parliament of Man is now convened in continuing and constant session without rules of order, or nationality or occupation, or limitations of debate, or privilege, or nationality or occupation. Neither as individuals or as a nation will it be possible for us to stand aside and keep out of the stream of traffic. In a world that is daily growing smaller, work by or for himself alone. The first task before us is to lay the social, political and economic foundations of peace. That can be done only by each man and each woman doing his or her share. In a world which has become "One World" collective security is the only possible security — and collective prosperity. And "collective" means that you have a role to perform.

The Parliament of Man is its responsibility. Its decisions are your decisions.

God to let them have their desire. Truly this Christmas message means to parents that you have a chance to see and realize in your children your fondest dream.

A MESSAGE OF LOVE AND GOOD WILL.

As we sing the carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" the emphasis is likely to be put on the little humble spot where the lowly child was born, but the glory of heaven was not meant to stop there, neither was it meant to be just for a day, a week, a month or a year. This good will is to extend to the end of the world — to all men, to all races and to all nations, and to all seasons and times of the year and to all time and eternity. Love never faileth (I Cor. 13:8). This message of love and good will is manifested in Christian Stewardship in all its phases.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD.

And being warned of God in a dream that he should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way." (Matt. 2:12). Time now space will not permit a lengthy discussion of this Scripture, so I quote from another Secretary of Agriculture Anderson,

Published by The Carolinian Publishing Co. Entered as second-class matter, April 6, 1940, at the Post Office at Raleigh, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

P. R. JERVAY, Publisher
C. D. HALLIBURTON, Editorials
CARL EASTERLING, Circulation Manager

Subscription Rates
One Year, \$2.00 Six Months, \$1.25
Address all communications and make all checks payable to The Carolinian rather than to individuals. The Carolinian expressly repudiates responsibility for return of unsolicited pictures, manuscript, etc., unless stamps are sent.

116 East Hargett St., Raleigh, N. C.