

EDITORIALS

Happenings That Affects The Future

Although he has roamed across the earth for a thousand years and more, man has always been a transient trespasser on the rolling vastnesses of the Earth's great seas and oceans. There have been maritime laws, customs of behavior, "rules of the road" and international treaties to protect the interests of nations, companies and individuals—except in wartime who used the seas for purpose of commerce, travel or adventure. But with the exception of limited offshore areas, the waters of the world's oceans, all the creatures living in them and the minerals and other resources from the seabeds and beneath them have belonged to no one. The high seas have been open to all to use or not use for virtually any purpose.

In the past 20 years, all this has changed. Technology has progressed by leaps and bounds and, combined with the science of oceanography, is rapidly bringing the treasures of the seas within the reach of man. Vast oil and gas deposits are being recovered by drilling operations in hundreds of feet of water. The capacity to explore

for such energy resources and recover them from water depths of several thousand feet may be just a round the corner. Huge fishing fleets and factory ships from such nations as Japan and the Soviet Union, capable of staying at sea for months at a time, are "mining" the oceans of their fish populations for protein supplies to feed their people. Scientists are actually living in ingenious habitats on the ocean floor in relatively shallow waters to study plant and animal life and, among other things, develop knowledge of how to work in this watery environment to recover mineral resources and perhaps someday to carry on aquatic "farming" to augment the world's food supply.

When something attains value, the question of access to it or ownership of it becomes crucial. The question of who owns the oceans is now a pressing issue, and one which promises to become one of the most hotly-contended legal controversies between nations in the history of the world. The quarrels over fishing rights have brought the matter to a head.

A Recommendation

The recent recommendation by the city's superintendent of inspection that court action be used to force a resident or residents to clean up the "automobiles and junk" from his yard is a much needed step in the city. It should also apply to the many absentee owners, rental agencies and in some instances, urban renewal officials as well.

It is apparent that in many instances land that has been so designated for urban renewal or just placed under their authority has become the dumping ground for many types of junk.

Vacant lots, undemolished houses and empty spaces also often fall heir as the spot for dumping refuse and other unsanitary objects.

Environmental beauty, pollution control and elimination of health hazards will be much improved and better controlled if all these "junk spots and dumping grounds" are forced to be moved or cleared up by such court edicts.

Exercise Your Rights

All citizens of Durham who have been properly registered are urged to mark November 6 as your important day by going to the polls and casting your vote for the individuals and issues that you favor.

The right to cast your vote for your choices is and should be the duty of every person of voting age.

One cannot afford to allow the shoddy, dishonest and very degrading behavior and actions of a few politicians, both in office and out of office, cause you to forego this important duty of your cherished citizenship and right.

Remember that voteless people are a hopeless people.

The time for action is now and you must make your decisions and choices known for an improved and progressive Durham by casting your vote on November 6.

The Agnew Case

All the glitter and ceremony of the White House announcement of Gerald Ford's appointment to the Vice Presidency cannot cover the deep shame the Agnew case has brought to Washington, nor can it obscure the serious questions it raises about current political morality and the system of justice in America.

Coming on top of the Watergate scandals and the continuing battle over the secret White House tapes, the Agnew case is a terrible blow to the country's self-confidence and to the average citizen's faith in his leaders.

Black citizens can take no satisfaction from Mr. Agnew's removal from office. Although he was clearly one of the most unpopular national leaders in the view of black communities, there is no joy in a situation in which our national leadership, which should be strong and just, is instead shaken by corruption and greed.

From the time Mr. Agnew justified his refusal to visit and campaign in black neighborhoods by saying "once you've seen one slum you've seen them all," and continuing through his hard law and order stance and his position as a symbol of negativism on a national scale, the former Vice President has been a thorn in the side of people who hoped for policies of reconciliation instead of further divisiveness.

Now, according to a meticulously detailed bill of particulars compiled by the Justice Department, it seems that this champion of law and order was taking bribes not only a Governor of Maryland, but while occupying the second highest office in the land, one breath away from the Presidency itself. In exchange for his resignation, the government decided not to press all of his charges, allowing him to plea bargain his way out of jail by accepting one count of tax evasion, a felony that would put lesser mortals behind bars.

I can fully understand the government's position that it is better to allow Mr. Agnew to resign in humiliation rather than put the country through the long ordeal of a trial and the resultant verdict and sentencing, but very few black Americans can readily accept the two-tier system of criminal justice this reflects.

High officials ought to be held to higher standards of behavior than the rest of us. Those who would lead must be worthy of that leadership.

Up on the wrists. Most people feel that when government officials become a license to steal then the guilty ought to suffer the full penalties of the law, especially when they've hidden their own corruption behind a screen of charges of "mismanagement" and plea to get tough with criminals.

Why, so many people are asking today, should a high official who has been on the take get off with a lesser sentence than some poor kid who took a joyride in someone else's automobile? How many thousands upon thousands of people are locked up in prison today whose crimes are so much less than those of the former Vice President has been charged with?

How many thousands upon thousands of people are today on parole or probation and are forced to inform correction officials of their every movement while the former Vice President was released on his own

recognizance? And how many petty criminals are caged up for months just until their trial comes up and what is their reaction to a betrayer of the public's trust getting off without ever seeing the inside of a jailhouse?

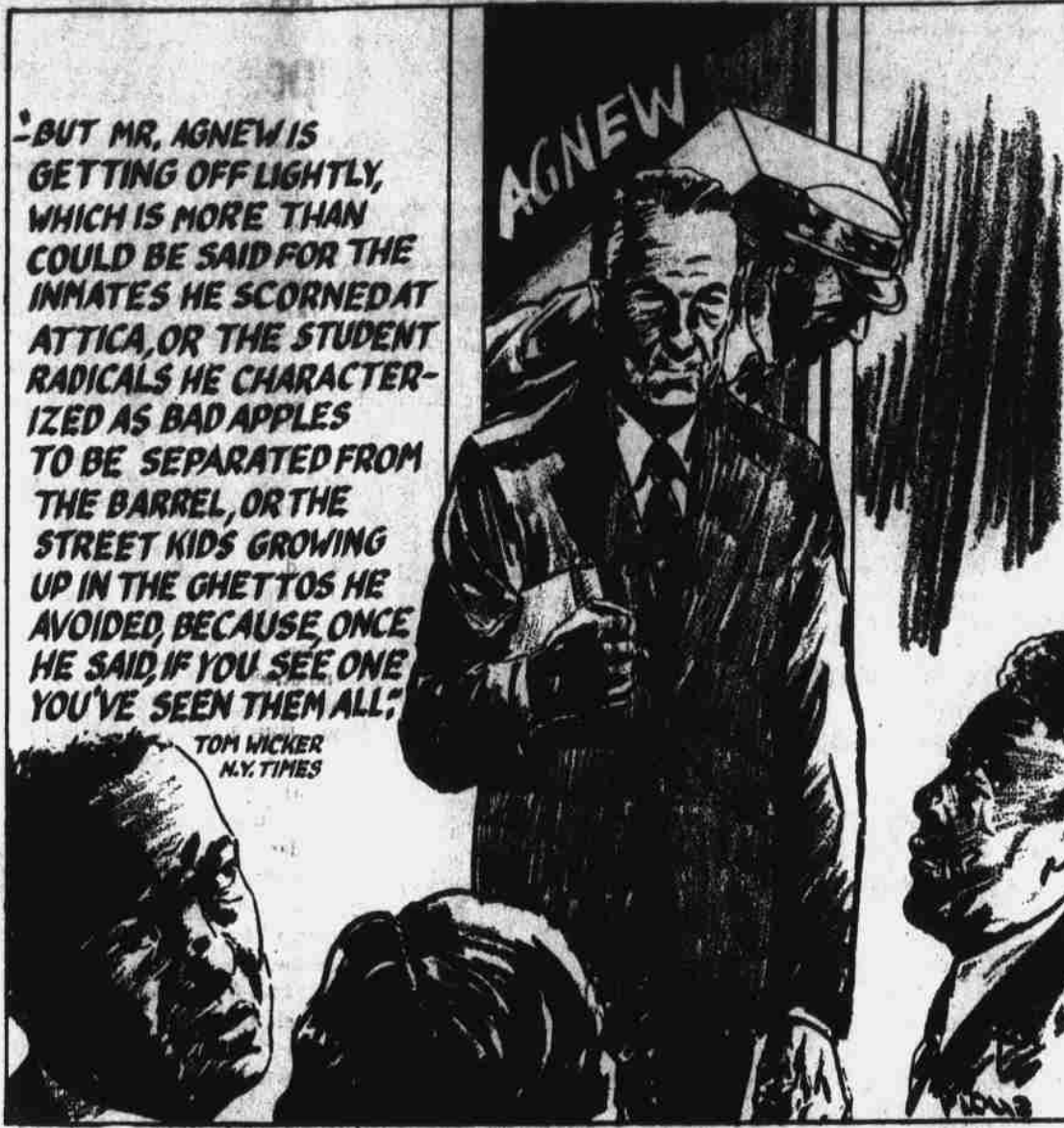
Just as the charges against Mr. Agnew corroded faith in the government, his light sentence has corroded faith in the system of criminal justice. I myself don't feel that anything would be served by locking the man up, but then justice is rarely served by locking anyone up, except perhaps for the most retrograde and violent criminals. If anything good at all is to come out of this shameful story, it is for the country to learn to extend the leniency given Mr. Agnew to the faceless thousands of accused persons whose crimes were less than his and whose fate has been far, far worse.

The \$64,000 Question

What made Senator Stennis, D Mississippi, who did not have the moral courage to speak out in the Emmett Till, Medgar Evers, Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner murders, as well as the Courts of his state, who made such a mockery of justice in those trials, to have come by suddenly such unusual wisdom that he was better qualified than the Federal District Judges, the 7 Court of Appeals Judges and the 9 U.S. Supreme Court Justices to hear the president tapes?

Certainly he has no experience in electronics and he is not even familiar with the nature of the Prosecutor's case by his own admission.

Upon what meat has this our Stennis, fed that he has grown so great?



ROY WILKINS SAYS

Executive Secretary of NAACP



SOMETHING WRONG

Something is terribly, almost irretrievably wrong when black teenage boys can look on calmly, or gleefully, while a young white woman, at their threats and direction, burns to death practically before their eyes.

The country read with a sickening shock of the vicious, hateful, horrible burning-to-death of Evelyn Wagner, 24, on a Boston, Mass., street. It seems that the young woman had moved to Boston only a few weeks ago to live with five girl friends. She was returning to her stalled car with two gallons of gasoline when she was accosted by six teenage black youths.

Before she died in a Boston hospital, Miss Wagner said she was made to douse herself with gasoline by threats of bodily harm. Someone tossed a lighted match at her and flames quickly enveloped her body. She ran to a liquor store and an ambulance was called, but she died with multiple burns.

Miss Wagner told police that she had been warned by the blacks to leave the neighborhood.

She was told "they" didn't want whites in the Dorchester section along the borders of Roxbury, a Negro slum area.

Police authorities were said to be disappointed at the lack of cooperation they were receiving from the public. "Her street is a well-lighted one and it was early evening, not a late hour. Somebody must have seen something," said a city official.

As is usually the case, Negroes are being interviewed by the media and are saying the same old things. One man was talking about how long the neighborhood has been trying to get proper recreation for the isolated housing project.

No one, apparently, has impressed upon these and other excuse-makers that a woman has been murdered. Murder, except for morons, changes everything. It is no longer a threat of bodily harm. It is bodily harm carried to the death degree. It is no longer a prank, a smirking joke. It is not even a racial hatred thing, for even haters are sobered by murder.

As for the defenses (all to a degree true) about racial discrimination, about slum living, about being persecuted everywhere—none of these warrants committing murder.

Somebody ought to tell the young killers that driving people out of neighborhoods does not call for beating or killing. And who told these young deadly city planners and sociologists that whites were not wanted in the area? Who told them to kill to enforce this ban?

Reverse racism is here with all the vengeance of a lynching.

We can't be returning to that, and surely not at the behest of young black hoodlums who think killing is something one does perhaps as a joke and then goes casually about his regular business.

What kind of youngsters are these who can watch a woman burn to death? Has our world, whites as well as blacks, built a monster that can gloat as the flames spread? And we who tolerate it—are we lost, too?

Horror upon horrors! A white fisherman was stoned to death. Black teenagers threw the stones. In Boston, the familiar litanies begin again: "We are discriminated against because we are black..."

But did no one, your mother, your minister, your priest, ever tell you that nothing, absolutely nothing, excuses deliberate cold-blooded murder?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



For more than a week I have been trying to decide whether Governor Holshouser desired my resignation from the Secondary Roads Council or whether in fact I had been fired from that body.

I had no idea until Wednesday, October 10, that anything was wrong. On that date, I received a call from Mr. Robert Vaughn, with whom I previously served on the Highway Commission and who is now a member of the Board of Transportation. I was informed by Mr. Vaughn that the Governor desired my resignation because of my support for Frank Rouse for Chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party. At that time, I informed Mr. Vaughn that I had not openly supported Mr. Rouse but I had originally told the Governor before my appointment that I intended to vote for Frank Rouse for State Chairman if I were a delegate to the State Convention. Since I had not violated any promises to the Governor, I told Mr. Vaughn that I did not intend to resign until evidence which the Governor had considered in asking for my resignation was presented to me. Mr. Vaughn

called me again within approximately one hour and stated that he had talked to the Governor and that the Governor said he had been told that I had been openly supporting Frank Rouse and that each of my county advisors that I had appointed (in my Highway Division) were "hand-picked" Rouse people and according to Mr. Vaughn, the Governor said he had also been told that I would be Frank Rouse's Third District Floor Manager at the State Convention. I told Mr. Vaughn that I was not guilty of these rumors and that I would not follow the footsteps of our beloved Vice President and plead nolo contendere. My final conversation on that date was to say that I felt that if the Governor appointed me to this job that he should be the one to relieve me.

For several days I attempted to contact Mr. Bruce Lentz, Secretary of Transportation, by telephone, but he did not return my calls nor did anyone else in authority contact me. Finally, on October 17, at approximately 3:00 p.m., Mr. Lentz accepted my call and I talked to him at length. I asked to be apprised of the situation

and Mr. Lentz said that he was not aware of my status. However, at approximately 7:00 p.m. on the same date, I was informed by the News & Observer via telephone that my successor had been named. Even after all that had transpired, it was somewhat of a shock, but most of all, I was embarrassed and hurt because the Governor, with whom I have talked with so many times, never bothered to call me.

I still maintain that I am not guilty of anything because I have never violated any pledge or promise to the Governor. I wish my successor Godspeed and good luck, and I wish to thank all of my friends in Johnston County, the Fourth Highway Division, and the Third Congressional District, including Democrats, who have called to express their concern, confidence and support; also, especially on the Secondary Roads Council: Malcolm Perry, Goldsboro; Elbert Balkam, Wilson; Joe Graylie, Tarboro; Jerrill Cobb, Nashville; T. A. Merritt, Jr., Roanoke Rapids; A. C. "Bo" House, Scotland Neck; Wade Pridden, Jackie Murdock, Paul Anderson, Creighton Overton, and Owen

I am the father of three daughters and one son. Recently I have become increasingly aware of a burgeoning problem which apparently is going to affect not only my own daughters but the daughters of most, if not all, of the black readers of this newspaper.

The question I have begun pondering has to do with whom the black women in America will marry. We naturally assume that they will marry—most of them—black men.

But it appears to me that black America's domestic tranquility is due for a rude shock which is bound to come when the daughters of most of us make their selections known.

What am I talking about? How is it that we expose our daughters to ballet, piano, cello, theater, Great Books, voice lessons, et cetera, et ad infinitum and stand idly by while they "take up" with the sons of our neighbors and friends who care little or nothing, for the most part, for the arts, or sophisticated conversation on subjects directed to high planes.

These are the boys that we see shooting basketballs until nearly midnight in backyards and in community centers. These are the black boys who play any kind of ball and who do it well, but who find it difficult to explain lucidly what the rules of the game are.

Some blacks excuse this phenomenon by saying this is the "way of the world"—that it is not unique or peculiar to the black bourgeoisie.

But I insist that while all boys may naturally be inclined toward the out-of-doors, sports activities, and physical activity, it seems to me that far, far, too many black males, even those who achieve excellence in their vocations and academia are short when one looks at their overall competence as would-be intellectuals.

How can black women who have been oriented to cultural activities as hobbies and avocations achieve domestic harmony in their homes when their spouses depreciate and condemn music unless it is rhythm and blues, denigrate drama unless it is "Super Fly" and decry conversation unless it is directed towards the sports page and/or Saturday night at the club?

I have watched with some pain the way that black women are cultivated, educated, and groomed into articulate, sophisticated creatures while their male counterparts are left to their own devices—in short to "grow up like Topsy." And if they somehow manage to "get over" the hump, they are certain that they were right in the first place—that the arts are the finest of education not the substance. And that they exist for little girls and women while they serve as corrupters of little boys and are the fit pursuits for effeminate men who may not be able to make it in the masculine world.

I have watched recently an artistic series in the black community where, for every fifteen women who entered the doors, one black man made his appearance.

And if it is true that the girls go where the boys are, you can determine for yourselves what the status of the performing arts is among our people.

Etheridge. I certainly hope that my expression of appreciation will not have any adverse effect on any of these good people. Rudolph Jones, Sr.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: I am following the mental prompts and the dictates of my heartfelt interest to write a letter concerning a court trial of a youth from Queens, New York, charged with robbery, etc., and given a one-year sentence. Results of the trial appeared in the Durham Morning Herald Sept. 21.

To my delight, the young man's lawyer, Kenneth Spaulding, did not reprimand the youth in the presence of his grieving parents, but gave wholesome advice, much needed today.

Lawyer Spaulding told the court "his client lost control and got away from the way he had been raised," as the young man's parents wept.

Another point of interest, the young man didn't want "a trial to vindicate himself for something he had done that he knew was wrong, but wanted a chance to rehabilitate himself." I am convinced that Lawyer Spaulding's advice helped this young man to make the decision, "he wanted a chance to rehabilitate himself."

It is up to all to adopt the same philosophy by giving words of hope to our youth today.

I pray fervently that when they are released from their confinement they will not enter a cold world, shunned by society and all doors closed when the attempt is made to secure a job.

The words of the Blessed Savior come to my mind when He spoke to those who wished to stone the woman because of her sins. He said, "he who is among you without sin cast the first stone." All stones were dropped to the ground.

It is true that people are compensated when they are helping in the shaping of our society and of tomorrow's world.

Mrs. Parepa B. Watkins

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