

Thursday, January 16, 1969

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Goodbye, To All That

They gave him a standing ovation as he said goodbye this week and the air was filled with nostalgia. Lyndon Baines Johnson, who has, for the past five years, been the most powerful man in the world, enjoyed every minute of it as the Congress, the Supreme Court and a House Chamber filled with dignitaries stood and applauded.

He called it a State of the Nation address, but where others before him simply sent the message to Congress, the great showman delivered it in person before a television audience numbering in the millions.

There can be no question but that Lyndon Johnson has served his country. For 38 years he has been connected with the federal government as an employee, a Congressman, a Senator, the Vice President and President. He held the country together during a tragic time in November of 1963 and many of the things he attempted to accomplish, were perhaps, in his mind, for the good of the country.

It will be left to historians of the future to evaluate his contributions. Today, one can only express a short range view.

But, regardless of the tear-jerking address and the sentimental parting of the leader and his subjects in the Congress, the short view shows that Lyndon Johnson fell far short of the greatness he envisioned for himself.

Perhaps it might have been the same had someone else been at the head. Maybe the times are to be blamed. It could be that this country was due the upheaval and tragedy it now suffers. This may be the kindest thing history will record for the Texan. Chances are he will be credited with the racial strife, the tragic war in

Vietnam, the fall of the American dollar and the decline in patriotism.

If history finds that he did not instigate these things, surely it must record that he did little to alter them. He promised minority groups Utopia and, when he could not produce, as could have no one else, he allowed riots and looting and disorder to take over and piously said that he understood the feeling.

He watched stunned into inaction, as American prestige fell to an all-time low throughout the world. The insult at the hands of North Korea and the childishness of the Paris fiasco alone are enough to brand him unfavorably in the pages of history.

He kept noticeably quiet as mobs took over colleges and universities across the country and as the hippies disrupted his own Democratic Convention—an affair that he did not attend because it is no longer safe for the President to move about the country.

His greatest claim to historical fame must come from the manner in which he handled the Congress in 1964 and 1965. It did this every bidding and in many instances has done so since. His charm and his political savvy got his bills passed into law but most of the bureaucrats he named to enforce them will forever be hung around his neck.

History may treat the outgoing President much kinder than we, but as he goes and as the goodbyes are said, it is the wrecking of so many of the wonders of this republic which we must remember. Hopefully, as we say goodbye to LBJ, we might also say, as did Robert Graves in his book, "Goodbye To All That."

No Honor, A Disgrace

There is a movement afoot to have January 15 of each year made a national holiday in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born on that date in 1929. New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller has signed a petition to be presented to incoming President Richard Nixon requesting that this be done. Civil rights advocates and other friends and followers of the late Negro leader are also working on petitions.

Following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, there was a rash of re-naming of buildings, bridges, airports, schools and even cities in honor of the slain leader. This might have been proper, although many think it paid him little honor and served no particularly useful purpose.

There has been no public move to have Kennedy's birthday declared a national holiday. Did King do more for his country?

Harry Truman's birthday is not a national holiday. He brought this country through the biggest war in history and made the awesome decision to launch the atomic age. Did King do more?

Dwight Eisenhower led this nation's forces to the successful invasion of France and ultimately to the victory in Europe. He brought peace to the Korean War. His birthday is not a national holiday. Did King do more?

Franklin Roosevelt brought the nation from the depths of the greatest depression in its history, carried it from the pits of despair after Pearl Harbor to set up the greatest fighting force the world has ever seen. He is not so honored. Did King do more?

Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Woodrow Wilson, John Pershing, Thomas Edison, Patrick Henry, Dan

Webster, Henry Ford, the Wright Brothers, Samuel F. B. Morse, Alexander Bell, Nathan Hale, Charles A. Lindbergh. None of these are honored nationally on their birthday. Surely, King's most ardent admirers cannot honestly compare his deeds with those of these and so many other great Americans.

It is right and proper that his followers honor his memory for as long as they wish. It is not that King was controversial nor that his skin was black. So long as men who have contributed so much more to this nation, it is neither fair nor proper that he be singled out for an honor not afforded others.

It is hoped that this country will recognize this fact and will not now or ever, take a course which would place Dr. Martin Luther King or any other such person ahead of the truly great in the history of this country.

It would be no honor to him. It would be a disgrace to the others who have contributed so much to this nation.

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Ladybird Johnson, wife of the President: "If there is anything I'm sorry about, it is that I didn't do, the opportunities that I passed up, and not the things I did do."

Lyndon Johnson, President: "The Republicans told me often enough, no political party has a monopoly on ideas."

W. Averell Harriman, head of the U.S. delegation in Paris talks: "We have started on the road toward peace in 1968 and voice hope that forthcoming negotiations in Paris will lead to an end to the fighting in Vietnam in 1969."

Will We Lift Man Off The Earth, Yet Not Lift Him Out Of Poverty?



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Soul City And Civil Rights

Durham Morning Herald

Soul City, N. C., is an intriguing idea. Floyd McKissick's concept of a planned Negro community, to provide opportunities for Negroes in employment and business, should not, however, be surprising. It is an amplification of the plan he advocated when head of the Congress of Racial Equality for setting up Negro cooperatives; it is a microcosm of the black nation envisioned by some of the black radicals; and it is not inconsistent with President-elect Nixon's plan of "black capitalism" for improving the economic opportunities in the Negro ghettos of the big cities, though it is more decidedly racist.

Despite Mr. McKissick's statement that Soul City will "not be limited to members of one race," his plans, as he outlined them to reporters, indicate that it will be essentially a black community, controlled by blacks: "McKissick Enterprises (the firm which will develop the proposed town in Warren County, near Manson) will help in establishing any sound business ventures as long as they are controlled primarily by black people and operate for the benefit of black

people," he is quoted as saying.

Soul City, then, is really a move toward segregation and away from the desegregated community. It raises the question of how government agencies can legally, under the civil rights legislation, provide aid for a development which is essentially a segregated development, albeit initiated by blacks. And it raises the further question of whether organizations of white people which wish to do so may not establish essentially white communities, to provide opportunities for the employment of whites and, to paraphrase Mr. McKissick's vision of Soul City, developments which will be "controlled primarily by white people and operate for the benefit of white people." If the government assists in the establishment of a segregated Negro community, how can it consistently prohibit the establishment of segregated white communities?

Not only is Soul City an intriguing idea but it also raises pertinent questions as to the future of integration and the blacks' true desires in race relations.

From The Office Of

Congressman Fountain

Curious Situation

Washington, D. C. . . A curious situation developed recently in the Washington area that you might not have read or heard about but which I think is of interest in our district.

This involved the schools in Prince Georges County, Maryland. Prince Georges County adjoins the District of Columbia on its eastern border and shares a considerable amount of common border with the District.

The eastern portion of the District of Columbia has a population almost 100 per cent Negro and this same population ratio holds true for the adjoining area in Prince Georges County.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, according to undisputed reports in Washington's newspapers, ordered the county back in August to close two high schools and two elementary schools attended by Negro students and transfer them to other schools quite some distance from their neighborhoods.

These directions, plus the fact that the county was ordered to agree to a plan acceptable to H.E.W. by December 31, were not made public until more than two months later.

By some coincidence, the day the public learned what H.E.W. had in mind, H.E.W.

said it was withdrawing its proposals. It also said it was dropping the December 31 deadline for the county to agree to a desegregation plan.

The only explanation given was that H.E.W.'s legal staff, in reviewing the plans, decided that the schools to which the pupils would be transferred were already overcrowded.

The legal staff instead asked the county for detailed information on school enrollments, school boundaries, bus routes and the like, some of it going back over the last 13 years.

The net result will be that nothing will be changed in the Prince Georges County school system this year.

There are several observations that can be made about this.

One is that Prince Georges County has de facto segregation -- that is, segregation resulting primarily from housing patterns and/or geographical barriers -- in a large area (some 12 square miles) bordering the District of Columbia. The Supreme Court has not yet declared this illegal or unconstitutional.

Another observation is that H.E.W. has, by withdrawing its order, recognized for the time being at least, that de facto segregation cannot be arbitrarily abolished



"It's got a funny noise under the hood. Every time I turn to the right, it sounds like it's going left. Can you fix it?" The question sounded sensible to me. After all the blame thing wouldn't half run. Why did the mechanic have such a dumb look on his face?

"When did you first notice the trouble", he asked.

"The day we drove it out of your show room", we said. "It started just as soon as we signed the papers. It run good when you drove me around in it."

"You should have reported it then. The guarantee was still good then. Could have done something about it then. Sorry."

"Hey, wait a minute," we said. "I just bought the thing yesterday. When did the guarantee run out?"

"What time yesterday?" he asked. "Well, about noon," we said. "Before or after?" he countered. "Well, I don't know. It was before I had it, but before heartburn set in. Must have been close to noon. What difference does it make?"

"It's important. If it was before noon, your guarantee has run out. If it was after, you've still got about ten minutes left and I can't possibly do no work to it in that little bit of time."

"Well, look, how about looking at it. Forget the guarantee. Just see if you can fix it and how much it will cost."

"I'd really like to, but this is my lunch hour. I can't work during my lunch hour. I ain't punched in. Come back in ten minutes."

"I ain't got time to come back in ten minutes. Ain't there somebody here who can see what's wrong with it now?"

"Well, Joe there in the back might could. If you'll come back in ten minutes, I'll ask him. I can't do no work until I'm punched in." What an idea that gave me. But, no, not yet. Don't care how tempting it is, I will not strike my fellowman in anger. For fun, maybe, but not in anger.

Walking to the rear of the garage, I approached Joe. "Joe, I said, "My car got a curious noise in it and I was wondering . . .". "Look, mister, folks around here address me as Mr. Clambottom. Only my closest friends call me Joe. Now start over. What wuz you saying?"

"I was just asking, Joe . . . eh, I mean Mr. Clam-what-ever-you-said, if you could take a look at my car?"

"You got a appointment?"

"Appointment? Appointment for what?" I asked, getting a wee bit fretted. "You can't talk to us mechanics unless you got a prior appointment. We got our rights and we got feelings, same as anybody else. Everybody always think they can just drive right in and walk right up and ask foolish questions. We're here to work. Not to answer foolish questions. Now, if you want a appointment, see my secretary. She'll be back in about a hour."

"Look, whatever your name is", I bellowed, "I bought this thing here. The ads say to bring it home for service. Now, I want to see the boss."

"You can't, he said walking away. "Why?", I asked.

"Cause he's busy with a prospect. Look him up when you get ready to trade."

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including even its legal staff, ever discovering that any school is "overcrowded," or that the primary job of the education department is to help educate, or that forced integration will not result in quality education?

If they have learned these facts of life in many communities, they haven't seen fit to publish them. However, I am hopeful that the 91st Congress will have the foresight and intestinal fortitude and enough interest in the education of the most precious product we grow -- our children -- to tell H.E.W. where to get off and the President, too, if he starts pussyfooting and playing politics.

School Lunches

The Agriculture Department has announced revised school lunch program payments designed to provide more free or reduced rates for an estimated one million children living in poor homes. Congress has authorized \$43-million for this program.

Astronaut Rescue

A treaty for the rescue and recovery of astronauts who landed outside their own country has been formally proclaimed in effect by President Johnson. The agreement, signed by more than 75 countries,

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