Your Award Winning County Newspaper

Thursday, August 21, 1969

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Education, The Important Thing

Parents of children attending the Franklinton City school system this fall will be facing the same period of adjustment as parents of children who attended the County system last year. Needless to say, a period of greater adjustment will be faced by the children themselves.

The announcement that HEW has approved and the Franklinton Board has adopted a plan of total integration came today. There is, as expected, a great deal of dissatisfaction among parents of school-age children. Many have already or will soon enroll their offsprings in private schools. Parents of some first graders have expressed intentions of holding their children out of school at least for this year. This is the way of things in this country today.

The County system has been plagued for years by the courts. The Franklinton system has had its problems with HEW. Although the two systems took different routes, both have now arrived at the same destination. Both have reached this point because of outside pressures. HEW bureaucrats have been as relentless in their pursuit of the Franklinton School Board as the Justice Department has been in its efforts against the County Board. The end was inevitable for both.

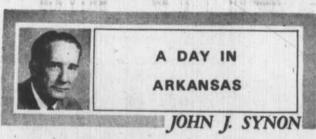
It is unnecessary to point out that total integration is the interpretation of the law. This has been widely publicized. And now in the Franklinton system-as in the past in the

County unit-it is not so much that the people would defy the law. It is the fact that the laws seems to mean different things to different sections of the country. While Franklinton parents ponder the future of their children's education, parents in neighboring counties continue with freedom of choice and small tokenism.

Just why freedom of choice is legal in some areas but not acceptable in Franklin remains one of the deep mysteries of life. Just why Franklin has come to the end of the integration wars well ahead of sister school systems in other areas few, if any, under-

However, when schools open this fall, Franklin County will be one of the few counties in the country with all schools totally integrated. They say others will follow. Last year this was to happen this year. This year, they say, it is to happen by next year.

Regardless, of what other systems might do, Franklin must face up to the realities. Neither School Board would have planned the transition from a dual system to a unitary one exactly as the courts and HEW have important thing to parents here.



As my friend pushed himself under the steering wheel, his right heel brushed the big. black .45 strapped against the seat's upright.

My eye caught the movement as his eye caught the startled expression on my

"We don't go out any more without a gun," my friend said, by way of explanation. "Not in this part of Arkansas. There have been several incidents."

The journey was to be a short one, a mile, from the Marvell fair grounds where a barbecue was in progress to the new school house I had asked to see

"Things are really getting tight," my companion told me as we arrived. "Between

the federal courts and the NASCP, they mean to crush us and we don't really know what to do exactly - except The school was no great shakes, not if one were to

compare it to tax-bought, public schools. But the pride and love so evident in the timbre of my friend's voice changed the one-story, 12-room brick building into a veri-table palace. This was their very own, they had built it for their children, indepen-dent of the public schools and (they hoped) indepen-dent of the federal government. And (they hoped) nobody could tell them how to

operate it.
"We built it for a hundred-thousand dollars, all of it; land, equipment, every-

thing."
"How much do you still

My friend seemed to savor his reply: "Twenty-seven hundred more and she's

Marvell, Arkansas, is located about 75 miles south and a bit west of Memphis. It is cotton country; no rain, no cotton; no cotton, no life worth the living. It is an elementary land. Its people

believe in God, and they believe in good and in evil, in the United States of America, and in the boll weevil. And they believe in social segregation of the races; blacks as

well as whites believe in that. "Ninety per cent of the people of this country, black and white, don't want the races mixed up in the schools but that doesn't matter. They are going to do it any - they say.

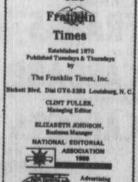
I rather doubt they will, or if they do, not for long. And, I gather, the federal judge who rules the area is developing doubts, too. One suspects he has come to question the insistent counsel he has been getting from the NAACP.

"Over in the next town", my friend went on, "they had a man - a white man, think of that - go around to all the white parents, asking them please, wouldn't they send their children to integrated school, this fall.

"And they got some to say would. It costs \$400, you know, to send a child

"They told them not to worry, that the white children would be brought in se-

The



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done. However, once done, the quicker Franklin parents accept it as a way of life; the sooner they show ville to petition for the impeachment determination to make the best of it; of President Richard M. Nixon is one and the sooner they and their children of those exercises in futility that reach an adjustment to the new ways, the sooner education in the county will start the long trip back. And after all, education of the children is the

parate busses and would be

taught in a separate building.

They told'em the whites and

the coloreds would have se

parate recess times and that

they would begin school and

end school at different times

ing to do in September, so

they say. But you watch. The NAACP ain't going to put up with that. Once they get

those white kids on the lot,

"You ever put six cats in

thought I knew what he

"And that will spread".
"How far?", I wanted to

"Got me; it will be like

six-thousand cats in a sack

That's the best I can tell you.

They can crush us, and we expect they will. And then the trouble will quiet down."

bring troops to Arkansas again, you will quit?"

"No, sir. They will bring the troops, all right, but we won't quit. They will just crush us."

thing?"

"But isn't that the same

No, sir. Quitting and be-

ing tied up are two different

things. They are just going to have to hold us. They can do that but that's all they can

do. Maybe, one day, they will

get tired and turn us loose. But we will never quit".

Anti-submarine Planes

The Navy has awarded the Lockheed Aircraft Corpora-tion a potential \$3.2-billion

program to build a fleet of advanced antisubmarine war-fare planes capable of dealing

fare planes capable of dealing with a growing Soviet sub-marine threat. It's the first

new major aircraft program the Nixon Administration has

pushed toward production.

And they never will.

"You think then, if they

they will lock the door on

lump 'em all together".

'And then what?"

"That's what they are go-

of day. Not to worry.

preme Court decision of 1954. Of course, President Nixon cannot do that. We don't think he would if he could. But recalling some of his Southern campaign statements in 1968, especially those in Charlotte, and the ardent support he got from Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, one can perhaps understand how some people may have been led to believe that he would take that course.

That movement up around States-

deserves notice only because it is a

sign of a certain Southern frustration.

because the President has not halted

desegregation of the schools as they

were led to believe he would. These

are people who voted for him in the

belief that he would reverse the Su-

Leaders of the movement are angry

It is interesting that the story of the Statesville impeachment petition came the same day that the opinion pollsters reported a low ebb in the Nixon popularity. The disillusionment was sharpest in the South and East, clearly, however, for different reasons. The unpopular war in Vietnam, which Nixon obviously does not know how to bring to a satisfactory close, is a big reason for the waning popularity which always follows a presidential honeymoon period.

In the South, however, the racial issue is surely the prevailing one. There are diehards who cannot as yet accept the fact that the Supreme Court said that separate schools are I said I had not but I inherently unequal, and cannot have the sanction of law

It may well be that some of the Nixon administrators are more concerned with sociological factors than with the entire educational picture and have taken some very shortsighted positions in regard to local school situations. Nevertheless, neither they, nor Nixon, nor anyone else can return to the status quo of a quarter-century

'There They Are - The Poor Man's Only Loophole'

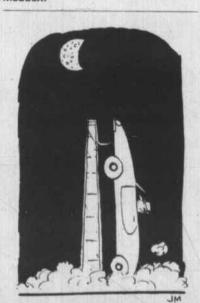
WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Impeach President Nixon

The (Southern Pines) Pilot

MATERNITY WARD

The "Impeach Dick Nixon" movement may be well grounded in frustration and disillusionment, but it's not likely to get far beyond the borders of Iredell or to generate much more than a raised ax handle salute from Lester Maddox.





I'd been knocking on the blame door for seemed like hour. I felt like folks passing by thought I was trying to break in. I won't. There wasn't nothing in Melvin Smudgen's house I wanted. Except that is maybe, to talk to old Mel awhile to while away some time. I hadn't seen him in nearly two weeks

I banged away again after a car passed and slowed and the tail lights lit up. I thought for a time that the driver was gonn stop. I was glad when he didn't. It was a police car.

I kept thinking I was hearing a voice from inside the house but I couldn't be sure. I started to yell. "Cussit", I yelled. That's his nickname. I ain't gonna tell you how he got it. "Cussit, you in there", I yelled again.

I could a swore I heard a voice from inside. I banged again, Finally I tried the door knob. Don't know why I hadn't thought of that sooner. It worked. It opened the door. How about that. A door-knob that opens the door. What won't they

I poked my head inside. "Cussit, you in here", I asked, could still hear that wee voice coming from somewhere, started to look around. I went in the living room, the dining room, the kitchen-all them was the same room, actually. took a real chance. I peeped in the bathroom. No Cussit.

Finally I tapped on the bedroom door. I heard a noise. This time I didn't mess around. I turned the knob right away.
Won't no sense wasting time. "Cussit, you in here in the dark!",

That wee small voice said, "Yeah, Frank, I'm over here!", Over where I was wondering. "Where's the light cord, Cussit", I asked. "Ain't got one", said the wee small voice, "You got to turn the bulb. It's hanging in the middle of the room. Bam. I found it. That is, my head found it. I screwed it in. It worked. But Let'll couldn't see no sign of Custic Park. But I still couldn't see no sign of Cussit.

"Give me a clue, Cussit. Yell out. So's I can find you. Am I getting hot?'

"No, Frank. I'm under here. Over this way. The bed, Frank". I looked under the bed. No Cussit. I was getting mighty peeved when I saw his big toe hanging from in between

"Cussit, what in tar-nation are you doing hiding between them feather beds? Ain't nobody but me here. I ain't gonna hurt you. What're you scared of, Cussit. Git out of there".

'I can't, Frank. Ain't you heard the news? There's a storm, Frank. And I'm scared of storms. Don't stand in front of that door, Frank. Lightning might hit you". Lightning might hit me nside the house cause I'm standing in front of a door?

"Cussit, don't be silly. There ain't no storm. The stars are shining and it's a beautiful night. It don't even look like rain. Now come out from between them feather beds and take that silly wet rag off your head".

He stuck just his head out. "Frank, I heard on the radio just awhile ago that a storm was expected to hit someplace and



was gonna be ready. I close all the doors and windows and cut off the ice box and unplugged all the light cords and got between the feather beds. And if you're smart, you'll get in here with me". Smart, yes. Get between two feather beds with Cussit, I'm not.

I'm gonna stand here talking to a feather bed. Now git out of

"Frank, I hope you won't think I'm unneighborly but I can't come out right now. I ain't coming out until the storm is over. And I wish you'd either get in here with me or go home. It ain't a fit night out for nobody.

"Cussit, I keep telling you, there ain't no storm here. Where did'you hear such a report?"

The river, Frank. The radio said the winds would blow and the storm would come up the river". Just then a car whizzed by and Cussit ducked back between the feather beds. "What river?" I asked him as if I was interested

"I don't know, Frank. It just said the river and we got a river and now go on home and let me weather the storm

I thought the least I could do was leave him to enjoy his

Try This One For A Few Laughs

In The Charlotte Observer
"Don't try it," 15-year-old
Nora Ruffcorn of La Jolla,
Calif., told a newsman. "Tell
them what it's like and tell
them not to try anything."
Nora and three other teenagers tried something just
for kicks. After rolling up the
windows of their car, they
opened a container of nitrous
oxide, better known as the
dentist's pain killer, laughing
gas.

Two of Nora's companions are dead. She was in a coma for three weeks, and doctors say she could be an invalid for life. Eight weeks after the incident, Nora is trying to learn agains how to eat and how to walk by herself. It began just -Es a lark,

Nora said. The four teen-ers didn't know that pure trous oxide is lethal if inha for more But none out, just than 10 mir bothered to as many to find out what will ha to their brain and ner system when they sniff or the contents of se

Laughing gas. But body's laughing. Not the it illes of the two who are de Not the invalided Nors. I Nora's boy friend, who a made violently ill and a pleaded guilty to two coun of manslaughter.

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