

THE PILOT

Southern Pines North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

School Legislation: Whistling In The Dark

Saturday's press conference at Raleigh, when Governor Hodges and Attorney General Rodman revealed and commented on the tentative school legislation that will be introduced before next week's special session of the General Assembly, was one of the saddest occasions we have ever attended.

While our apprehension of this sadness may have been exaggerated by our grave doubts as to both the effectiveness and the legality of the proposals, we think even an objective appraisal of the occasion would have sensed the oppressive atmosphere of gloom that hung in the old House chamber as the Attorney General intoned the fateful words that would make it possible—yes, even easy—for the people legally to destroy their own schools.

Now and then, the Governor, like a nervous mother at a children's party that is not going well, broke into smiles and noddings that were reflected nowhere that we could see in the assembled audience. The single Negro in the chamber sat motionless, expressionless and totally unresponsive throughout the conference, as though the proceedings were being conducted in a foreign language.

Answering questions as to details of the legislation, the Attorney General was forceful, didactic and occasionally, it seemed to us, petulant. The Governor, commenting on the whole program, was expansive, sincere and determinedly optimistic.

"Whistling in the dark," was the comment of one reporter on the Governor's presentation, as the conference broke up.

In his arguments for the proposed legislation that would allow local units to close schools by a vote of the people and makes it possible to set up private schools for children whose parents don't want them to attend schools with members of another race, the Governor made a strangely negative appeal.

At least, he said in effect, we are NOT making it possible to close the schools state-wide by state action. That will be up to each community. The bills, he said, are "safety valves"—they DON'T mean we are necessarily going to do these things.

He used the word "hope" several times—we hope no schools will have to be closed.

We are NOT defying the Supreme Court, he said. The Supreme Court did NOT say that any child has to attend a mixed school.

Certain words were not heard at all during the conference: compliance, cooperation, good faith.

What was being discussed, one realized as the conference continued, was not how to get something done but how NOT to do something. Except to a certain degree in the Governor's strained, defensive plea for the program, there was no lift, no warmth, no brightness—one might even say no love—in evidence. One felt oneself in the presence of plotters rather than planners. And there was that big blank from which all speculation was averted: what do Negroes, who constitute a quarter of the Governor's constituents, feel about all this? Does any one know? Does any one care?

The sadness of the present outlook emerges as irony, after some reflection.

Since May 17, 1954, when the first Supreme Court school segregation decision was announced, school administrators and officials on the local level have suspended almost all action and discussion, pending formulation of policy at the state level. Inquiries from reporters and editors as to progress or planning almost always have brought forth the reply that local units of course can't do much along that line: the State pays teachers and is studying the matter, so local action is useless until policy on

the State level is known.

Now the policy is known and, lo and behold, if the State has not thrown the responsibility back on the local school administrative units! What local units do now means everything. In effect the State has no policy, except to permit local units to wrestle with their own problems, voting to close or open schools as the case may be. Even the money the State proposes to provide to send children of dissenting parents to private schools is admittedly not enough per child and there is every prospect that parents choosing this method of educating their child will have to dig down and help foot the bill.

So, instead of having their problems answered for them on the State level, as they so fondly hoped, local school unit officials and administrators are now saddled with more complex and vexing problems than they had ever dreamed they would have. On reading the proposed legislation, it takes little imagination to grasp what fantastic conglomerations of elections, counter-elections, and economic and political pressures might be generated in the local school districts.

The irony of the matter is that local school unit administrators, who for the past two years have been so scornful of suggestions for inter-racial planning and discussion of segregation problems, now find themselves HAVING to deal with communities that are for the most part unprepared to cope with their responsibilities, except by following the crude and radical method of closing a school.

Since on both the local and State levels, Negro participation in planning has not been widely sought during the past two years, Negro cooperation now will be less freely given. And the experience of communities everywhere is that no real progress is made in meeting school segregation problems until there is close cooperation and sincere attempts at mutual understanding between whites and Negroes. The proposed policy does nothing to foster such cooperation and understanding.

At Saturday's conference and on other occasions, Governor Hodges has said that critics of the State's proposed program should give their alternatives and he respectfully recognized the 12-point program advanced by Irving Carlyle, Winston-Salem attorney, as at least presenting a positive alternative.

We are much taken with Mr. Carlyle's observations which boil down to the simple conviction that: "There are more people of good will in North Carolina than we know, and we can only hope that the number is larger than we think, who are willing to live within the law at this critical and difficult time. . . . A prompt start (at compliance with the Supreme Court ruling) should be made in all good faith."

Alternatives to the proposed State program must begin, we think, with that simple conviction. The ways and means could be worked out from that point. The 12-item list of ways and means advanced by Mr. Carlyle stresses two suggestions that have been advanced by The Pilot during the past two years: biracial advisory committees at local and State levels; and beginning of integration in the primary grades. An excellent suggestion is that persons of both sexes, from both races, be included on the advisory committees. With women, the welfare of children is likely to be put ahead of the oiling of legal machinery.

Whatever course is adopted, we feel that inter-racial discussion and attempts at understanding are vital to success. And whatever course is adopted, we must realize that we are still faced by the moral problem which Mr. Carlyle summed up like this: "To live with our consciences, we must be willing to let others live up to the rights given them by law."

Welcome, Jaycees

The Pilot congratulates the newly formed Junior Chamber of Commerce and welcomes it to the group of civic clubs already existing in this community.

We feel that there is plenty of room in Southern Pines for a club whose membership is limited to younger business and professional men. The Jaycees offer a medium by which the energies and ideas of younger men can be brought out and utilized for the welfare of the town.

Everywhere, the Jaycees are known as among the liveliest of civic clubs—as well they might be, with a membership restricted to young men under 36, men who for the most part are beginning their careers in the community and are anxious to prove their abilities and capacities in varied fields of endeavor.

As their first project, the Jaycees have, with the acquiescence of the formerly sponsoring Chamber of Commerce, taken over the Southern Pines Golf Carousel, the unique, "package deal" three-course golf tournament which has been held here with real but not spectacular success for the past two years.

From what we hear of the Jaycees' plans, they are going into the Carousel with great enthusiasm and are in the fortunate position of

being able to enlist the cooperation of other Jaycee organizations of the State in putting their first big project across.

Tournaments for older players have in the past few years brought hundreds of golfers to the Sandhills, so much so that this area is becoming a kind of center for "Seniors" play and competition. While the Carousel is for all ages, it is likely that the sponsorship of the Jaycees will tend to bring here many younger players, men and women. This accent on youth will be good for the Sandhills and can be expected to make friends for this area of young people who may return here to visit and play golf for many years in the future.

This same accent on youth, of course, is good for the town on the year-round local scene. We are confident the Jaycees will do their share and more for Southern Pines—having some fun and developing leaders in the process.

ON SELFISHNESS

"A society in which each is willing to surrender only that for which he can see a personal equivalent, is not a society at all; it is a group already in process of dissolution."

—Judge Learned Hand



"What's Happened To The Law of Gravity?"

UNDER PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Local Option Could Suspend Schools

One of the bills to be submitted to the General Assembly at its special session next week, subject to approval of an enabling constitutional amendment by the voters, provides for "local option to suspend operation of public schools," thereby amending the general statutes relating to education.

Excerpts from the tentative draft of the bill follow, beginning with the proposed "statement of legislative policy and purposes"—a statement which seems, in its lofty sentiments, to be somewhat contradictory to the radical proposal that would enable "local units" to close one or more of their schools by a simple majority vote in an election to be called on petition of 15 per cent of the voters in the unit:

"The General Assembly of North Carolina recognizes and hereby affirms that knowledge, morality, and adherence to fundamental principles of individual freedom and responsibility are necessary to good government; and the happiness of mankind; and further affirms that schools and the means of education ought forever to be encouraged. The value and importance of our public schools is known and acknowledged by all our people. It is further recognized that our public schools are so intimately related to the customs and feelings of the people of each community that their effective operation is impossible except in conformity with community attitudes. Our people in each community need to have a full and meaningful choice as to whether a public school, which may have some enforced mixing of the races, shall continue to be main-

tained and supported in that community. It is the purpose of this Act to provide orderly procedures, consistent with law, for the effective expression of such choice. In so doing, it is the hope of the General Assembly of North Carolina that all peoples within our State shall respect deeply-felt convictions, and that our public school system shall be continually strengthened, improved, and sustained by the support of all our citizens.

What A 'Unit' Is

"The board of education of any administrative unit may, pursuant to the provisions of this Article, suspend the operation of one or more of the public schools under its jurisdiction. For purposes of this Article, each county and city school administrative unit . . . shall constitute a local option unit; provided, however the board of education of any administrative unit may in lieu thereof, and from time to time, subdivide the administrative unit into two or more local option units; and provided further, two or more administrative units, in whole or in part, may by agreement of each respective board of education constitute a local option unit. One or more public schools shall be included within the territorial boundaries of each local option unit established by the board of education; provided that two or more types of schools may within the discretion of the board of education be included in such local option unit. . . .

Election Procedure

"Any board of education may at any time, by resolution of a majority of the members, call for an election on the question of closing the public schools within a local option unit which is under that board's jurisdiction; provided, that an election shall be

called by the board when a petition signed by at least fifteen (15%) of the registered voters residing within the local option unit is presented to the board requesting such an election. When a majority of the votes cast in such election are in favor of suspending the operation of the schools in such local option unit, the board of education shall suspend the operation of such public schools. Such suspension shall be accomplished in an orderly manner and the board of education shall take all steps necessary to preserve and protect school property during and after such closing. Any child living within a local option unit who could attend a public school in such local option unit except for the fact that operation of such school has been suspended under provisions of this Article shall not be entitled as a matter of right to attend any other public school, but in lieu thereof shall be entitled to an education expense grant. . . .

Can Vote To Reopen

"Any board of education may at any time, by resolution of a majority of the members, call for an election on the question of reopening the public schools within a local option unit which is under that board's jurisdiction; provided, that an election shall be called by the board when a petition signed by at least fifteen per cent (15%) of the registered voters residing within the local option unit is presented to the board requesting such an election. When a majority of the votes cast in such election shall be in favor of reopening the public schools in that local option unit, the board of education shall immediately proceed to take all steps necessary to accomplish such reopening at the earliest practicable date. . . ."

The Public Speaking

Submarines, Guided Missiles Offer New Threat To Nation

To The Editor:

Let us be factual. That General Twining's visit to Moscow would result in our learning anything of value pertaining to Russia's Air Force or aircraft was merely wishful thinking. Now after his "peek" at a few different models of aircraft, Congressional Committees are insisting that the General communicate to them detailed facts that are unknown to him.

The sole motive that the Russians could have in extending their invitation to our Air Force Commander and Staff was to have us concentrate our efforts on increasing the number and cost of our aircraft and air defense and to make us believe that we are vulnerable only to an attack from the air.

Why not be realistic and recognize the fact that both the United States and Soviet Russia can be laid waste by thermonuclear air attacks? The deterrent against any one country making such an attack is that the attacking na-

tion would be immediately recognized and become the object of a counter air attack.

The military leaders of the world, as history records, always believe that the "next war" will be fought along the same lines as the last war. Our readers failed to heed the statements made by Adolph Hitler in his world-wide published "Mein Kampf" as to the type of war that he planned to conduct, and disaster resulted. Following the same costly path, our administrative and military heads can now only visualize an attack from the air. By the construction of a fleet of hundreds of submarines and by their concentration on perfecting guided missiles, the Russians have published the Soviet "Mein Kampf" which we refuse to "read."

In view of the Russian submarine activities, it is inconceivable that we have constructed and are continuing to construct 65,000 ton aircraft carriers, over 1,000 feet in length with a beam of over 250 feet, and which carry crews of over 4,000. What defense have we against an attack made simul-

aneously against our coast cities by submarine launching missiles with thermonuclear warheads? Such missiles could be launched while the submarines were submerged. What defensive steps have been taken to prevent the delivery into our harbours of thermonuclear bombs, timed to be simultaneously detonated, in the holds of vessels carrying foreign flags that have been chartered by another foreign country?

Our complicated legalistic approach to disarmament and our multi-billion dollar diplomacy have both been proven to be failures and by continuing our "give away" program, we are proceeding down the economic path laid out by the Russians. A great part of the cost of the latter useless program should be extended in building an adequate defense against sneak attacks by submarines and to arrange for inspection of every vessel carrying a foreign flag for radioactive materials before any such vessel is permitted to approach or enter any of our harbors.

E. G. B. RILEY

Southern Pines

Grains of Sand

Last week's GRAINS column about the Charleston, S. C., accent, has inspired us to consideration of what might be called Sandhillese.

Moore County and the Sandhills provide a great variety of accents, in view of the fact that this is, comparatively, a recently developed section of the State. During the past 50 years, the influx of outsiders, from the North and from other sections of North Carolina and the South, has introduced so great a variety of accents that any truly "native" method of speaking is hard to pin down.

The second generation of Sandhills immigrants provide some unusual accents hereabouts. It is not unusual to hear pure Southern expressions spoken by a voice having a New England twang. Some people get to saying "Ah" for "I" but don't say "mah" for my or "pah" for pie.

Two Viewpoints

A common experience for persons born in the North who come here to live is to be accused of having a Southern accent when they go North to visit. At the same time, natives here think of these same people as talking like "Yankees."

What Northerners think is a Southern accent on the part of ex-Northerners who have been here and go back to visit is, we think, largely a matter of word usage and expressions which are very "catching." Southern language is generally more picturesque and expressive than Northern language and a Northerner often finds himself using Southern expressions freely after a stay of a few years here. Then, when he goes back, his friends accuse him of becoming completely Rebelized or Dixified or whatever you want to call it.

Characteristics

One of the outstanding characteristics of native Sandhills speech, as shown in the following "dictionary," is a tendency to make two-syllable words out of one-syllable words and vice versa. Thus, "how" may be spoken "hi you," while "orange" will be contracted to "urnge."

Here is our own dictionary of Sandhillese, subject to corrections, additions, deletions and rude comments:

I pull—The fruit that keeps the doctor away.

Wow well—That portion of a building that supports the roof, and in which windows and doors are located.

Gay you—To proceed, to be on one's way.

Shay you—An exhibition, the movies. Example of usage of these two words: Did you gay you to the shay you last night?

Owl—The entirety, everything.

By Skit Bowl—A popular winter indoor sport.

Flee you—Past tense of flah.

Bud—One of our feathered friends. Example of usage of these two words: The bud flee you to the tree.

Stow Wale—Place where goods are for sale.

House Spittle—Place where most bay buzz are bone.

My Youth—What we speak with and eat with.

Neigh Use—What we smell with.

E Your—What we hear with.

Sea Girt—Camels, Luckies, Chesterfields etc.

Shiver Lay, Ford, Buke, Pone Tack—popular makes of cows, otherwise known as automobiles, sometimes abbreviated to Ow Toe.

See Dan is the most preferred body type. Many now have tee you tay yune paint jobs.

Free Yute—Such agricultural products as pitches, purrs, I pulls, glooms, strow burrs, dee you burrs, bike burrs, urnges, lay mouns, pond I pulls, churs, gray yups, war melns and can clopes.

Dowg—Bow wow.

Kite—Meow.

Ho Warse—Neigh.

Pay You Nee—A small Ho Warse.

Me Yule—Traditional for plowing on the farm.

Chun—Lays eggs.

Ree Youster—Cock a doodle doo.

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