

Beyond The Square

On September 2, members of the Arkansas National Guard marched into Little Rock and took their places shoulder to shoulder around Central High School. Their presence by the order of Governor Orval E. Faubus set off a reaction whose effects cannot be fully measured. Faubus, by his actions, openly defied the Supreme Court and the Constitution of the United States.

A great deal of criticism has been raised against Faubus, who defends his action with Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of Arkansas: "The Governor shall be commander in chief of the military and naval forces of the state, and may call out such forces to execute the laws, suppress insurrections, repel invasions or preserve the public peace." He stated that he had two choices—to wait until violence occurred or to prevent it from happening.

Faubus' opponents say that this violence would never have occurred. Fort Smith, the second largest city in Arkansas, and Van Buren have already integrated without adverse publicity or physical violence. The Little Rock School Board proposed a well developed plan for gradual integration. The Negro students selected to enter Central High School had been carefully screened

and investigated in preparation for a smooth integration process.

The FBI investigated Faubus' claim that Little Rock was ripe for violence and found no truth to these claims.

Those who reject Faubus' insistence that he was trying to prevent violence believe rather that he was motivated purely by political reasons. Faubus is soon to be up for re-election and needed some new support. He hoped his stand on segregation would provide this support.

These political implications were partly confirmed when Faubus asked President Eisenhower to postpone Little Rock's intergration for one year. This would get Faubus past next year's Democratic primary when he hopes to be re-nominated for a third term.

In what seems to me an attempt for personal attention Gov. Faubus has done irrevocable harm not only to the Democratic Party but to the U. S. in the eyes of the world. Speaker Sam Rayburn and other Democratic leaders had worked successfully during the 85th Congress to prevent a break in the Democratic Party over civil rights. The New York Times summed up the damage done by Faubus to his party by saying that he had "knotted the civil rights albatross around the neck of the Democratic Party."

Possibly the most serious repercussions of Faubus' action will be seen in the field of foreign relations. The American public has been degraded in the eyes of the world. Premier Kadar of Hungary expressed the feeling of many of our international neighbors when he said, "Those who tolerate that a people should be persecuted because of the color of their skin have no right to preach human liberty and human rights."

—Sue Cooper and Rachel Rose

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