

EDITORIALS

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE HOUSE?

It would seem that the House of Representatives has gone all the way in repudiating the leadership of the Administration. Within the space of a few days the House voted an extension of Selective Service which is about as far from the measure asked by the President, the Secretary of War and the Army high command as could be, and voted a so-called extension of OPA price control which would practically and effectively price control.

President Truman and his advisers had made it very clear that the administration-sponsored bills on both these important subjects were vitally necessary in his opinion. Yet never in recent years has the House of Representatives so completely ignored the requests and recommendations of the Administration. Especially overwhelming was the vote against the President in the OPA issue—363 to 42. Which means that not simply the familiar Republican-southern Democrat coalition, but a large number of the President's usual supporters as well, voted to emasculate price control. The House went berserk, and it was a rout for Truman.

As serious as was the defeat for the Administration's prestige, the House vote practically to end price control when the present act expires on June 30 is of far more vital import. It means that unless the Senate blocks the House bill and so forces the passage of a compromise measure in line with the actual demands of the situation, the nation is faced with a real first class inflation, with prices of necessary commodities skyrocketing. How the House could be a party to inviting such disaster is not easily explained. True, Chester Bowles is unpopular with Congress; the OPA has been severely criticized by business men's and farmers' organizations; Congress evidently thinks little of Truman's leadership. But the dangers of runaway prices are obvious; they have been recognized and acknowledged by even a majority of manufacturers.

How the House could be a party to inviting such disaster is not easily explained. True, Chester Bowles is unpopular with Congress; the OPA has been severely criticized by business men's and farmers' organizations; Congress evidently thinks little of Truman's leadership. But the dangers of runaway prices are obvious; they have been recognized and acknowledged by even a majority of manufacturers and retailers and other business men. It may be that the articulate opponents of the OPA have made more written and vocal protests to their Congressmen than the opponents of inflation. Price control is a tough political issue at best, since everyone wants ceilings removed from what he has to sell, even though willing to have them applied to other things.

It is to be hoped that the Senate will show more moderation, more common sense, and more concern for the stability of our national economy and the general welfare of all the people than has the shockingly irresponsible House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON HIGH AGAIN

Whatever the merits of the protest made by Washington High School students concerning conditions in the school cafeteria (and it is evident that they have some grounds for dissatisfaction), a real benefit accrues in that the attention of the entire city of Raleigh has been called to the generally unsatisfactory conditions at the school. Superintendent Sanderson in replying to the specific complaint makes it clear that there are other things which need remedying at Washington High, most of the unsatisfactory conditions being related to the inadequacy of the building for the things which are supposed to be done in it.

Not only is the cafeteria overburdened by being obliged to handle half again as many patrons as it can adequately take care of. It is also true that the plant is generally inadequate for (1) the number of students crowded into it; (2) a complete and modern high school program.

In his public statement of a few days ago Mr. Sanderson reiterated the plans of the school authorities to solve these two problems: to build an elementary school building near the high school, thus leaving the Washington building for a high school exclusively, and to remodel the high school building to meet the high school needs.

Negro citizens of Raleigh would prefer a new high school plant; but they also realize that conditions can be vastly improved if the school board will carry out promptly and efficiently the plans already announced. Something should have been done long ago about the inadequacies of the Washington High School. Citizens are fed up with the delay. Furthermore, citizens will not be satisfied with makeshift and token improvements. They want a first class high school plant and a complete high school curriculum. They will not be satisfied with anything less, and the City of Raleigh cannot justify its offering anything less.

Meanwhile whatever is wrong with the cafeteria should be cleared up immediately and the students should demean themselves in such a way as to reflect credit on themselves, thus winning rather than alienating the support of officials and lay public alike.

AHOSKIE FIRST

The town of Ahoskie, in Hertford County, northeast North Carolina, has made history by becoming probably the first small city in the state, and possibly in the entire South, to employ in recent times a regular Negro police officer. The success of several localities in North Carolina with Negro peace officers is resulting in the spread of the idea and practice. Within the next few years there will doubtless be an ever increasing number of municipalities to take advantage of the definitely demonstrated benefits derived by the community from having Negro policemen on the force.

As they prove themselves and as the community becomes accustomed to them, the restrictions on the performance and effectiveness of these Negro officers will be lifted. The news announcement concerning the appointment of the Ahoskie patrolman noted that the new officer would not be permitted to arrest a white person unless doing so in assistance of a white patrolman, and that his duties were "confined strictly to the maintenance of law and order in the Negro section of the town." It is pretty certain that in other North Carolina and southern cities similar stipulations have been made privately, if not announced publicly.

Such restrictions of course limit seriously the ability of the Negro officers to perform their appointed function of "maintaining law and order." There is evidently a conflict as between the command to maintain law and order and the command not to arrest a white person. There used to be a comic strip in which one of the characters would shout, "Officer, call a cop!" That comic situation is no joke with the colored policeman. But as a matter of fact it could not be literally true that if a Negro officer should see a white man in the act of committing a crime, inside or outside the "Negro section," he would be powerless to act, for the common law charges any citizen with the duty to act to restrain a person discovered in the act of committing a felony. The police department would not forgive a duly constituted officer who failed to act in such a situation.

It should be obvious that a policeman cannot be expected to maintain law and order unless he is free to proceed naturally against any disturber of public peace and violator of public safety. He cannot protect the law-abiding Negro citizen unless he has the authority to arrest all law violators, nor can he undertake efficiently to protect the whole community unless he has complete powers.



WILL HIS EFFORTS EVER BE APPRECIATED?



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

I wrote this on Good Friday afternoon. I have been turning over in my mind two statements I have recently read which are associated with the day. As a matter of fact both were written for Good Friday.

The first is a brief but highly pertinent commentary on the first of the Seven Words of Jesus from the cross on that first Good Friday. As He was being nailed to the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The other statement was a meditation on the Fifth Word, "I thirst." The meditation on this Word reads, in part: "Jesus, speak to America from Your Cross. Speak for the millions who are starving, and make us hear You when You cry, 'I thirst.'"

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Lest We Forget.

By W. L. GREENE

The pattern of forced acquiescence in maintaining status quo in human relations imposed upon the majority does correspond to religious activities. The majority group raises issues of logically community-wide interest. The issues become and remain only majority-wide because of the exclusion policy adopted by the leaders of movements in religious education. Greater integration must be effected in leadership before progress can be expected in this area.

Under the present laws in this area racial discrimination is an every day affair, experienced in all public and most private contacts. Those who contend that prescription is not discrimination only need to become one of the prescribed for one year to be convinced. Specific instances are mentioned. What could be cited as specific instances are really ordinary instances where the usual sanctuaries become violent rather than acquiescent and hypocritical.

"Vote Up" or "Shut Up"

By C. A. ORICE

The time is fast approaching for the books of North Carolina to open up for registration in order to determine those who are qualified and those who may wish to vote in the forthcoming election. Registering and voting are citizenship duties and responsibilities which cannot be taken too seriously. The integrity and calibre of the people who will be elected, and thereby given the authority to direct the general welfare, will be determined by the interest which the electorate shows in this coming election.

It is interesting to note that in Japan's first free election 78 per cent of the people qualified to vote exercised this privilege. In our 1944 election 70 per cent of the qualified voters in the entire nation voted, but in North Carolina only 40 per cent of those qualified to vote exercised their right to the ballot. The following are a few of the requirements for registering: (1) One must be 21 years of age. (2) One must be able to read and write in the English language any section of the Constitution of the United States or of North Carolina to the satisfaction of the registrar. (3) One must not have been convicted nor confessed guilt in open court, punishment of which is imprisonment in the State Prison, without having been restored to citizenship. (4) One must have lived in North Carolina at least one year, and in the precinct or district in which one intends to vote four months immediately preceding the election. Watch your local daily newspaper for the Gates for registration. Citizens of North Carolina, get ready to register and vote.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. M. W. Williams

Subject: Decisive Moments in History. Mark 16:7-9. Luke 24:48-49. John 14:27-28. Acts 1:6-7. Key Verse: "We ought to obey God rather than man. Acts 5:29"

The ability to make decision is a trait to be desired and even to envied. We have hundreds of men and women just out of the army trying to decide the best thing to do. Many of our young people are debating—shall I try to continue in school or get married? There is still another set trying to decide on their life's work. Then there are others trying to make up their minds on Christ and the worldly things of life.

The nations of the world are trying to decide for peace or war—yes, a decision is important. And even after a decision is reached, there comes days, months and even years when we falter and do not stand firm. Peter did when he denied Christ, but with unwavering faith whose goes with a changed name (Rev. 3:12) and a willingness to continue in the right direction one may turn all defeats into victory. A decision to obey God rather than man determines a glorious and happy destiny. What is your decision?

Advertisement for Nat Turner featuring a portrait and text: 'THEY'LL NEVER DIE' Nat Turner, Martyr in the Fight for Freedom!