

The Carolinian

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(Published by the Carolinian Publishing Company, 118 East Hargett Street, Raleigh, North Carolina—Telephone: 9474) JUR PLATFORM: We Stand for Full and Equal Constitutional Rights and Privileges and Civil Liberties of All People, Regardless of Race, Creed, or Color.

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TOO MANY PISTOLS

ANOTHER unnecessary and tragic death in Raleigh has resulted from the irresponsible use of firearms, and the victim is just as dead and his family just as bereaved as if he had been killed intentionally.

It is deplorable that there should be so many pistols around, and that so many people know no better than to regard pistols and other firearms as things to be used for idle amusement. Hundreds of people have died from lead discharged from guns that were not loaded.

Firearms are intended to kill, and the pistol is primarily for killing or maiming human beings. Very few persons should have the right to possess a pistol. In England even police officers do not carry pistols, except when on special missions. We in this country would be infinitely better off if there were not so many guns around.

DIDN'T GO THROUGH

IT SEEMS that the bill to bar Negro players from the rosters of white league clubs performing in the State of Louisiana has been squelched. According to an Associated Negro Press report the bill was tabled by a 13-12 vote, which would mean, apparently, that it will not be enacted during the present session of the legislature.

The bill would have barred Negro players in the Texas league from playing in Louisiana by prohibiting whites and Negroes from competing in athletic events. Shreveport is in the Texas league, and there are Negro players on the Dallas team of that league.

The use of qualified Negroes has spread to minor leagues, and recently to southern major leagues. Neither the players nor the public seem to have any serious objections, but this Louisiana solon purportedly was acting to keep the Texas League from being "broken up" by the advent of colored players. Apparently there were enough other Louisiana senators who did not feel the danger of the eminent dissolution of the Texas League because of the presence of a few Negro players on the roster of one or more teams. Good!

MAY DECENCY BE RESTORED

ALL DECENT North Carolinians and Americans should be gratified by the arrest of two persons charged with circulation of the scurrilous handbills just before the primary elections, in which an attempt was made to injure the cause of candidate Olive by appealing to race prejudice. The appeal was based on falsehoods and or half truths, and irrelevancies, to say the least.

North Carolina will not be back to what is normal for North Carolina until propaganda attempting to exploit racial bias is removed from political campaigns. For many years until recently North Carolina had been happily free of such tactics, but there was a revival of them in the Graham-Smith contest

with the purpose of discrediting Dr. Graham. The full force of the law and decent public opinion as well should be which obtained a new lease on life in brought to bear to stamp out the evil this state two years ago. Perhaps the arrests in Kinston, especially if they are followed by convictions, will turn the tide.

NOT ENOUGH

THE FINAL conviction and finding in Federal Court of some of the officials involved in the shameful riots in Cicero, Illinois last summer erases some of the stain from that unsavory town and from the State of Illinois. But other officials, including some of the higher ones, were acquitted — officials who seemed to have shared, either by what they did or what they failed to do, in the responsibility of the local government for the three-day debauch of violence, hoodlumism and racial intolerance.

A great deal remains to be done in Cicero. As long as Negroes continue to be excluded from residence within the borders of the Chicago suburb, best known historically as the residence of the late, unlamented Al Capone and his notorious gangster mob, Cicero will remain on the list of disgraceful American communities. Illinois has little claim to superiority over Mississippi while Illinois condones and tolerates such a condition as exists in Cicero. And it must be remembered that the Illinois courts did nothing toward the punishment of either the mob participants or the municipal officials who contributed by their negligence or by siding with the rioters, actively or passively. The convictions and light punishments were the result of federal court action, while the local courts went after the owner of the apartment building and the counsel for her and the victims of the mob violence.

Cicero in Illinois remains a community with Nazi characteristics.

A CONVICTION

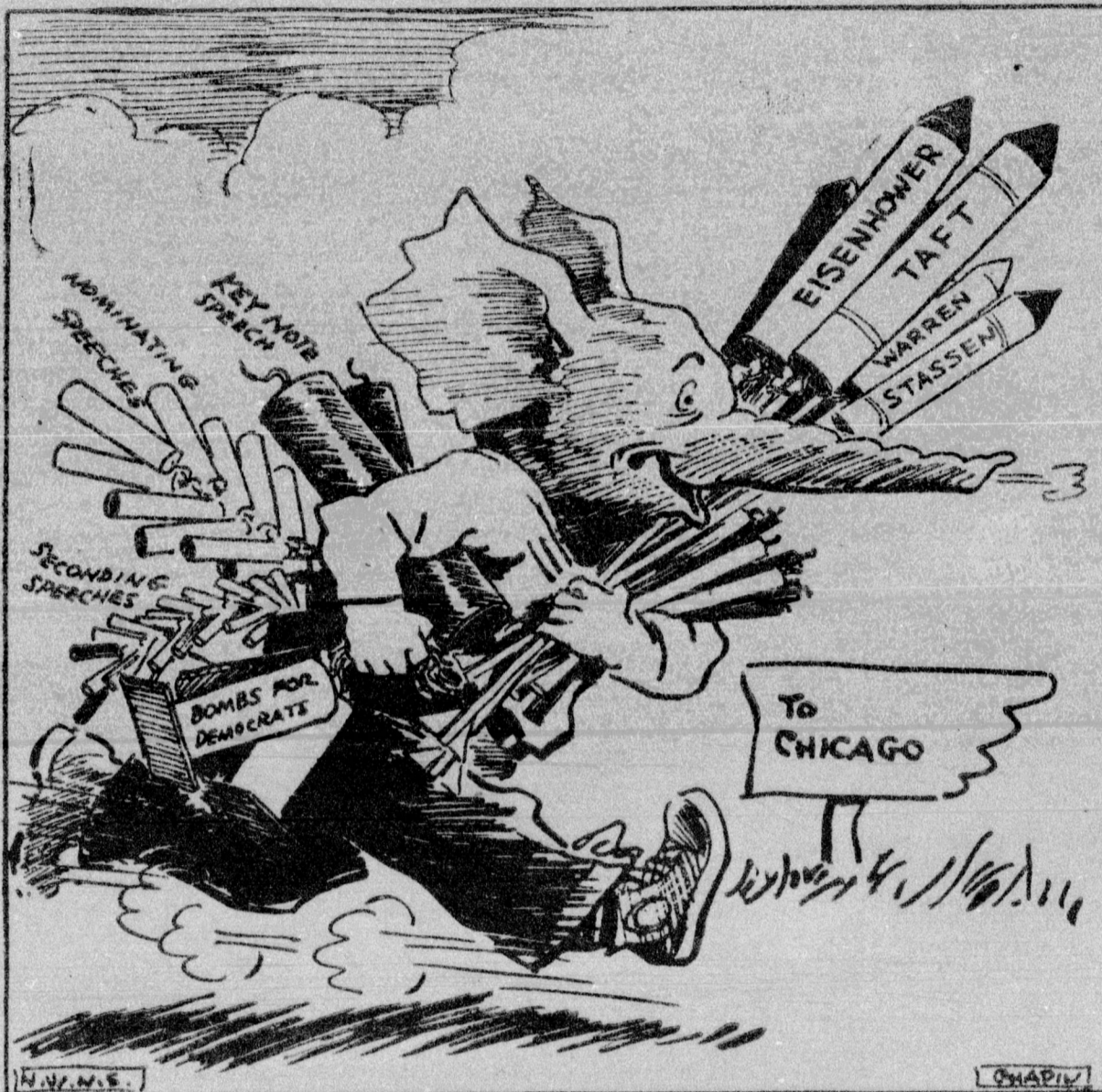
IT SHOULD not be so, but it is, that the conviction of the white man in Alamance County of assault to commit rape represents progress. The man had been indicted by the superior court grand jury and tried before a jury made up of white persons, including three women.

It is true that the convicted man was accused of rape, and the jury which found him guilty was probably convinced that rape was what he was guilty of. It is also true that a Negro defendant in a case involving the same circumstances, but with the charge brought by a white female, would almost certainly have been convicted of rape and sentenced to death. But the facts remain that the white man charged with rape of the Negro college student was found guilty of assault; that this verdict represented the unanimous action of nine white men and three white women citizens of Alamance County, selected by the usual process of jury selection; and that the defendant was immediately sentenced to eight to ten years in prison.

It is reported even so that the verdict represented a compromise. If this is so it must be that there were some members of the jury, or at least one, who favored an out-and-out conviction of rape, which would have involved either a life sentence or death, depending on whether or not the jury recommended mercy.

The significance of the conviction will not escape the attention of those know how very rare it is for a white man to be found guilty of a sex crime against a Negro female. The defense usually, though not always, follows the line of admitting that there was a sexual relation, though not always, follows the line of admitting that there was an acquiescence on the part of the alleged victim of rape and that plea ordinarily is honored. So it was in the fairly recent case in which a number of soldiers were acquitted of the multiple rape of a Negro woman in eastern North Carolina, in one of the most

FIREWORKS GALORE



sordid episodes on the court records of the state. It has officially been recognized now that a Negro woman can be victimized by a white man — that is, that the crime of rape is possible when a white male and a Negro female are the persons involved. It is not often that such an admission has been openly made, though of course it has been widely

known these hundreds of years. So another official racial myth may be on its way into the discard where it has always belonged. This myth is one of the most vicious of them all, and if the conviction of Eugene Reed indicates that its status has been undermined, then a great deal happened when Reed was found guilty, even of assault with intent to commit rape.



C. D. Halliberton's

SECOND THOUGHTS

A problem of which only a few people are aware, or one might say, more than vaguely aware, is the problem of school attendance in the rural areas of the South. Recently the Alliance for Guidance of Rural Youth, with the cooperation of the Department of Rural Education of the National Education Association, made a guidance survey of a rural school district in the tobacco section of northeast South Carolina, and the report of the study has been made public. One of the early chapters of this report tells how the study came to be made:

"For some time the State Department of Education has been trying to decide what to do about the large number of children of school age who were not in school. The problem was especially acute in the rural areas of the state WHERE THREE - FOURTHS of the people live (Italics ours). A tabulation was made of state enrollment records for children enrolled in the first grade in the 1936-1937 school year and the enrollment by grade was traced each year up to the eleventh grade in the 1946-47 school year. (The state did not add the twelfth year to the high school until 1948-2948.)

"A study of the enrollment figures of white children showed a greatly reduced number in school each succeeding year, and those for Negro children reflected an even more serious problem. Some 39,874 white boys and girls were enrolled in the first grade in the 1936-1937 school year. By the fifth grade only two-thirds of the original number of white children were enrolled, according to state records. The considerably smaller number enrolled from the first to the second grade occurs frequently in schools and can be explained by the fact that children enter school at five, six, or seven years of age and are passed on to Grade II only after they have learned to read. Since many of them are too immature at that age to learn to read, and since parents do not send them to school regularly during these first years, there is a great deal of holding over in the first grade for at least two years, and in some cases three years . . . While in the enrollment statistics for the primary grades reflected problems requiring attention, the decline in the number of pupils enrolled in each of the succeeding grades also cause serious concern among the staff members of the State Department of Education."

Here we have a startling situation — drop-outs, and early drop-outs, at that, and irregular attendance, and enforcing attendance, and so on. The report gives more concrete figures reflecting this situation.

Percentage of Population Less than 5 years including none 34.7 13.5 5 to 8 years 31.8 46.0 1 to 4 years of high school 22.8 29.1 1 to 4 years of college or more 9.4 10.0 Not reported 13.14

Advertisement for Gordon B. Hancock's 'BETWEEN THE LINES' featuring a portrait of a man.

A CANDIDATE AND HIS COMPANY

The company a man keeps is quite as important as what he is. "By their fruits shall ye know them," says the Good Book. With equal truth can it be said "By their company shall ye know them." The moral impoverishment of the Republican party reads no better indication than the current attempts of Taft and Eisenhower to win the Republican nomination for the presidency. It is difficult to believe that in this late day of 1952 of the Year of Our Lord, we have two such men as Taft and Eisenhower aspiring to the presidency of these United States. Both are avowed and tacit Dixiecrats, committed to the states rights platform, which platform runs counter to a platform of civil rights. Nobody familiar with the Taft tradition could expect anything different. Did not Robert Taft's father, the late William H. Taft while campaigning for reelection to the presidency, break his political neck trying to break the Solid South? His flagrant disregard of the civil rights of southern Negroes put him at cross - purposes with the hard-hitting straight-shooting Teddy Roosevelt, who ran on the Bull Moose ticket and utterly destroyed the weak-kneed Taft. Not only did Taft fail to break the Solid South but he failed to succeed himself, which is one of the most powerful indications of the weakness of the man. It takes a mighty poor President to fail to succeed himself. Yet this is the

record of the late William Howard Taft, father of the current Robert Taft who is worthy to succeed his father as a political flat tire. We do not expect more from a Taft, but we must admit that we had expected more from Eisenhower. But as may be remembered, this column as early as last summer, predicted that Eisenhower was throwing political sop to the Dixiecratic south when he delivered himself to the effect that better race relations cannot be legislated. Who said they could be legislated? Neither do the white lines on the highways of the nation or the red, amber and green lights completely change human nature. These traffic signs were never devised or designed to change the nature of reckless drivers. They were put there to safeguard the people, who travel the highways and by-ways of the nation. These traffic signals and regulations do not change human nature but they make life comparatively safe on the highways. It is more than passing strange that the impotency of law is quickly pointed out when the law is directed toward securing civil rights for Negroes; while the potency of law is always seen when directed toward denying civil rights to Negroes. In other words the Dixiecrats and their sympathizers invoke law in one instance and reject it in another. Law is regarded as a convenience and not as a necessity. Of course certain elements of the South have long

JAMES A. SHEPARD'S THIS and THAT

We would like to pass on to you a few of the comments we have received concerning what we had to say last week about the proposed new hospital for St. Agnes to be built with public money. One reader asked us why did we think St. Agnes trustees would voluntarily give its property to the county. That would be a good question if it had been suggested by any one that St. Agnes do such. As far as we have been able to ascertain, no one has asked or suggested that the trustees of St. Agnes give the county anything. It is purely a county obligation to furnish hospital facilities for its residents. Wake County not excepted. Recently, there has been such an uproar about this matter that the waters of the situation have become quite muddy and it seems that trust this mud somebody is attempting to pull off a big steal, not from St. Agnes but from the unsuspecting public in favor of St. Agnes. The County Commissioners know or should know there is no way they can justify virtually giving a million and a quarter dollar, tax built Negro hospital to a group of white men to administer as they see fit. No, we do not think St. Agnes should be expected to give its plant to the county, unless the county really wants to get out of the hospital business, we do not think that St. Agnes has any obligation to furnish a hospital for the county. In fact, we can't see where there is any connection whatsoever between what the county SHOULD do and what St. Agnes wants to do. The issues are not even related.

Another reader wants to know wouldn't it be better to let this proposed plan go thru rather than endanger the prospect of getting a new hospital for our group. All right, suppose we put that one under the microscope of potential actuality and see what can we find. In the first place, should we follow that line of reasoning we would be doing what we have been doing for nearly one hundred years, compromising principle for the sake of expediency. And because we have been so ready to back a bad give ground, the majority group has no respect for us and does not ever seriously consider us when he makes his plans to spend our money. The white man has fought and is still fighting all over the world to get the things he wants and it has always been a mystery to us that although we try to imitate him in so many ways, we have never seen fit to follow his example in fighting for what we want. Taxes are high, undoubtedly they are too high, but high or low, we cannot escape and should not even want to escape paying our just share. Because that is true, should not we demand to be called in for consultation before plans are made to spend our tax money and should we yield on the grounds of expedience when plans are made without our knowledge or consent to tax us to pay for something over which and in which we have no control, no voice and no representation. Our next objection to the above comment is somewhat similar to the first, we should stop dodging responsibility. By now we should consider ourselves an adult group. Being grown up, we should act and behave like grown ups. We have shed a way from assuming the duties and the responsibilities of first class citizens so much and for so long, it is little wonder that the other man feels we are not capable of exercising these duties. Are we? What about our children, are we satisfied to keep on having them grow up with the self-imposed stamp of inferiority upon them simply because we are too lazy, too shiftless and too indifferent to accept our responsibilities as

citizens, by demanding equal representation upon every board, commission or agency having to do with our affairs. Negro children growing up, suffering everything that whites their lives, being conducted, carried on, administered and governed by the white man, can't we help feeling inferior. We wouldn't expect the white man to even wait anything (Continued on page 5)



OUR AGING POPULATION

Preliminary sample data from the 1950 Census indicate that approximately 12 million, or 8 per cent of the total population, were 65 years old and over. The corresponding figure for persons 60 and over were about 18 million, or 12 per cent; for persons 55 and over, 25.5 million or 17 per cent; and for persons 50 and over, 34 million or 23 per cent of the total population. The American population of 1950 was a considerably older population than that of 1850. In this hundred year period the median age increased from 18.9 years to 30.1 years. For example, the proportion of persons 40 to 49 years of age in 1950 was about one and one-half times as great as in 1850; the proportion 50 to 59 years was more than twice as great as in 1850; and the proportion 70 years and over more than three times as great.

The foregoing is a significant testimony of the achievement of medical science in caring for the health of the human race. When asked at the beginning of 1950 to comment on the events of greatest significance which had occurred in the first half of this century, Mr. Bernard M. Baruch listed the increase of man's life span by eighteen years in a period of fifty as having even more profound medical, economic, and social implications than such things as atomic energy, air transportation, and communication.

As desirable as the foregoing may be a large number of aging people in our population has given rise to grave social problems: Where do the aged people into our complex and machine industrial order? Where do they fit into such things as education, recreation, politics, etc? And, despite our wide coverage in the old age and survivors insurance of the Social Security Act, a large number of people reach old age and who are unable to care for themselves financially. Others reach old age and who are able to care for themselves financially, but do not have any place to stay. Example of such are people where the husband or the wife has passed, or people who have never been married.

In writing this article I am thinking especially in terms of our aged people who are financially dependent as well as those who are financially independent but for various reasons find themselves all alone. It seems to me that what is needed is a large number of community homes where the aged dependent could go and live as well as those who would be able to pay for their expenses. The point an endeavoring to impress upon my readers is that it is very desirable to enable aged people to spend their last days in the communities where they have lived the greater part of their lives and, therefore, have a large number of acquaintances and relatives.

It would seem to this writer that the building of community homes for the aged would be a fertile field of activity for our many religious organizations. Reverend A. J. Wright of Bennettsville, S. C. has done just such a thing. The aged people in their home built by his church are happy because they are comfortable and at the same time in the community of their acquaintances. Neither here nor there, but permit me to digress from my topic to say that I sincerely believe that our schools of religion and theology could do well to send the students to work under Reverend Wright as part of their course of study. I sincerely believe that a year's work under Reverend Wright would be quite beneficial to any young person preparing to do some form of religious work. Back to my topic, let us make more and better arrangements to care for our aged people right in the communities where they have lived longest. And, by so doing we shall be carrying out the injunction of James, the Apostle who said: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."