

A CHALLENGE TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

It appears to us that the sports world is far ahead of the Christian Church when it comes to practicing the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Even here in the South the ballfields of segregation in sports give way quicker than the white church does in worshipping God. Last Sunday the Brooklyn Dodgers' "B" Club played in the Raleigh League Park (Devereaux Meadow) with Dan Bankhead, one of Brooklyn's Negro pitchers doing most of the tossing for the Dodgers against the Raleigh Capitols of the Carolina League. Heretofore, Devereaux Meadow has been so segregated that park officials have even refused to permit Negro College football teams to play a Thanksgiving day classic there. Bankhead is probably the first of his race to participate in a sports event in Devereaux Meadow, since the park was built. He is certainly the first to pitch against a white team in that park. While the Dodger's B Team was making history in Raleigh the Dodgers main team was making more history in Atlanta, Georgia where Don Newcombe, another Negro pitcher of the Brooklyn team, saw the game in Atlanta, while a much smaller crowd of white and Negro fans saw the game in Raleigh.

Less than five years ago when a white football team was matched against a Negro team here, it almost caused heart failure to recreation and city officials many of whom predicted that the game would end in a race riot. To their disappointment, the contest was one of the cleanest sports events ever held here with players and fans of both races exhibiting the highest brand of sportsmanship. All this just goes to show how fast time is moving and that segregation, race hatred and discrimination are on the way out. What yesterday seemed a monstrosity is today only a passing event. It only takes men of courage like Branch Rickey of the Dodgers to start the ball rolling for us to learn that we have been all wet about much of this race stuff. The sports world flings a brutal challenge in the face of the white Christian church that as an institution cannot find enough Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man to even exchange pulpits occasionally, to say nothing of including Negroes as pastors and members. The Christian church needs a Branch Rickey with more than lip service to launch out in the direction of the sports world where men are accepted for their worth and not according to the color of their skin.

CRIME ON OUR COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Last week the general public was treated to the awful realization that crime, involving two murders and a suicide, had invaded two of the campuses of our white educational institutions. These, plus other brutal murders that have happened on the campuses of other white colleges make us wonder just how long before such may strike in one of our Negro colleges. While all of the facts are not yet known in the University of North Carolina murder and suicide case to determine just what was behind it, the facts in the Wake Forest case have been well aired in a State court to the extent that it is known that liquor and gambling were at the root of the Hair murder. We are going to risk again being "cussed and discussed" by a small shortsighted group of our readers, as being out-of-date or too old fashioned, to do our duty as a moulder of opinion in our corner of the earth. We are willing to "take the shame and the poverty that belong to truth speaking," to warn our so-called smart young modern college professors and students that they cannot drink, drink and gamble, gamble, gamble without eventually reaping the harvest that goes with these evils.

We are not going to wait until some stark tragedy has invaded one of our Negro college campuses to pull out the crying towel and shed crocodile tears over a murder, suicide or sex crime that might have been prevented had some one had the courage to cry out against evils that often lead to them. We are willing to go to Coventry and "let the populace bestow upon us their coldest contempt." This so-called freedom that is being demanded and granted on our college campuses is not freedom, it is bedlam. No man is entitled to freedom who cannot enslave himself to the extent that he can restrain himself against doing injury to a fellow human being. We think it would have been much wiser to have invoked hard and fast rules against gambling and drinking on students like Raymond Hair, and Roy Coble, than to allow them this so-called freedom that has cost Hair his real freedom and his friend his life. So we call upon Negro college administrators everywhere to clamp down on what some refer to as freedom on our college campuses and teach, admonish and restrain our young people until they acquire enough wisdom to do it themselves.

THE WATTS-LINCOLN BOND ISSUE

On Saturday, April 22, the voters of Durham County will be called upon to make an important decision pertaining to Watts and Lincoln Hospitals. So important is the matter that all progressive and foresighted citizens are much concerned lest too little interest be exercised among those who wish to see Durham have adequate hospital facilities, and the bond issue that would provide them is defeated. We find it hard to believe that any citizen of sound judgement would oppose any worthwhile effort to provide Durham with hospital facilities that are so badly needed here. However, for fear that there might be lurking in the minds of some who are not acquainted with the facts, we quote herewith some of the facts from information obtained at the headquarters of the Watts-Lincoln Hospital Centers. DURHAM COUNTY is faced with a dual hospital crisis. Watts and Lincoln are trying to do a 1950 job with 1925 tools, and it can't be done—the public is the sufferer. There is a shortage of beds. Special facilities such as operating rooms, X-ray, laboratories and delivery rooms are almost as high. Indeed, without the utilities such as plumbing, wiring, and heating are overtaxed and worn out. The crisis is of intimate, real purport to the people of Durham County. Ninety-three per cent of Watts patients in 1949 originated in Durham County. Lincoln's percentage almost as high. Indeed, without the assistance of Duke Hospital, 15% of whose patients are from Durham, the Watts and Lin-

coln problem would be CASTASTROPHIC! There has been a tremendous growth of use of these local institutions. This is how 1949 compared with 1930 during which Durham County's population increased 41%: Watts Lincoln Patients treated Up 192 % Up 66 % Births Up 540 Up 306 Laboratory Exam. Up 530 Up 400 Major Operations Up 160 Up 185 X-ray films Up 1061 Up 584 Out-patient visits Up 350 Up 530 Lincoln's number of beds shrunk from 110 to 90 during this period when the hospital was forced to use the space for other purposes. Watts added a seven bed isolation ward and enlarged its X-ray department in 1934. Lincoln has attempted to ease the situation by reducing average length of stay of patients from 15.0 to 9.4 days. Duke helped with an allocation of 73 beds for Negroes. Watts reduced its average patient's stay from 10.8 to 7.5 days, and set up 37 temporary beds in connecting corridors, aisles of wards and doubling-up use of private rooms designed for one bed. Several times recently, 293 patients were in Watts at the midnight census. PROBLEM MORE COMPLICATED THAN JUST BED SHORTAGE More beds are needed, yes, but equally important and even more costly is the need for much new or improved facilities to serve (Please turn to Page Three)

Spiritual Insight . . .

By REV. HAROLD ROLAND Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church

"Christianity And Dommumism"

"Neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common."—Acts 4:32. Communism presents the great challenge, at this hour, in the nation and in the world. It is dramatized in press and in the courts of the land. It stands at the heart of the world struggle for power. A trial is just completed on the West Coast. The biggest event was the trial of the eleven confessed Communists. Others have been tried as Communist spies. The whole nation is plunged into an unreasoning state of emotional hysteria. It is labeled as a threat to the nation. The issue has been highlighted by trials and war in Europe and Asia.

What is this so-called threat of Communism? What is this thing which is captivating missions — causing men to turn traitors to their countries? Is there any truth in it or is it a complete lie? What is this idea splitting the world into two hostile camps? What is this ideal which threatens the peace of the world?

In the passage from Acts we have a very simple definition of Communism taken from the New Testament. From the Bible! Yes! Here is the definition as found in the Bible: "They had all things in common . . ." It is a system of economics or government where all resources are held in common for the general welfare. Is it that simple—yes and no? In America we have free enterprise or private control. In Russia they have collectivism or public control. Russia has been under this system for thirty-three years.

The Book of Acts tells of a Communist experiment in early Christian Church. Here we see a very small group in an unfriendly world facing many powerful enemies. They had to unite to survive. Most of them were ordinary people of ordinary means. They were threatened by Judaism and the Roman government. A common spiritual fellowship put their common resources into a common treasury. Thus we have communistic experiments of simple survival in a mean of simple survival in a hostile world. There is a difference in this early experiment and Communism as practiced in Russia. What is the difference? In the early church it was voluntary, rooted in love and true fellowship. Here we had no force. It was carried out without destroying individual freedom. The Holy Spirit was the driving force. God was at the center. It sprang from the soil of Religion. Whereas, the Russian system is a dictatorship denying religion and individual freedom. It is rooted in material and maintained by force.

The following are some of the characteristics of contemporary Russian Communism. As practiced it shows these dominant tendencies: (1) It is anti-religious and Godless; (2) it denies essential moral and ethical values of the Judea-Christian tradition; (3) it denies individual liberty; (4) its one party system for it admits no rivals; (5) it claims to be a crusader against injustice, oppression and segregation; (6) they offer security in exchange for personal freedom; (7) its adherents have a passionate missionary zeal for world conquest. These are a few of the characteristics. In brief it is a ruthless, materialistic and Godless ideal of social, political and economic organization. It ap-

peals to the masses with its message of justice and security for all mankind.

Honest Christian leadership must take notice of growing world Communism. Let us not fool ourselves. We are confronted with a great idea which is winning the allegiance of men throughout the world — They are found in every country. We must face stark fact that every man won to Communism may be lost to Christ. How shall we meet this challenge? This passionate idea cannot be defeated with machines and dollars. We spent billions in China and lost it. Men are crying for something that machines and dollars cannot satisfy nor supply. There is a deep emotional and spiritual hunger. Their missionaries preach a doctrine of equality and justice for all mankind. Whether they can give this is not the question. This is what they preach. There is but one way to defeat a great passionate idea; and that is with a more powerful idea. The Church is the custodian of this great ideal. But we have been asleep. The Communists have stolen our thunder. We must wake up! The hour is growing late!

Now the Christian forces must seize the initiative and become the passionate champions of a world fellowship free from human indignity, segregation and injustice. The human spirit cries out for a new order based upon these principles. Men will not be denied. They are weary with their burdens. They seek a deliverer. Will it be Christ or communism? We have the answer. The hour is late. If we don't win the hearts of men with our message of love, brotherhood, justice and human dignity, the Communists will. The issue is clear. The battle is drawn. Christ must become a living reality touching and redeeming all life.

Report From Lillian Smith On Killers Of The Dream

(In reply to hundreds of letters which cannot be individually answered now.)

No—in answer to numerous queries—the Klan has not burned my home down. And people still "speak to me" in Clayton. Real friends are always friends; the others don't count. Yes—in reply to the second question—I receive my share of threatening, obscene, anonymous letters. But they have only nuisance value. One cannot take them too seriously, except to wish that we had a healthier culture and fewer people so confused and unhappy.

(A pleasant note: The librarian in my home town of Clayton reports that the waiting list for Killers of the Dream is so long it will be a year before all can read who have asked for it.) As for reviews: Southern reviews, with the exception of Georgia, have been fairly good. In the North, the reviews have been more favorable than on Strange Fruit—though in at least half, Killers of the Dream was totally misunderstood and reviewed as a book on "the Negro problem."

But, Atlanta — oh my! The book and its author are bitterly fought there. Not by Talmadge as you might think (at least, not yet), but by the conservative group, spearheaded by Ralph McGill and Jack Tarver, who with Hodding Carter of Mississippi, think of themselves as "the voice of the South." It seems to excite them when other southerners say things that deviate from the Leave Us Alone! line.

McGill and Tarver—both editors of the Constitution — have fought the book with few holds barred. Calling themselves "moderates" they speak as follows:

Atlanta Constitution editorial, February 9, 1950: "In last Sunday's issue the New York TIMES proved once again that the moderate Southern viewpoint cannot expect a fair hearing in Northern newspapers. The book review section of the TIMES carried a review of Hodding Carter's new book . . . Who wrote the review? Why, Lillian Smith, of course, the ex-missionary who has made a profession of writing stuff that purposely sets out to debase the South,

with a fury that continually overleaps itself . . . Manipulation of 'reviews' according to the established prejudices of the editors in an unworthy deception by any standard. But Southerners long since have ceased to anticipate justice from intolerants. It is disturbing to find Mr. Carter's book reviewed by a person who is, in her fashion, one of the most prejudiced and intolerant persons writing today."

Here is Mr. Tarver's own "moderate" review of Killers of the Dream: "Lillian Smith has written a new book and, brother, is it a stinker! It's not a novel. Nor could you call it nonfiction. It is, in short, neither fish nor fowl, although I must say it gives off the aroma of both . . . Talk about your devious demagoguery. Not only is this claptrap but very badly done claptrap. There is one chapter, or orgasm . . . etc."

Here is Mr. Ralph McGill's column on Killers of the Dream: "A thesis as warped as the Freudian cast with which she covers it. And although the Jung school now regard Freud as passe, he still is heavy stuff to swing about . . . With the zealot's zeal and astigmatism, she focuses her psychiatric magnifying glass on the South and comes up with her conclusions, magnified . . . A woefully unsound book. Miss Smith is a prisoner in the monastery of her own mind. But rarely does she come out of its gates, and then, apparently, seeing only wicked things to send her back to her hair shirt and the pouring of ashes on her head and salt in her own psychiatric wounds . . . etc."

Many of the liberal leaders in the South—who cannot be confused with these conservatives—consider the book important and have expressed a warm approval of it. Others have been silent. This silence has troubled me, for I know they know that the book speaks truly of our South. I cannot explain it as an expression of "cowardice," or of "insincerity," as some do so glibly. These are real liberals, and real liberals are not cowardly or dishonest. Perhaps they are hurt; hurt not with me, for I did not

call names in my book, but hurt by their own memories. The book is not my biography as a southerner; it is theirs also. I think that many know in their hearts that to read it will be like turning the yellowed leaves of their own diary. Our past can punish us so painfully when we go back to it . . . Knowing this, they have left it unread; or reading, cannot yet talk about it. Of course there are other people who are furiously angry that I told the "three ghost stories"—that secret which "nice ladies" are not supposed to know. But the literate, sensitive, liberal group are not angry about this. They have too much honesty and humor and savior faith to be caught in such an absurd trap of defensiveness.

Though a few men have exploded in wrath about these ghost stories, hundreds of women have written to say, "I am glad you told it." But many more—and this is good—have written of their deep concern about segregation's effect upon the growth of all children, white and Negro.

Do women like the book better than men? Yes, I think they do. But men like it also.

These men—and numerous others—have liked it: JOSHUA LOGAN (A southerner. Of Mr. Roberts and South Pacific fame) wrote: "I have just read Killers of the Dream and I am on fire with the excitement and illumination of it . . . It was as though you had a private window somewhere under my shoulder blade where you could look inside of me. I'm sure most Southerners will feel that. What a great thing you have done."

MY YOUNGEST BROTHER wrote: "Many men will despise it; many more will throw it aside when they become aware of your reverse strip-tease act of making their souls naked. But some men will cherish it as they cherish vague memories of mother's teachings of truth. I shall read it again but I wanted to let you know now that thousands of perhaps inarticulate men will think your labors, have borne fruit—not strange, but familiar as every day, and heretofore ignored." (Please turn to Page Seven)

Browsing Brower

BY FRANK BROWER

REALLY UNJUST AND NOT TO SEEM Her mind has a soil that's deep and fertile, Her body fits every bulge of the girdle; But when it comes to voting, She's always there a-toting Her hubby of prudent counsel.—UNO.

TRUMAN IS RIGHT AND CONGRESS IS WET — Throughout the ages, since the inception of our present form of government, it has been the rule that the Legislative Branch of the government has no right to see secret files in the Executive Branch if the latter's discretion dictates that the public good is better served by non-revelation of the source of the subject matter, as opposed to the punctured dignity of a pot-bellied Congressman who went out on the limb to make the headlines. Of course Congress is like a Christmas fruitcake, neither is no good without a few nuts. Since when are we going to challenge the governmental practices that have weathered the storms in the past? Since when do we not have a separation of three branches of our government. And, since when will one branch be allowed to indirectly govern the activities of the other, in effect making, constraining, and enforcing the law by one hard head on one body? This would be an ultimate result. Marshall agreed that the Prexy should be sole judge of what he considered confidential. Jefferson not only ignored Marshall's order but said that under our framework of government the Judicial branch has no authority to order the Prexy to do anything . . . Precedents established over 150 years is the American answer Stalin.

THE KISS OF DEATH — During the hot campaign for the Senate seat, Smathers, a young Congressman from Miami, Florida, has tried to link Senator Pepper with Communism as have the foes of Dr. Frank in Tarhelia but both Senators seem to have successfully counteracted and denied any sympathy with the Pink Paddy . . . Watched by every newspaper in the nation because of the "Freedom of the Press" clause of our birth certificate, is the trial in Greenwood, South Carolina this week of Editor John McCray of the LIGHTHOUSE AND INFORMER, and A. P. reporter Deling Booth. They face similar indictments charging "malicious libeling" of the prosecutor in stories reporting the last interview with Willie Tolbert in the death chamber last year. They are being denied their version of the incident as a reporter.

CONCISE CHIT CHAT AND NEWS BITS — Easter guests for attractive Mae Norris Harris, journalist of the Greensboro tabloid and member of its executive staff . . . Roz Eagleson, Hampton math prof to Durham for the week-end . . . Good music played by a white band (IIG) in Raleigh Saturday nite for the joy-loving Kappas and their guests after their regional in Durham . . . Excellent leg-shaking of the elder and younger socialites at the much praised A. and T. Dance at the Armory Friday nite with forty-seven after poddies thru-out Bull City until breakfast time. Sir William Henry Heckstall, the banker, and the feminine beauties as the Easter Dance at the Elks Home in Ahoskie with music by the Tiek Toeks sponsored by the Four Corner Club in one of the East's most exclusive Nite Spots . . .

YOU MIGHT BE NEXT — Watts-Lincoln Citizens Hospital Committee . . . Chairman: Bascom Baynes . . . Vice-Chairmen: Dr. Hollis Edens, Dr. A. Elder . . . Offices: 518 Pettigrew and 509 W. Chapel Hill . . . Dear Friend: It is most likely that you have already received full information relative to the Hospital Bond Election which will be held throughout Durham County on April 22. However, knowing that you can be of great help to us by your influence with those whom you may contact, we are enclosing a "Fact Sheet" concerning the proposal with the request that you read it and urge your friends to join you in voting "YES" on the issues at their respective polling places on Election Day . . . We feel sure that we will make a creditable showing in this Christian and humanitarian project. We can only do so, however, with the full cooperation of our leaders and our electorate. With this in view we want the public fully informed and if there are any unanswered questions, please call Mrs. Foreman at 4-5311. Or, if you have knowledge of any meeting at which information may be given to a group Mrs. Foreman will be glad to assign a speaker if you call to give her the date and hour . . . We are grateful for the help you have given us before in other matters and we shall count on your help in this important undertaking—now and particularly on the twenty-second . . . Sincerely yours—R. N. Harris, For the Committee . . . OUR HOSPITALS NEED OUR HELP VOTE "YES" ON BOTH QUESTIONS, HOSPITAL BOND ELECTION—SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd, and register for the Primary at the same time.

CITIZENS INDICT THE CITY COUNCIL — Prominent citizens report to this department that Dan Bankhead, the sepiu ball hurler with the "B" team of the Dodgers which played here last bathday, told them a member of the City Council told him he couldn't play here against the Bulls. This in spite of the warm reception he got in Atlanta, Georgia for his win the day before, and to top it, he played the last 6 innings with the team in the Raleigh game the following day. Billy Cox, Preacher Rowe, and Rex Barney told colored fans at the park, "Some town you have here." Can't you just see old cotton-topped Stalin sticking out his tongue at Uncle Sam?

SEE HASKELL HUDSON: For a free trip to California, a ten day sight-seeing trip in L. A. and Hollywood, and \$50 toward the \$71 fare return to Durham . . . He is shipping to Yokohama, Japan with his car and wants company to the coast. Have you had a vacation lately, hu-u-h . . . CONGRATS To the Service Printing Company for turning a hundred percent membership in the recent NAACP drive. If only more business concerns were concerned in our future . . . Launa Hargett of Allen University to her Greensboro home for Easter . . . Easter Norfolk guests for Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Hubbard

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