



Sgt. Andrew E. Gooch of Phoenix City, Ala., is a dental technician with the 1st Infantry Division's Medical Battalion in Germany. Gooch, whose wife, Dorothy, lives on Route 2, Phoenix City, entered the Army in February 1951 and arrived overseas last November. His father, Silas H. Gooch, lives at 407 Taylor st., Oxford, N. C.

-Report-

(Continued from Page Two)
can satisfactorily provide the educational program of the future."
"Economic Consequences Of Segregation In The Public Schools"
North Carolina's Negro population has a deep and understandable yearning to prove its economic worth to our economy. Above all, we wish to earn our own way and to make a real contribution to the growth of the State. It is our firm belief, therefore, that the course of action and official policies adopted by our State Government shall determine whether North Carolina's Negro population will become a great reservoir of productive capacity and purchasing power or whether it will continue to be the number one problem in our economic life.



Pvt. James F. Braboy, whose wife, Doris, lives at 1011 Adams ct., Fayetteville, N. C., recently was graduated from the Military Police Training Center at Camp Gordon, Ga. Private Braboy, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Braboy, 530 Washington ave., Fayetteville, entered the Army in September, 1954. He attended Fayetteville State Teachers College one year.

with such speed as to exceed the fondest hopes of those who have worked for integration of the Armed Forces. In like manner we believe that integration of our schools can be accomplished swiftly and effectively once we make up our minds to undertake the task. This, in our opinion, is the key to improved, industrial growth of North Carolina and is an essential element for prosperity within our State.

**III
"New Legislation Must Seek To Uphold The Finer Tradition Of North Carolina"**

Finally, we respectfully submit to you the proposition that enactment of the proposed legislation would not be in keeping with North Carolina's traditional respect for law and order and government in accordance with the ideals of our democracy. The Supreme Court's decision of May 17, 1954 prohibits segregation in the public schools on the basis of race because such a practice is in violation of the civil liberties guaranteed to every citizen by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution. The Court's decision is now, therefore, the law of the land, and in our opinion, we are faced with the challenge of complying with the letter and spirit of the decision. In 1863, the American nation proclaimed to all the world that it had grown morally to the point where it believed the institution of slavery to be wrong and unchristian. In like manner, our nation has now grown to the point where it believes that race prejudice, class distinctions and discrimination based upon race should no longer be a part of our way of life.

Writing in a recent issue of the United Nations Reporter, O. Frederick Noble said, "We must speed the process of securing equal treatment of all people within our borders, regardless of race, creed or color." It is apparent, therefore, that integration of our Negro population into the main stream of American life is a matter of greatest urgency.

Our group has rather strong feelings that North Carolina should avoid the dangers inherent in lukewarm efforts at integrating our schools. The experience of various cities and states which have already achieved integration, has proved that the job can be done effectively and with the minimum of disturbance, only when those charged with its execution are given full power to carry out their plans and where they themselves have enunciated a firm policy of determination to do the job quickly and effectively. To illustrate this point, we should like to call attention to the fact that in the fall of 1954 complete integration of both teachers and pupils was accomplished in the City of Washington, D. C. without incident except for a brief disturbance during the month of October in which only three per cent of the city's 99,000 pupils participated. The City of Baltimore had a similar experience and we are reliably informed that a recent meeting of School Superintendents for cities having populations of 500,000 or over, the superintendents of schools in Baltimore and Washington stated that because of the firm policy of education and the full support of their police departments, they now consider integration of their schools as having been fully accomplished with comparatively little difficulty. Complete integration of teachers and pupils was also accomplished recently without incident in St. Louis, Missouri, where Negro pupils comprise 38 per cent of the total elementary school population and 30 per cent of the high school population. It should be easy to imagine, however, what might have happened if the efforts in these cities had been lukewarm attempts by officials who themselves doubted the possibilities of success. We appeal to you, therefore, to consider carefully the course which North Carolina should follow, particularly in view of the fact that there is no longer any doubt that our schools will be integrated.

A positive and forthright approach to the problem is, in our opinion, extremely necessary and can best be accomplished by strong centralized authority reposed in the State Superintendent and the State Board of Education. This should produce results of which North Carolina can be proud. On the other hand, we feel assured that no one will be proud of what may happen if North Carolina's record of progressiveness and enlightenment is besmirched by a long period of bickering, litigation and unpleasantness occasioned by efforts to avoid the decision of the Court.

For this privilege of appearing before you and expressing our views, we are indeed grateful. It is because of our sincere interest in the progress of all of the people of North Carolina - both white and colored - that we have come before you and we can assure you that because of this overall interest we have felt compelled to express our views which we are convinced are shared by

-Life Is Like That-

(Continued from Page Two)
dark skinned man came before a Senate Committee to speak on what he had done with the peanut and the sweet potato. When the chairman of this committee saw this little man of no commanding presence, he said: "We'll give him just five minutes."

Time Extended
The little black man began to speak—to speak eloquently, interestingly, intelligently. Just before the five minutes were up, somebody moved that this man, Dr. George Washington Carver, later to win worldwide fame as a scientist, be given unlimited time. The motion carried and, for more than one hour, Dr. Carver held his congressional hearers spellbound as he told them more about the sweet potato and the peanut than they had ever heard before.

Advice to Consider
I leave with you the thought that the measure of the quality of any man is his heart, his spirit, his mind and not his physique. People use to think that the size and shape of a man's head determined brain power, that criminals were ugly in appearance and mishapen in stature. Now, they know better or should; but still are impressed by outward appearance.

I don't have space for further comment but would call to your attention some words to be found in the book of Samuel. "Look not on his countenance, or the height of his stature; because I have refused him; for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

It is common knowledge to every North Carolinian that restricted employment opportunities based upon race have limited considerably the earning power of our Negro population. The 1950 Census reports that the median income for all North Carolina families was \$2,215 per year. For white families it was \$2,476 compared with \$1,056 for Negro families. In addition, 27 per cent of the Negro population earned less than \$500 per year. It is apparent, therefore, that if North Carolina is to compete with other states of our nation, it cannot do so successfully while the earning power of one-fourth of its population remains at such a low level. The tremendous tax burden which must be assumed by the remaining three-fourths of the population also looms as a block to real prosperity for any segment of our population. Recent studies of the National Urban League indicate that while the slums of the average American city account for only six per cent of the tax collections, they account for 45 per cent of the police costs; 35 per cent of the fire costs; and 55 per cent of the costs of delinquency.

In North Carolina Negroes are systematically excluded from most skilled employments purely on the basis of race. This is true in the following areas:
1. The textile industry
2. Clerical employment by the State of North Carolina.
3. Administrative positions at state, city, and county levels.
4. The public power companies, the telephone companies and the highway department also exclude Negroes from skilled positions.
This condition exists in spite of the fact that the School of Engineering at A.

and T. College is turning out Negro engineers, most of whom must go to other states in order to obtain employment. Recent studies of the Committee of the South, formerly headed by the late Senator Broughton, support strongly the view that the talents of our Negro population are not being used fully to increase the productive capacity of North Carolina.

In 1953 North Carolina ranked 46th among the 48 states in the average amount of weekly wages paid for all covered employment. The two states which ranked lower than we did were Arkansas and Mississippi. The situation should be viewed with alarm by every person who is concerned with the progress of our State. It is therefore, the considered opinion of this group that the problems posed by racial segregation should from now on be approached in a forthright, intelligent, and objective manner. It is also our considered opinion that if there is to be lasting prosperity in North Carolina, all of us must learn to work and live together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding which cannot be attained as long as there are barriers which prevent us from knowing and understanding one another.

To those who have fears of dire happenings and unfortunate results of an attempt to integrate our schools, let us say that the complete integration of the Armed Forces has been accomplished with such swiftness and in such a satisfactory manner that it is no longer a subject of concern to our Government. In addition, the young men and women of all races who have learned to serve and live together have made adjustments

Moreover, what we do in North Carolina has an important bearing on the position of the United States in the rest of the world. The National Council of Churches recently issued a message which contained a statement that "the non-white peoples of the world are unconvinced by a democracy which accepts a color line." It is clear, therefore, that while our continued loss of prestige abroad may be puzzling to us, the real answer lies in our failure to close more rapidly the wide gulf between our ideals of democracy and the manner in which we practice it.

many others - both white and colored - a large number of whom have served or are now serving in an integrated Army. Assuredly, these persons will be totally unsympathetic with any fears concerning integration and with any effort to perpetuate our expensive and undemocratic system of segregated public schools. This group of citizens is, therefore, appealing to you for support of the following principles in handling the task of integrating the North Carolina public schools:
1. That you will reaffirm North Carolina's tradition of enlightened leadership through a fair, positive and forthright policy on integration of schools in accordance with the mandate of the U. S. Supreme Court.
2. That you will delegate authority to the State Board of Education that will enable it to implement integration, according to the

mandate of the Court, firmly and impersonally.
3. That you will repudiate any bill that attempts to circumvent the mandate of the Supreme Court.
We conclude with a significant quotation from a statement of policy and aims of the Southern Regional Council, successor to the Old Interracial Commission of Atlanta, Georgia which expresses our hopes for the kind of North Carolina which we are working for. The statement reads as follows:
"The South of the future toward which our efforts are directed, is a South freed of stultifying inheritances from the past. It is a South where the measure of a man will be his ability, not his race; where a common citizenship will work in democratic understanding for the common good; where all who labor will be rewarded in proportion to their skill and achievement; where all can feel confident of personal safety and equality before the law; where there will exist no double standard in housing, health, education, or other public services; where segregation will be recognized as a cruel and needless penalty on the human spirit, and - will no longer be imposed; where, above all, every individual will enjoy a full share of dignity and self-respect, in recognition of his creation in the image of God."

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