

AN UNDERSTANDABLE DECISION

The decision of R. N. Harris, not to run for a second term on the City Council of Durham, will be understandable by those of his own group who are close enough to him to know at what sacrifice he has served in the position for the past four years. Being the only member of his race on the Council, Mr. Harris, in the very nature of the case, not only represented the nearly 15,000 persons in his own ward but every Negro citizen in the entire city of Durham. How well he has done the job; both as a representative of the largest constituency in the city and as a councilman in the greater sense of the word, is of record and needs no comment pro or con in these columns.

Councilman Harris will probably not join us in some of the observations that we are bound by our responsibility to make as the true voice of the minority group in Durham. One is the lamentable fact that the editorial praise he has received in the daily press is strictly hindsight instead of foresight and is, therefore, never as appreciative as the latter. Had Mr. Harris received one-third of the editorial support during his candidacy for a seat on the Council as he is now receiving as a retiring member, the fine comments now would

certainly be more acceptable to the Negro citizenry. This brings us around to a second observation, and that is the lack of knowledge which a majority of white people seem to possess as to the ability, the willingness and the eagerness of intelligent Negro citizens to make a contribution to the development, better understanding between the races and general welfare of all citizens of the city. It might be that this could be eliminated if white persons in places of leadership would endeavor to know Negroes better by inviting them as speakers from time to time before such groups as the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club, the Exchange Club, the Young Democrats, the Chamber of Commerce and other important groups. Certainly an exchange of ideas and thought would tend to make for a better understanding as to the true ability, hopes and aspirations of Negro citizens. Is this too much to suggest during these times so pregnant with interracial misunderstanding and distrust? Does each group have to live on its side of the railroad track without knowing or being interested in the problems on the other? We think not.

This newspaper recalls the tenseness and the opposition which faced the employment

of Negro policemen here. It also recalls the opposition which every Negro candidate for public office has faced, all because there is a large segment of white people who persist in the notion that intelligent Negro citizens are scratching themselves raw from itching to associate with white people when their only desire is to give a correct interpretation as to what the Negro wants and to shoulder more responsibility of good citizenship.

As fine as is the record by Mr. Harris during the past four years as a city councilman, and as proud as all sensible members of his race are of it, he and they are fully aware that there are other Negroes in Durham who are just as capable, and who, if given the opportunity, will make equally as good members of the City Council. With that in mind, it is our sincere hope that if and when one does run for the seat made vacant by the retirement of Councilman Harris, his successful candidacy will not be left entirely up to the Negro voters and the few liberal white people who are foresighted enough to see the wisdom of giving the nearly 30,000 Negro citizens of Durham representation on the City Council as well as in other public offices.

FACING THE ISSUE

By DR. A. E. GORDON



EISENHOWER PREPARES FOR WAR

The substance of the address of General Eisenhower before the Congress of the United States, Saturday, January 5, was a request that Congress make him a military dictator of this country with power to carry us into a war over the oil resources of the Middle East whenever HE and HE ALONE decides that this drastic action "is necessary." Knowing that the American people are definitely inclined against fighting a war in that area in interest of the "Economic Royalists" of England, France and this country, who wish to maintain dominance in the area, Eisenhower emphasized the fact that he would not use this power unless Congress and the United Nations and the country or countries involved agreed to such action. Now if the General were sincere in this desire to act only with the consent and at the request of Congress, the United Nations and any nation threatened by communist aggression, he would never have made his extraordinary request. The plain fact is that if Congress, the United Nations and some Middle East nation desired military intervention in the Middle East by us and though it "necessary" to prevent Communist aggression such desires could quickly be made known by Congress, the U.N. and the country involved and our President could be given the necessary authority in a very short time. This is true because of the rapidity of modern means of communication. Even if Congress had to be called into special session that could be done in a few hours by the use of modern air travel.

From what we have just said above it is evident that what the General fears is that Congress, the U.N., and the Middle East Nation involved might not agree that such military action was "necessary" at the time and place HE might think it to be "necessary." Therefore he wants the power to commit our young men to death without going to the trouble to get Congress and the UN to agree with him that this is necessary at the time HE thinks it is necessary.

Directed Against USSR

Another weakness of the Eisenhower administration is that it was directly against aggression by Russia as a communist state. One Arab leader immediately called attention to this weakness by saying that the policy would be better if it made clear that the U. S. would oppose aggression in the Middle East by ANY nation and not just by Russia. Also, the same Arabian source stated that any such action should be through the UN and not left to the whim of any one nation, and especially to the whim of one man, a militarist,

in any one nation. The fact that Eisenhower, in spite of all his mouthing about peace, is fundamentally a militarist who believes that the way to guarantee peace in any part of the world is to prepare for war, makes this request of his "stand-by" authority to use military force in the Middle East amount to preparation for war. Since Eisenhower foolishly believes that he can effectively resist the spread of Communism by military power it is inevitable that the time will come when he will think it is "necessary" to use that power.

If Eisenhower had been wise enough to face this issue constructively, he would have asked Congress to provide means for strengthening the United Nations police force. The way to strengthen that police force is to make the Atomic and Hydrogen bombs of the United States and Russia available for use by the United Nations "if necessary" to prevent aggression in that area. It is not the duty (nor is it wise) of the United States to try to police the Middle East or any other part of the world outside the territory of our own country. The policeman of the world should be the United Nations.

Should Police South, USA

Furthermore, any economic aid we wish to extend to any countries of the world should be extended through the machinery of the United Nations. The tax-payers of this country should not be asked to furnish money to build up the economic order of other nations who may someday become socialist or communist.

If we really want to use our national forces for police action they should be used to enforce the Constitution of the United States in Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina and other southern states where there is open rebellion against the authority of the Federal government in connection with desegregation of the public schools and transportation facilities. If General Eisenhower were really a man of courage, he would tell the South in no uncertain terms that it must obey the laws of the United States or face the consequences. "now in rebellion" against the authority of the Federal Government will be placed under military control, as during the Reconstruction period, until they are willing to obey the laws of the land. We do not think the military power is the right way to enforce the constitution in the South, but Eisenhower should think so since he believes in military power as the proper means of settling world problems.

A. H. Gordon

GOD SPEAKS ON SEGREGATION



Spiritual Insight

"A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING"

By REVEREND HAROLD BOLAND
Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church

"As the people were in expectation, all men questioned in their hearts concerning John..." John 3:15.

A spiritual awakening is rooted and grounded in deep inner change or transformation in the human soul. This change comes with a preaching of the word and a receptive response on the part of the people who hear the word. The preached word is essential to this awakening in our souls. The people were musing, questioning in their hearts after they heard the preaching of the word. A message of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was given. The word gives hope. The lost and wayward need a Gospel of hope—the hope that they can cast away the old and build the new with God's Grace. We are saved by Grace—God's loving concern for our eternally precious souls.

A higher power must come for a spiritual awakening. John's preaching was a prepara-

tion for this coming power. Is this not the purpose of all true preaching? It is the call for a higher power to awaken and redeem our souls. Men's hearts must be stirred. The people must respond to the word of God for an awakening in the soul. The word must be preached and the people must respond before there can be a SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.

A feeling of expectancy is needed for the coming of God's spirit. Without this spirit God's power will not come. We must desire and expect God. We must be ready and expectant for the Holy One to bring a spiritual awakening for a house cleaning. When we have made things ready God will come, and there will be a spiritual awakening in our souls. It is clear, therefore, that a spiritual house cleaning must precede a spiritual awakening in our souls.

An humble, honest, sincere look at self is needed for a spiritual awakening. It is so easy to see the faults, mistakes, errors, shortcomings and sins of the other fellow. But it calls for the rarest courage to look honestly at number one. O yes, it is so easy to discover and diagnose the sins of your neighbor. So let us take a look into our own souls and make ready for a spiritual awakening. The people did this when John came preaching in the valley of the Jordan. Listen to the question of honest inner searching... "TEACHER, WHAT MUST I DO about the souls of their neighbors. What can I do? Take an honest look into your own soul that you may be apart of the much needed spiritual awakening.

The prayer to God of each one of us should be: LORD GIVE US A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IN OUR TIMES AND BEGIN WITH ME.

THE WRONG REMEDY FOR THE SOUTH

The request made of President Eisenhower and Vice-President Nixon by Negro leaders to come into the South and aid integration by appealing to all southerners "to abide by the Supreme Court's decision as the law of the land" is to say the least a nice gesture, but if and when it is complied with, it will have about as much effect on changing the attitude of anti-Negro southerners as "water on a duck's back." To be effective, such appeals will have to be made to reasonable persons and not to those whose minds, hearts and souls are warped with race hatred or to those who have such a big inferiority complex they can only feel equal to others when grinding their heels in somebody's else's neck.

A casual investigation will disclose that wherever segre-

gation is most pronounced, there will be found the most poverty, the most race hatred, the most ignorance and the least progress socially, economically and politically. There will be found in public office, as representatives of the people—locally and nationally—demagogues of the lowest type, who in the end not only prey upon helpless Negroes but the almost equally helpless poor whites who have nothing left of their so-called superiority but their putty-colored skin. Some of these poor suckers are so deeply indoctrinated with the idea that their white skin and their white skin alone is a badge of superiority that it has become a religion. That is why just last year within a few miles of Durham members of a white church could with little or no compunction throw an elderly Negro wo-

man almost bodily out of its Sunday morning service. The weight of action taken by whites in behalf of justice for Negroes almost pales into insignificance when compared with the massive counter action employed by their race-baiting brethren. In addition, it is usually a kind of action the meaning of which is neither respected nor understood by ignorant whites.

There is only one action the president or any other public official can take that will get results in the deep South, and that is the heavy hand of the federal law. For the president or vice president to come in to the South only for the purpose of making a speech or investigating conditions that are already well known to every American is a waste of the time and energy that a few federal marshalls could use to much better advantage.

THE SAME OLD STORY

The President's State of the Union message to Congress was a distinct disappointment to a great many people, who, literally starved for some new hope for leadership in these crisis-ridden times, have been virtually hanging on to the symbol of hope that he has represented these past five years. Many people had hoped that he would point the way for a new dynamic foreign policy, designed to place this country in the forefront of the nations of the world seeking peace.

The only new approach, if it can be called new, discernible in the President's speech was his request to be empowered to use this country's aggression in the Middle East. When this request is examined, it is shown to represent not really an ad-

vance, but rather a reversion to an old, outdated power policy which has even fallen into disrepute among the decadent imperialist powers. It is certainly one which developments in modern warfare have made unfeasible if not suicidal.

As is pointed out by Dr. Gordon in his "Facing the Issue" column this week, the President's request would have been far more palatable if he had simply stated he wanted the power to deter any aggression, not just the Soviet brand. Events of the past few months have awakened the whole world to the hard fact that the Soviets, as dirty and bloody as their hands may be, are not the onerous aggressors in the world. Certainly in the area under consideration, the middle east, examined, it is shown to represent not really an ad-

their most recent aggressors have not been the Soviets, but Britain, and France.

We are not so naive, however, as to think that this country is prepared at this time to cut loose its dependent allies of Britain and France by threatening sanctions against them if they misbehave. But we had hoped that at least the President would re-affirm our hate for aggression of any kind and our championship of oppressed people anywhere, and not just those in Eastern Europe.

By limiting the object of our intentions to deter aggression to Russia, the President has succeeded in telling the world that we are against wrong by certain parties, that we must wink at that done by our "blood" allies, and that we want peace, but on our terms, only.

Think You Have Trouble Milking The Cow? Morgan Student Milks Snakes!

BALTIMORE, MD.

Ever thought that milking a cow poses problems? Then you should try milking snakes.

Vernon Burnett, 19-year-old Morgan State College freshman, does every week and doesn't mind a bit—even though the four copperheads whose venom he extracts gets downright cantankerous at times.

For the rangy, soft-spoken Baltimore-born lad milking snakes is all in the interest of science. Planning a future as a research biologist, Burnett, an honorable mention award winner last year in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, milks his snakes to get venom for study purposes.

Burnett got the idea last summer when he came across a snake while serving as a nature instructor at Camp Druid Hill, a YMCA summer camp, in Huntington, Md. He decided the vicious little copperhead would be a good subject for research. Finding another, he took both home to 1111 N. Monroe Street where two young ones, both now a little more than six inches long, were born.

Since the opening of the academic year at Morgan, the snakes have been housed in the college's Vivarium, a combination animal-greenhouse used as a study center by the department of biology.

Every other Tuesday afternoon, Burnett goes to the Vivarium and milks his snakes, which are two-tone brown things with restless fangs. The parents are about two-feet long with smooth copper sheened heads.

To milk the snakes, the stu-

dent researcher removes them from a screened cage with a wire and places them on a table holding them with prongs. Carefully holding the head away from him, he forces the mouth open. When the fangs are extended, Burnett moves the snakes so that the fangs are placed on the edge of a petri dish. As the snake bites on the edge, venom comes out.

So far, the Morgan student, whose research is being supervised by Dr. John W. King, professor of biology, has extracted about 250 milligrams of snake milk. This supply has been crystallized and stored.

Burnett hopes to learn something about the effects of snake venom on flagellates, plants with whiplike structures for locomotion.

How does he feel about milking the snakes? "I suppose I don't feel anything," he says. He lost his fear of snakes, he explains, as a youngster in the Scouts.

STRENGTH OF THE DAY

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.—(Romans 14, 10.)

If we will carry this thought always in our hearts, we will ever try to help the weak and erring instead of criticizing them; we will truly be kind and considerate—and ourselves be the stronger and better for it.

Watch on the Potomac-

By Robert G. Spivack

HOW'S BUSINESS—Coming events cast their shadows before them, according to wise men, and if that's true 1957 will prove a critical year in the American economy. For many private businesses this may be the toughest year since World War II.

That's the opinion of economic experts. They are not crystal-gazers, but hard-headed realists unafraid of looking facts in the face. Their forecasts contain none of the gushing optimism of Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks. And privately, of course, they all hope that they are wrong and that he is right.

The two principal events that have disrupted the smooth-flow of production, trade and transportation have been the war in the Middle East and the bloodshed in Hungary. Despite the great what-is-it known as the "Eisenhower doctrine," many authorities are inclined to blame the Administration for the turn of events in both countries.

Through U.S. propaganda, official and unofficial, we gave the people of Hungary reason to believe they could count on our help to liberate themselves. In the Middle East, Secretary of State Dulles played what many experts regard as a double game vis-a-vis the Arabs and the Israelis.

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These are the big problems for 1957 as seen by the specialists:

Inflation and the continuing high cost of living in the U.S.; for Great Britain, it's maintaining the value of her currency and winning back some of the world market for automobiles, diesel engines, and machine tools which she has been losing to West Germany.

And here's the outlook in other countries:

Netherlands—Prices have climbed so high that the government had to call in businessmen to ask that they voluntarily stop raising prices; labor has promised not to seek higher wages on the basis of raw materials' costs; price ceilings have been imposed on some food and consumers goods.

France—Until the Suez crisis she was doing fairly well at home, but losing business abroad. Her biggest headache is the continuing cost of her mili-

tary expenditures in Algeria. W. Germany—Of all the European nations involved in World War II, the Germans have made the steadiest progress. The indications are that things will continue to be good in the Fourth Reich, but maybe not quite as good as 1956.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY—Although there remains considerable uneasiness, due mainly to uncertainty about how desperate the men in the Kremlin are, it's also generally agreed that this country can do (continued on page 7)

INVITING THE UNDERTAKER-

Portrait of a man in a hurry to activate his liability insurance and deactivate someone's loved one.

Courtesy of B. F. Goodrich Safe Driver League © 1956 by News-Broadcasters Co. Inc.

The Carolina Times

MAIN OFFICE — 436 EAST PETTIGREW STREET
Phones 5-4671 and 2-2913 — Durham, North Carolina

Published At Durham, North Carolina Every Saturday By
THE UNITED PUBLISHERS, Inc.

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Durham, North Carolina under the Act of March 3, 1879.

L. E. AUSTIN, Publisher
CLATHAN ROSS, Editor
JESSE GRAY, Advertising Mgr.
M. E. JOHNSON, Controller

WINSTON-SALEM OFFICE — 364 N. CHURCH ST. — PHONE 5-9869
MRS. VELMA HOPKINS, Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One Year Ten Cents Single Copy
Six Months \$4.00 — Foreign Countries.

National Advertising Representatives
INTERSTATE UNITED REPRESENTATIVES, Inc.
345 FIFTH AVENUE
PHONE MURRAY HILL — 2-5452
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK