

## SAME OLD DURHAM DRAMA WITH SAME OLD CAST

On Monday night, December 2 progressive citizens of Durham witnessed a reshaping of this city's same old timeworn and moth-eaten drama when a group of Durhamites from the Club Boulevard and Duke Street section appeared before the City Council to oppose the location of a modern shopping center to be located in their area. This stupendous spectacle, as now, has always been played by the same old formidable cast of "Aginits" and "Prevenits." Its members stalk and often retard every effort of progressive citizens to make Durham a growing and modern city.

The "Aginits" and "Prevenits" were there nearly a century ago and defeated efforts of progressive Durhamites to have the main line of the Seaboard Air Line railway come through Durham. Their objection then was that the smoke from the "infernal engines" would mar the beautifully painted houses of the city and the faces of its fair women. The "Aginits" and "Prevenits" were there a few years ago and came near defeating efforts of

progressive citizens to construct an airport for Durham.

It was the "Aginits" and "Prevenits" who made life almost unbearable for the Durham City manager, who was responsible for the construction of the city's present waterworks plant. It was the "Aginits" and "Prevenits" who opposed the construction of the bypass at the northern section of the city and the widening of Alston Avenue. Members of this group are only at ease when Durham is at a point of stagnation or do-nothing. They hate progress, they hate advancement and would enjoy seeing cobwebs hanging across Main Street.

We would like to commend those members of Durham's City Council who voted to go ahead with the construction of the shopping center. Without such progressive action on the part of persons of vision in Durham, this city would still be a one-horse town like it was when the "Aginits" and "Prevenits" ruled in all their power and might.

## THE PRINCETON REPORT

The findings of a Princeton University study on attitudes toward desegregation in North Carolina, reported this week in the daily press, confirms some ideas which have occurred to and received expression from many sensitive observers. The study is primarily concerned with the thinking of individuals widely accepted as leaders on the question. Thus, by its own approach to the issue and by the investigation it makes, one important conclusion made by the report is that leadership is of crucial importance in the question.

Of course, this assumption is one which has been considered beyond question for a long while by a large number of people. But even so, it is worth repeating, if for no other reason than the fact, as the reports states, that the quality of leadership on this issue will determine to no small extent what price the South will eventually pay for the inevitable change in a social custom of long standing. The South cannot win the final battle in the segregation struggle; it can only set the price to be paid. And no one who is interested in the continued growth of the region can be unmindful of what the struggle between the newly emerging pattern of social behavior and the old established custom of segregation is doing and can do to other values which the region would do well to maintain.

For instance, as the report points out, it is up to the leadership to determine how much the Negro must suffer, how much hate must be generated, how much physical property destroyed; how much national and international respect lost, and, finally, how much the South itself must suffer, before full political democracy is established.

It is obvious that the term leaders cannot be restricted to public office holders. Unfortunately, they are too often interested only in leading themselves back into office rather than their constituents to the truth. The real burden of leadership must be borne by the laymen, the businessmen, the churchmen, the union men, the teachers and all others with an interest in and a love for the region.

One other point which the report makes,

though not new, is nonetheless discouraging. It finds that the main weapons which the liberals or those who favor compliance with the court rulings on segregation have are the weight of national opinion and the tradition of respect for law. Of course, these serve well, and it is a good thing that we possess them as this instance shows. But we wonder if preponderance of opinion and tradition are enough to really cope with the kinds of complex problems which desegregation poses. It is obvious that to be really meaningful the South must solve the problem for itself even though that solution must be made in line with the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

The reliance on national opinion and the tradition of respect for the law are obviously reactions to outside pressures. And though we realize it is perhaps idealistic — almost academic — to hope for something better, we cannot rid ourselves of the notion that the search for something better must be made. To our way of thinking, the leaning upon outside pressures even by those who favor the change indicates a basic weakness, moral and intellectual. If we do not possess enough strength as a region to conduct a critical self-examination of our social customs and come at the validity of them by our own efforts, how do we propose to meet other problems which will be thrust upon the region and which the region itself must solve? How do we propose to come at reality and the truth for ourselves?

A case in point is the fact, according to the same Princeton report, that the issue of urbanization and industrialization, almost upon the South, has not yet been seen as a problem of far more significance in the long run than the immediate problem of desegregation. The fact that the region has refused so far to face up to its problem of desegregation and to get at the truth on its own is in some way responsible for its failure to see the larger problem of industrialization.

Thus, it is imperative that we in the South stop acting like adolescents and grow up to the responsibilities which are rightfully ours.

## Life Is Like That

### NEVER GOT CAUGHT

By H. ALBERT SMITH

Several years ago, a professional man then well known in this city and, by reason of his position, wielded no little influence, facetiously or jokingly said to me that there is one commandment, appearing neither on our law books nor in biblical record, which one must always be careful not to violate. That he designated as the eleventh commandment: Thou Shalt Not Get Caught.

#### ANCIENT PRACTICE

This man, of course, was not commending as a desirable way of life the implications involved in this so called eleventh commandment. But, nevertheless, he pointed out as vividly as it is possible to point out a principle of action and behavior as old as the eternal hills, or, if not that old, as ancient as the taboos and circumscriptions, written and unwritten, imposed by men to safeguard themselves under conditions of community life against forces posing a threat both to the individual and society.

In all societies, both ancient and modern, there have always been two classes of men who have found the laws written upon statute books, both legal and moral, in conflict with their desires and ambitions and against which they found themselves in rebellion.

The first represents a small minority constituting the criminal element many of whom go to extreme lengths to satisfy themselves despite law. The other is made up of the respectable residue of any given society who seek, often with success, to circumvent without detection the laws and regulations at cross purposes with their desires.

To draw a strict line of demarcation between the two classes, or to say who belongs to which, is quite impossible. But, in general, the nature of the offense, the length to which offenders choose to go, and their attitude both toward written and unwritten law serve as criteria for classification.

#### WIDE COVERAGE

Sometime ago, the Reader's Digest carried an interesting item significant for our thought here. A man was answering a questionnaire submitted by the government. Over against each of various questions he was required to write yes or no. One question read: "Have you ever been arrested?" The answer was no. A follow-up question read, "Why?" He wrote in the space set for the answer: "Never been caught!"

Whether such an answer was prompted by repugnance or aversion to telling an untruth or not, we do not know. But the fact remains that it covers the status of millions of highly respected citizens. Some are guilty of serious legal offense and others of "indiscretions" at odds both with law and custom. Yet, they have been fortunate enough to escape detection which would have brought prosecution with probable conviction and a crushing load of public disesteem, not to mention disgrace.

#### DIFFERING ATTITUDES

Some of these persons are very humble and grateful. They realize that some one moment in the past that found them out of line with what is supposed to be could have had consequences of tragically serious moment if it had been dramatized by public exposure, whether it involved legal apprehension or not. And, being grateful, they have resolved never again to risk so much.

But, there are others, who stake all on that dubious eleven-

th commandment—thou shalt not get caught. And, because they have never been caught, they figure they never will. Thus they operate on the basis that, regardless as to what the codes set forth, if you can "get away with it"—break law without detection—all is well and good. They substitute for conformity carelessness. And that is to condone any law-breaking that is so done as to permit no detection with its inevitable penalties.

#### STILL COSTLY

There are some instances in which this be-careful-not-to-get-caught philosophy may not seem to have any serious moral effect upon the law violator. Take traffic regulations for instance. One violator, driving at more than seventy miles an hour, means a thirty-day suspension of driving privilege. Two convictions for the same offense within a year involve a sixty-day suspension of one's license. But, in the light of the inconvenience and costs involved, the observance of law makes far more sense than operating on the principle of thou shalt not get caught.

And, even if not caught, the fear, needless watching for law-enforcing officers, risks taken, the possibility of a smash-up entailing property loss, serious or fatal injuries—with an aftermath of costly lawsuits, painful memories and the poignantly regretful hindsight which vainly visualizes that what is written in the record cannot be erased—all this, I say, should cause one to shy, or skrink back from this widely accepted philosophy and practice of violate, but be careful not to get caught.

#### MORAL ASPECT

But, there is a moral aspect to this way of life such a philosophy advises. A thief is a thief whether his activities fall under the detection of policemen or judges, whether he spends a life time in prison or out, or whether he walks with a high head among the aristocrats of the earth, or men of lesser social stature, yet hailed as an honest person.

Two instances come to mind. One involves a churchman known for his piety, especially as evinced by fervent public prayers and testimonies. A few months ago, he was arrested for shoplifting, stealing cigarettes and tobacco with which over the years, he had kept himself adequately supplied.

The other, a churchman, too, enjoying esteem and honor among his people, held a high position in a bank. Investigation revealed him to be an embezzler who over the years had stolen thousands of dollars.

Had either of these men died before the day of "revelation," his minister would have pulled out all stops in eulogizing (ignorantly, of course) a nonexistent integrity. But detection or no, each of these men is a thief. Not getting caught may not affect one's position among men. But silently and unseen, a destructive corrosion of soul is the price paid by the dishonest man.

#### UNSEEN MONITORS

From a moral point of view the man answering the questionnaire referred to earlier gave two wrong answers: one when he answered no to the query—"have you ever been arrested?" the other when to question why, he answered, "Never been caught." That is true because there are unseen monitors who both catch, arrest and pronounce judgement upon us with every infraction of law. And we pay whether conscious of penalty or not.

## The Thistles And Thorns Must Not Be Allowed To Spoil The Crop



By Robert Spivaek

## Watch on the Potomac



### BIG TIMES, LITTLE MEN—

Lyndon Johnson and other spokesmen for the Dixie Democrats have made a decision. They're going after the Administration on foreign policy, Soviet science and the decline in our military prestige. But they're going to ease up on domestic affairs, including even civil rights.

Tight money, business favoritism, and the "junior recession" are topics to be abandoned in favor of loftier discussions about Soviet Sputniks, ICBMs and the revival of NATO.

Speaker Sam Rayburn has already given the signal on the new Dixie Democratic line. The Russians, he said, have "humiliated" us with their recent accomplishments and even if it means higher taxes we have to catch up.

In keeping with the decision of the Texas leadership we may soon expect to witness a display of verbal pyrotechnics of a magnitude usually associated only with Fourth of July oratory. There is going to be a lot of "tak, tak" and "how horrible" talk.

There is no denying the seriousness of the present world situation, but there are several points to bear in mind as the new "Texas line" unfolds in the coming session of Congress.

First, the mood of the Old South is an angry one since Little Rock. The Russells, Tal-

madges and their lesser-known adherents are out for blood. Their only regret is that Herbert Brownell, Jr., didn't stay around to get what they think is coming to him.

The word "Republican" has become a dirty name—not because of McCarthyism or Nixonism—but because it has become associated with civil rights.

Second, it's important to recognize that much of the current agitation over the low state of our defense is coming from the big aircraft manufacturers and military men. They really don't care how much military hardware we build and abandon. These arms manufacturers have big plants in Texas, New Mexico and other areas from which the right wing democrats come.

Third, the Texas "leaders" are sore at the Administration because the Justice Department has instituted a suit to keep the oil companies from extending their "tidelands grab" some 10.5 miles out to sea.

#### PLIGHT OF THE LIBERALS

There is plenty of ammunition to throw at the Administration, as we have had occasion to remark in this space before. But it does not follow that the ineptitude of the Administration automatically endows the Texas leadership with angelic qualities or exceptional political wisdom.

If the Northern Democrats buy only the Johnson-Rayburn

bill of goods, I think one place where the Dixie Democrats can't hit the Republicans is the one issue on which they are really vulnerable — subservience to the banks and Big Business. The reason is simple: the legislators from below the Mason-Dixon line, with a handful of exceptions, are even more subservient.

There are many responsible observers who believe the first order of business for the Northern Democrats should be to seek the ouster of the present party leadership in Congress. After that's done they can define a party position that has some meaning in social terms.

Until that happens the Democrats need not be surprised if their cries of outrage and protest are met with wide yawns.

ONE MINUTE AFTER NOON If Vice President Nixon should become President before noon of Jan. 20, 1960, he can only serve one full elected term in the White House. That's provided under the 22 amendment to the Constitution, the so-called anti-Thirteenth Amendment. If Nixon can hold his ambitions in check until then, he can serve 10 full years—that is if he gets himself reelected.

Ever since the possibility of a decade with Dick was pointed out, several wits at the National Press Club brought out of mothballs those 1956 campaign buttons which read: "Stick with Ike."

## LEARNING MADE UNNECESSARILY HARD

According to news reports, the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, which held its convention last week in Richmond, chose for its theme, "Improving the Quality of Education." We commend the organization for being interested in raising the standards of education in schools largely attended by Negroes, for we can think of no greater need for schools serving the race.

Somehow, the statement made by a Flak

University professor some weeks ago relative to the status of science education in this country keeps coming back to us. He said that so many youngsters are prevented from achieving any worthwhile success and interest in science and mathematics because their primary and secondary teachers, themselves unversed in the subject matter, make these two subjects out to be actually harder than they are.

Then, in addition to this comment, we must add our own experience in school, when only a precious few subjects were not approached by teachers and students alike with a kind of odd "fear and trembling."

To too many youngsters, the educative and intellectual processes have become synonymous with difficult, unpleasant tasks. Now we don't want to infer that learning is all easy; it can hardly be. But we wonder if it is as difficult as it is made to be by inept teachers. Certainly, it is too much to expect that a youngster who has been made to fear books and the learning process in general will ever develop into a first rate scholar.

## Success Of New Auto Loan Depends On State Motorists

Within a few weeks North Carolina's new compulsory automobile liability insurance law will become effective. Whether or not this experiment enforced financial responsibility succeeds or fails depends upon the temper and common sense of both the Tar Heel motorists and the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

The motorists, who must operate under the new law for at least a year, should insofar as is humanly possible keep an open mind until they see how well, or how poorly, it works. The Department, insofar as the law allows, should be as considerate as possible of the thousands who do not understand the new law if, indeed, they realize that such a statute is on the books.

Actually the words "compulsory insurance" do not appear in the law or its title. Individuals who wish to post \$11,000 in cash

or a \$15,000 bond are not compelled to buy insurance. But for all intent and purposes this is a compulsory insurance law; and all of us would do well to recognize the fact.

Tar Heels never have liked compulsion in anything. For that reason, many were surprised that North Carolina was the third state in the union to pass such a law. But the fact is that North Carolinians and their legislators like irresponsibility toward the injured even less than they like compulsion. They are sick and tired of the number of traffic accidents in which people meet death, injury and property damage at the hands of financially irresponsible motorists. Some years back the Legislature passed a "financial responsible law" but that did not meet the problem. Actually the old law did not be-

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## Spiritual Insight

### "THE WONDER OF COMMON MEN"

By REVEREND HAROLD ROLAND  
Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church



"They saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived they were common men, they wondered." Acts: 4:13.

It is indeed a wonder what Christ Jesus can do with common, ordinary human beings. Christ at work in the common clay of humanity can do great wonders. God's spirit can work wonders in this common, marred clay of human flesh. The Miracle of miracles is what God can do in this sinful flesh of ours. The Magic touch of Divine power and love can lift and exalt this common clay of ours. Look what God in Christ did with Peter and John. The word tells us "they were uneducated, common men." Common men redeemed and sanctified become UNCOMMON MEN. A Holy flame had awakened them to the NOBILITY OF THEIR LATENT DIVINITY. Look at them how they are now acting..." When they saw the

boldness of Peter and John... that they were common men they wondered..."

Christ gives a rare dignity and power to common men. What is the secret of this nobility in common men? Yes, Jesus makes the difference. In Christ common men have forgiveness, redemption, peace, joy, faith and Love. These spiritual graces received from Christ give us the wonder of common men. Christ come to teach us the wonder and nobility of our common clay when touched by the magic of Divine Love. He takes a liar and makes him tell the truth. He purges the poison of hate and gives the power of love. He takes the warring restless soul and gives it peace. He takes an old dirty sinner cleans him up and makes him a saint. Indeed Christ is the secret of the wonder of common men. Christ came into the lives of common men and see

them turning the world upside down. How is it done? The secret is..."They recognize that they had been with Jesus..."

Christ cleanses and enriches this old house of clay. Truly it's a wonder what Christ can do in our soul. The Holy spirit is a deep mystery in the sinful soul. The love of God is a wonder in our sinful souls. It heals and sweetens the soul. Love gives meaning and purpose to life. It is the light and the joy of life. And without love life is cold, empty and meaningless. And what is this old house of clay without the beauty of Christ and his spirit? It is nothing until redeemed from sin and indwelt by the spirit of Christ Jesus. Jesus Christ is still taking so-called common men and raising them to the level of righteous power to change the world. God works wonders through so-called common men.

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