

The Fundamental Right of Protest

Let there be no mistake about it anywhere on this earth, the wanton murder of the three Negro students in Orangeburg, South Carolina, by state troopers and National Guardsmen on the night of February 8, will not soon be forgotten by intelligent Negroes of this nation. We would like for the world to know that the group of Negro students who were attempting to integrate the segregated bowling alley in Orangeburg were as much engaged in a battle against the enemies of this country as American soldiers now fighting in Vietnam. That three of them were shot down in the attempt of the students to force a public facility to live up to the tenets of democracy should be viewed by every loyal citizen of America in the same manner as others of our country who have given their lives in the defense of democracy.

Let there also be no mistake about it that the day is over, the time is up when Negroes of intelligence will remain satisfied with anything less than equal treatment everywhere at all levels in the affairs of this nation. Let it be further understood by all citizens, especially those of the deep South, who are obsessed with the idea that these United States be long to whites and whites only, that such stupid and ill-conceived notions are the real breeders of the widespread unrest, marches, sit-ins and other forms of protests by Negro students and others in this nation.

So the three students who were

wantonly murdered by the so-called guardians of the law in Orangeburg, South Carolina, gave their lives in the defense and the protection of democracy as much as any soldier of this nation, who has ever died in its defense at home or on a foreign battlefield. That their fellow students in other cities across the nation, with few exceptions, confined their protests to orderly marches and other controlled demonstrations, we think, is a tribute to their general regard for law and order.

This newspaper rededicates itself, again and again, here and now, to the fundamental and eternal truth and belief that it is utterly impossible to erase one wrong by committing another, to that truth spoken by the Son of God, nearly 2,000 years ago when he declared for the ages that "all they who take up the sword shall perish with the sword." So, we oppose violence in all forms whether it be three students in Orangeburg, or the three students in Orangeburg, or the breaking of plateglass windows by the throwing of bricks in Durham or elsewhere.

We endorse with all our might the right of peaceful protest by our students and other citizens of this country, protest against segregation in every form and everywhere, whether it be in a bowling alley or a back alley. Such a right is a fundamental of a free people that must be guarded now, henceforth and forever.

The General Telephone Controversy

The City of Durham intends to secure the services of a Washington, D. C. consultant to make an independent study of the General Telephone Company's request to increase its rates. According to City Attorney Claude V. Jones, the consultant would study primarily the telephone company's fiscal situation, but consumer service would also be part of the study.

The City seems to acknowledge the fact that the quality of the telephone service provided by the General Telephone Company is an important factor in objections to the rate hike. Jones indicated that when the city intervenes before the utilities commission, it should subpoena customers to testify on the quality of the service.

Certainly, there will be no shortage of rate customers to voice their complaints about the telephone services which almost everyone acknowledges to be deplorable.

Bad telephone service is a fact. There will be no problem proving that. However, there remains the question why the services of the General Telephone Company are so bad. Our own information indicates that a major problem is the installation and maintenance of telephone equipment.

Apparently, the General Telephone Company uses the same electronic equipment that any other company uses in this country. This equipment is highly complex and sophisticated. How the equipment functions, however, depends on how well it is installed, and how well it is maintained.

For example, when one number is dialed and another is reached, (frequent occurrence) it is due to a malfunction of the equipment. Many of the complaints of customers imply problems with the proper functioning of the equipment.

One major customer indicated to us that equipment malfunctioning derives from the poor training and incompetence of General Telephone personnel who install it, and not from the quality of the equipment itself. He said: "You call in a repair man to deal with a problem, and in fixing it, he creates a host of other problems. This is because he is not thoroughly trained in the intricacies of electronics, and does not understand that a manipulation to correct a malfunction, may cause other types of equipment malfunction."

Thus, it would appear to us that a study of the General Telephone Company must include a thorough examination of how telephone equipment is installed and maintained, and how this relates to the quality of the company's field personnel.

Many of the customers' complaints indicate problems in other areas of the company's operation: billing procedures (people with party lines being charged for private lines), management (long delays in meeting orders), and public relations (offensive and inefficient handling of complaints).

The City of Durham might do well to consider the imperative for having consultants investigate these problems in depth.

Vultures Of 'Heredity Poverty'



TENSION IN THE CITY

The events of last Thursday night emphasized the current of unrest that lies just beneath the surface in our city. It is not something unique to Durham but a situation which prevails all over our country. You are certainly aware of this. It presents a problem which directly affects you.

Local governmental officials act as if this tension does not exist, or it may be that they recognize it but prefer suppression rather than positive action.

Many people claim to deplore these disorders and say "we will not tolerate them" but few are willing to do anything about them. Everyone talks about acting after things have broken out. They only consider better riot training and equipment for the Police and National Guard. For example, the city of Detroit had five armoured personnel carriers valued at \$30,000 apiece on the scene during the riots there, with these you can kill a fantastic number of people in a few minutes. With these you may possibly shorten or stop a riot but they will not prevent riots from breaking out or ease the tensions which lead to them. This \$150,000 could have been much more wisely deployed when they break out into violent action. And it may account for the fact that of all the places similar demonstrations were held last Thursday, it was only here

THE WAY I SEE IT

By DAVID W. STITH

spent on efforts designed to ease the tension and thereby prevent any outbreak. This money wisely spent could possibly have prevented the loss of several millions of dollars in property destruction and man power use.

We have too many people who like to make popular statements about being free from fear and safe from violence but who do nothing constructive about it. They talk of building meaningful understanding but do not work towards establishing it. While Durham seethed, the Mayor's Bi-Racial Committee on Human Relations was totally inactive sitting on the sidelines. The Bi-Racial Committee still has not met now almost a week after the disorders.

It is enlightening that the North Carolina Good Neighbor Council has attempted to set up a local branch of that organization in Durham but were told by the city government that it was not needed because we had the Mayor's Bi-Racial Committee. One has to wonder seriously if the city government wants to ease the tensions.

This is irresponsible leadership which ignores potential problem situations and then in Durham that disorders resulted. Was there a different intent on the part of the demonstrators or was there a poor reaction on the part of the police? Effigies were burned in at least one other city and there it did not require the intervention of the fire and police departments.

Riot training may be necessary for our police department but they need to learn much more than how to break up crowds and carry out military action. They also need to learn to be aware of tensions and work toward lessening these tensions rather than contributing to them. And the policeman must continue to be a protector not a prosecutor.

Unless we build bridges of communications across the valleys of race which separate us from one another, we will be unable to resolve the tension and bring real peace to our city and nation. A heavy responsibility lies on all of us to build these bridges. We cannot exist in another America, apart from the rest of the country and world.



The Right to Life

ROY WILKINS

The black and white complainers about the racial situation have a chance to do something besides wall and wring their hands now that the second session of the 90th Congress has begun.

The first Senate business is a civil rights bill designed to provide for the trial and punishment of persons found guilty of interfering with those seeking to exercise their civil rights—those rights already specified in statutes and court decisions plus those sought to be so specified.

This is necessary legislation, although the ultraconservatives and the extreme black militants will join in condemning the move. The conservatives, largely white, will argue that there are now enough laws on the books. What is required, they say, is enforcement.

The black extremists will condemn all laws as anti-black. They will downgrade all laws as "too slow." The extreme extremists would stage a revolution, throw out the whole American system and start all over with a racially segregated society, dictated by violence or the threat of violence and rigidly controlled by vigilantes.

But the time is 1968 when the violent millennium has not yet been substituted for Congress and the rest of the governmental structure. The nation recognizes that certain challenges are being

uttered and that threats of violence are more than vocal exercises. The country can choose to meet these either with armed suppression or with a strengthened functioning of the existing machinery.

Men have been killed in the United States for seeking the right to register and vote. Harry T. Moore and his wife were bombed to death in 1951 after Moore had made statewide tour of Florida to increase Negro voter registration.

No man has been arrested for this double murder. If one had been he would have been acquitted of the state charge of murder. He could not have been arrested under federal law for anything except "conspiracy" to deny a person his civil rights, that is, in the Moore case, their lives. Proving conspiracy, as all lawyers know, is a difficult task.

Under the pending bill, a man charged with killing the Moores or Vernon Dahmer in Hattiesburg, Miss., in 1966, or a dozen others, would be tried in a federal court, not for conspiracy but for the crime alleged.

To Be Equal

By WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR.

Studying Sick Society

THIS IS A presidential election year, and that means that everybody and his brother will come up with platforms and plans for 1968. I've got one too, but it's pretty simple. In fact, it takes only one line.

My plan is for no more studies of Negroes this year. Think about it. Studying Negroes threatens to become one of the biggest industries in the U. S. God knows how many different commissions and study groups are studying last year's riots. Books and articles reporting new studies of different aspects of Negro life are arriving daily.

Every university has its "Negro expert," usually white. Every foundation is swamped with requests for funds to study this Negro ghetto or that one. We've had studies of the "souls" of black people, the "pathology" of the Negro family, and others. You name it, and it's been studied.

Mr. Young Of course, if you study something, you don't have to do anything about it. Just wrap it neatly between fancy-looking covers and put it on the shelf. It's much easier to study unemployment than it is to create new jobs; much easier to write about bad housing than it is to build decent homes.

Studying The Situation

Almost 50 years ago there was a terrible race riot in Chicago. A commission was appointed to study the situation and it came up with a load of recommendations for changing conditions. Do you know that those recommendations are almost identical with the ones coming out of the current studies?

How many studies does it take for people to understand that Negroes are suffering from prejudice and economic hardships? Are all these PhD's so stupid that they need to do all over again what has been done hundreds of times over the past 40 years?

Don't get me wrong. I'm all for good scholarship. In fact the Negro-studying business has become so big that I'm afraid if we just end it quickly, too many people will be thrown out of work.

So I'd like to propose a different kind of study. I think we should study white folks. After all, Negroes didn't create the ghetto, white folk did. The sickness of racial hatred is a problem white people have had to live with for years, without the benefit of anyone studying it.

TELL IT LIKE IT IS

By KENT R. AUTOR



Mr. Kent Autor
The Carolina Times
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Autor,
I am sending the enclosed poem to you, which I just wrote, because of my expectation that going through normal channels, the poem would not get printed in your paper.

You claim to be a white man concerned about the black man's plight. Well, this poem is too, in its own way. Perhaps its message is too bitter. Perhaps it is too strong for your blood? I hope not. I hope you are what you claim to be.
ANONYMOUS

OUT OF EGYPT LAND (For the martyred dead of Orangeburg)

Creatures of shame and despair,
Born of the dark womb of Night
Wolves slashing at your children's throats.
Spatterings of lustrous blood sparkle on your dark skins
And stain the pure, white, hypocritical snow
That burns and lashes your naked feet.

Where is your refuge? Where is your escape?
Why do you run so, black Mother,
Yellow eyes rolling in terror
As you squeeze the guilty babe to your breast?
Who shall hear your whimpering cry, except the Avenger?

No wise men shall succor you.
No God will protect you
However earnestly you whisper frenzied pleas
and incantations for his mercy.
You have been deceived in your choice of Gods.
You have sought the Merciful-God
Not knowing that his cold, brilliant whiteness
Hates your warm blackness.

Black mother, Oh, black mother!
Cease your insane, cowardly flight.
You cannot escape the hatred of the White God by running.
For he is everywhere, like the bitter snow.
Nor can you placate his wrath with obedience and Love.
For the Snow-god scorns your humility and fears
the consuming warmth of your love.
Stop! You cannot escape and you cannot placate.

Now is the time to scoop up the snow and melt it in your breasts.
Now is the time for fire screaming, and madness.
Now must you sink your teeth into the snow's white throat
And discover that the watery blood is no match for your own.
Now is the time to unmask the terrible White-God
And to learn that his substance is fragile, cold,
unsubstantial snow.

In madness must you eat the guilty babe,
who is not really your own.
Come. Look into the face of the Avenging-God
who awaits your courage.
Learn—that he is fire, full-breasted—and Black!

The lady who submitted this poem for publication erred in her judgement that "going the Negro is one thing through normal channels, the Negro is fighting. To ask for patronage is blatant Uncle Tom-ism. As a proponent of Negro self-advocacy, the lady has something to learn.

It is ironic that the author, a Negro would ask a white man who writes for a Negro newspaper, to publish her poem because she believes it would not otherwise have been accepted. She displays little trust in her own race, and puts herself in the position of asking a white man to do for the Negro what the Negro can and should do for himself. After all, the paternalism of the white man toward the Negro is one thing the Negro is fighting. To ask for patronage is blatant Uncle Tom-ism. As a proponent of Negro self-advocacy, the lady has something to learn.

A Salute to Herald's New Sports Staff

The coming of Alex Crockett to the sports editorship of the local Durham Morning Herald has resulted in the kind of comprehensive and objective sports coverage of area sports that has been slowly in the making over the years. Those of us who followed Mr. Crockett's predecessor saw his pages change to reflect the changing times to a considerable extent. But young sports editors, attuned to area coverage and with adequate staffs can do more than "pillars of reliability" who may not be persuasive in stimulating management to change with the needs of a changing community.

The Herald's crack photographers are now matched for the first time by a group of writing specialists whom Mr. Crockett has imported to add strength and versatility to the Herald's sagging sports department. By integrating coverage of area colleges and high schools, Mr. Crockett and his staff not only show sensitivity to the notion that the sports of all schools deserve attention; they also effect an economy in space which must surely be appreciated by the Herald front office.

By expanding coverage of such sports as bowling, hockey, racing, etc.,

to positions of respectability, the Herald provides more variety of news-worthy events and at the same time builds greater spectator interest.

The live, often on the spot coverage given games of local interest runs virtually every level of competition is comforting to coaches, athletes, and plain fans. From time to time virtually every sports figure of note on the local scene seems to find himself reflected in the Herald's sports section. It is gratifying to welcome this new combination of Sports Editor Alex Crockett and a fine group of knowledgeable young sports writers and to wish them well in their efforts to add vigor, variety, spice, and sportmanship to the Durham area.

Jews In The Thirties

A new book has been published alleging that the United States and its leaders, including President Franklin Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, were guilty of acquiescing in Hitler's murder of millions of Jews.

The author implies that few in the United States cared, that we turned a deaf ear and a cold heart to refugees from Germany when we should have seized the time and opportunity to demonstrate moral leadership.

TO HOLD ROAD FUNDS

Secretary of Transportation Alan S. Boyd has announced that \$600-million in Federal highway money would be held back to fight inflation during this calendar year.

ON CREDIT PROTECTION

The House has passed a bill that would give customers and borrowers an explanation of the interest and other finance charges they sign for. The bill is known as the "Consumer Credit Protection Act."

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