

Franklin Board Loses Appeal To Circuit Court

A telegram was received here Monday by school board attorney Edward F. Yarbrough disclosing that the U.S. Fourth Circuit of Appeals in Richmond has affirmed the ruling last August of the Eastern District Court in Raleigh. The text of the ruling has not arrived here, but wire service reports out of Richmond say that the Appeals Court referred to the violence in the county as a reason for its decision.

In lieu of the full seven-page text of the ruling, local school officials were withholding comment on the ruling, which was not totally unexpected.

The denial of the school board's plea for continued freedom of choice, now places greater emphasis on the plan for total desegregation of the system, presented to the District Court last month. Judge Algernon Butler of Clinton is expected to rule soon on the plan, which calls for a \$3.5 million bond issue to consolidate

the schools and seeks to operate this fall much as was done for the present school year.

The appellate court upheld the 1967 decision ordering "pupil assignments based on a unitary system of geographic attendance zones or upon the consolidation of grades or schools or both."

The school board contended that it had been desegregating its public schools under the freedom of choice plan where Negro pupils, if they wished, could transfer to all-white schools.

The appellate decision, however, said that "acts of violence and threats against Negroes requesting transfers of their children into formerly all-white schools" rendered the plan unworkable.

The seven-judge appellate panel, headed by U.S. Appeals Judge Clement F.

Haynsworth, Jr., ruled the lower court was "well within the range of the discretion vested in it" in ordering the school board to abandon its freedom of choice plan.

The panel also took note that the board "took no steps to desegregate its schools until 1965 when it acted under a court order." It was then that the freedom of choice plan was implemented.

"On the record before it," the opinion stated, "the court quite naturally and properly concluded that the situation called for drastic measures."

The county school board also was scored for its attempts at faculty desegregation, which the court called "wooden, and little calculated to provide the result the court envisioned."

WEATHER

Considerable cloudiness and warm today with showers or thundershowers this afternoon and tonight. Wednesday, showers ending and turning cooler. Low today, 62; high, upper 70's

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Quiet Returns To Louisburg, Franklinton Following Weekend Of Vandalism, Arson And High Tension

A rash of broken windows and at least two cases of suspected arson took place in Louisburg during the weekend as violence struck a number of North Carolina communities in the wake of last Thursday's slaying of Negro leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tenn.

Sometime late Friday night or early Saturday morning vandals broke two large plate glass windows in the front of Bunn Super Grocery on South Main Street and broke a large window and a small one in James Moore's Service Station a couple of blocks away.

Sunday night, thieves broke the glass door of the ABC Store on Bickett Blvd, entered the place and stole what was described as a small amount

of whiskey. All ABC stores were ordered closed last Friday by Governor Dan Moore following the outbreak of violence in the state.

Around midnight Sunday, fire hit the lumber storage building at the rear of Wilson Building Supply Co. on the West River Road causing damage estimated at \$5,000. Louisburg Fire Chief R. G. Person said arson is definitely suspected in this case. Early Monday morning fire struck again, this time at an unoccupied house on Perry's Street where considerable damage was done. The dwelling is owned by the King estate here.

A window in the C & P Music Co. building, operated by Louisburg Mayor V. A. Peoples, was broken Sunday night, but no other damage was reported.

Mayor Peoples called out all available police and auxiliary police as well as requesting aid from the Sheriff's department last Friday night in an effort to cope with expected disorder. Patrols were doubled in the Louisburg area and a curfew was being considered for most of the weekend, although one never came.

In other unrelated incidents, two Negro men escaped injury when their car overturned on the River Road after a high-speed chase by local officers Saturday night. Albert B. Smith, n/m/24, was arrested and charged with a number of violations including failing to stop for a siren, speeding and careless and reckless driving. James Goode, a passenger, See LOUISBURG Page 8

Negro Youths Charged At Franklinton

Seven young Negro men are free today on \$1,000 bond each in the Saturday night breaking of plate glass windows in the Western Auto Store on Main Street in Franklinton.

The seven are charged with malicious damage to real property where damages were estimated to exceed \$1,000. Six windows were broken when crates of empty soft drink bottles were thrown through them. Franklinton's acting Assistant Police Chief Tom Allen arrived on the scene in time to see the group run away.

With the aid of State Troopers and a Sheriff's deputy, most of the group were captured shortly thereafter. Others were arrested Sunday and Monday.

Haywood Lawrence, 17, and Lester Wilder, 18, are also charged with breaking windows at Jack's Grill near Franklinton. Others charged in the Main Street incident are: Norman Lee Bass, 16, Joe Teasley, 24, Leon Mills, 22, Thomas J. Bailey, 19, and Harold Taylor.

The driver of the car, not identified, was also charged with drunk driving. He reportedly took no part in the window breaking. See YOUTHS Page 8



Nelson Arnold, Attendant at Moore's Service Station removes debris Saturday morning.

Registration Books Open Extra Hours

Registration books in Louisburg and Franklinton will be open extra hours this week to give all eligible citizens more time in which to register. Lee Bell, Louisburg Registrar announced that the books will be open upstairs

in the Louisburg armory Wednesday through Saturday, all day.

George Champion, Jr. Secretary to the Board of Elections, announced that books at Franklinton will be open at the Town Hall from 7 to 9 P.M. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights and all day Saturday.

All other precincts will be open as usual on Saturday and citizens may register at other times at the home or business of the registrars.

Negroes Halt School Bus

According to a reliable report a Negro man and woman boarded a Franklinton school bus this morning and removed eight Negro children, saying they would not attend school today. The bus, headed for the predominantly white Franklinton High School was reportedly stopped about a mile and a half north of Franklinton.

Authorities know the identity of the two, according to the report, and are presently looking for the man and deciding what charges to file against them.

A telephone call to Franklinton Superintendent R. B. Gordon was not returned this morning and the reports were not confirmed by school officials. Mr. Gordon's secretary declined comment when asked about the incident, saying that any comment would have to come from the Superintendent.

It was reported that Mr. Gordon, following the incident, took the eight Negro children home to their parents and that the twenty or more white children were "extremely scared", although all are in school today. The Negro pair, reportedly took the keys to the bus with them, leaving the vehicle stranded.

A request by two Negro ministers, See BUS Page 5

gone to the streets in protest of the killing. Windows have been broken in both Louisburg and Franklinton and at least two fires are believed deliberately set in Louisburg. A white man was beaten and robbed and the ABC Store was broken into in Louisburg over the weekend.

At Franklinton the huge plate glass windows in Western Auto Store on Main Street were broken Saturday night, and seven young Negroes are free on bond, charged with the crime.

Youngsville and Louisburg national guardsmen have been in Raleigh since early last Friday morning. Ordered there by Governor Dan Moore, the locals have had no opportunity to return home as they have been pressed into service to keep the peace in riot-torn Raleigh.

Concerned mounted, especially in Franklinton, that private citizens might get into the act of protection. Reports say that a number of Franklinton citizens were armed during the weekend.

Chief Edwards issued a plea Monday for all citizens to refrain from hauling firearms and cited a recent ruling by the state Attorney General that it is unlawful to go "dangerously armed" during time of crisis. Edwards said arrests would be made in such cases.

Auxiliary police have been on duty in both communities throughout the night-time hours since last Friday. Officers of the Sheriff's department have also seen extra duty hours throughout the period. Louisburg firemen spent much of Sunday night fighting a blaze at Wilson Building Supply Company here and were at it again early Monday morning as fire was discovered in an unoccupied home on

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Sen. Ervin Urges No Party Bolting

United States Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. urged Democrats to stick together in these times and not to yield to the temptation to bolt the party, in an address here Friday night before some over 200 party faithful. Speaking at the annual Democratic Dinner, held in the Louisburg College cafeteria, North

Carolina's senior Senator, said the Democratic party should dedicate itself to the maintenance of law and order and added, "Law and order are the first obligation of government."

Senator Ervin was introduced by Louisburg attorney Neil Jennings, President of the YDC, following brief

statements from a number of candidates for state office.

Second District Congressman L.H. Fountain told the group, in an obvious reference to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tenn. Thursday night, "Apathy, complacency and indifference are the most dangerous things I know". He called on all to seek God's guidance in these times. He is opposed in the Democratic primary by Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, a Negro housewife from Warrenton.

Congressman Fountain was followed to the rostrum by Raleigh attorney John Jordan, candidate for Lt. Governor in 1964, who was acting as stand-in for gubernatorial candidate Bob Scott and Eugene Boyce, also a Raleigh attorney who represented gubernatorial candidate J. Melville Broughton. Both men urged support for their candidate.

Attorney General T. Wake Bruton and his opponent, State Senator Robert Morgan spoke briefly. Dr. Raymond Stone, a Franklin native and candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, told the group, "It's good to be back home" as he related the number of places he had visited during the week on the campaign trail. He announced he would return here for a rally on April 19. Former House Speaker Pat Taylor stole the show with his dry wit as he said he was happy to be in Franklin County. Explaining that he is from Anson County, he said, "You know about Anson county, that's the only place that has received more publicity related to

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Jennings, Mrs. Pernel, Senator Ervin



Fire Destroys Lumber Building