

The Franklin Times

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LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Summer: Long, Hot---And Dark

The day after the assassination of Martin Luther King in Memphis, a young Negro girl skipped gaily past guards in front of the White House in Washington, waving a blouse and shouting, "I stole this. Shoot me. Shoot me."

It is hardly necessary to report that the young girl was ignored by the guardsmen. This is called the administration's "new" policy of restraint against rioters, looters and arsonists. It has decreed that property will be sacrificed in the interest of protecting the lives of these hoodlums. It seems that too many of these young hot-heads have been getting themselves shot while setting fires and stealing.

The Washington Daily News reports that Attorney General Ramsey Clark "seems to argue that law enforcement officials shouldn't try to stop a mob from burning down your house for fear of injuring the arsonists". The newspaper quotes Mr. Clark as saying, in defense of his new policy, "Look at the deaths. Very few deaths compared to what could have been expected under the circumstances". The reference is apparently to last week's Washington riots and the "circumstances" is an obvious reference to the King slaying.

The plan is to amass enough troops to put down the riots without bloodshed. Certainly life is of greater value than property but beyond this reasoning we fail to follow the

new plan. What our government is apparently saying is that looters, arsonists, snipers and other criminals are now free to do as they wish without fear of being shot. In the case of Washington where it took nearly 24 hours to move troops from across the Potomac to the scene, this seems a long time for policemen to hold the front lines without arms.

The plan calls for troops to be at the ready in the thirty cities during the expected long, hot summer. What happens in the other thousands of cities in the country has not been explained. Nor has there been any assurance that the looters, arsonists and others are going to cooperate and hit only those cities containing troops.

This is another act of appeasement by our government. A prime example of just how low our national leaders will stoop to appease the Negro militants is seen in the inaction by the Justice Department against Stokely Carmichael. After a fire and brimstone speech in Washington following King's death, over \$13 million in damages was inflicted by rioters.

Last week Carmichael told Radio Havana, "It is crystal clear to us (Negroes) that the United States of America must fall in order for humanity to live and we are going to give our lives to that cause." This is treason by any concept and yet, Carmichael is free to continue

preaching his doctrine of anarchy because the government is afraid it might make the Negroes mad. Responsible Negroes and whites alike are already mad that nothing is being done to his kind.

The plan of restraint cannot work. It is appeasement of the worse kind and an open invitation to steal, burn and destroy.

In the model Negro city of Washington, with a Negro mayor, a Negro member of the U. S. Cabinet, a Negro Supreme Court Solicitor, a Negro member of the Supreme Court, large representation of Negro policemen and thousands of well-paid Negro government employees it took 14,000 federal and National Guard troops to put down last week's riots. In the home of the most liberal civil rights leader of all, President Lyndon Johnson, seven persons were killed, 1100 were injured, including 52 policemen, 7000 were arrested and 800 separate fires were set.

If this destruction failed to awaken our national leaders, nothing will. So we must face another long, hot summer. And anyone who believes it will be limited to just thirty cities, has their heads buried in the sand.

But, with all its sinister connotations, the plan of restraint holds one very definite threat that has as yet, not been explored. This is the probability that in the absence of government control, private citizens will take it upon themselves to become involved.

Men will, as they have done since the beginning of time, protect their property and their families. If government cannot or will not maintain law and order, the private citizen can be expected to react. And herein lies the real threat.

Already large numbers of people are sleeping, armed inside their businesses at night. Many people leave their yard lights on and some, even leave their inside lights burning at night. Still more carry arms wherever they travel. Fear has become an ever-present plague upon our nation. Herein lies a danger to stagger the imagination. Law abiding, peace loving citizens, out of fear taking matters into their own hands.

And we look for leadership and none is to be found. In this election year, when Americans have traditionally been given a choice, no meaningful choice exists. In their efforts to console and condone and to be seen on national television, millionaire presidential candidates, who would not walk a block from their air-conditioned limosines normally, marched four miles in Atlanta. And the Congress rushed through a civil rights bill, under guard of federal troops, to join in the appeasement. And the nation's top law enforcement official orders restraint in dealing with those who would burn this nation to the ground.

So the summer will be long; the summer will be hot; and unless the good Lord helps us, the summer will be dark.



You know... there are a whole lot of myths in this world... We sat up all night looking for that danged Easter bunny and that bushy-tailed little rascal never showed...

Since we were a wee small lad... we've been told that... all things taken under consideration... that little fellow would hop in at Easter and bring all sorts of goodies... and we waited... and we waited... and we waited...

And since this is the time we all send our blood in to that infernal collector... and since we've been told since we were a wee small lad that we get services for this blood... we wait... and we look and... we are beginning to be a non-believer. Only service we've seen from all that loot we send each year... is a host of feds converging upon us when they get the slightest complaint in Washington... Our men are getting killed in Vietnam... or are held captive in Korea... Our cities are being burned... and we're getting farther in debt by the hour... Like the danged bunny rabbit... getting our money's worth is a myth...



Now when it gets to the point you don't believe in the Easter bunny or the federal government... You gotta admit, it's hard to believe in anything. They said the moon was going to eclipse the other night... We didn't even bother to look up... The weatherman says it's gonna be fair... and we wear our raincoat... The little woman says it'll only take a minute... so we lie down and take a nap...

The TV announcer says he'll be back after a brief message... and there are seventeen commercials...

We've got a credibility gap that would make the Grand Canyon look like a crack in the wall... The fellow says he's got to have a day off to bury his grandmother... and unless they buried the old gal in the fishing pond... that fellow lied...

And who now can ever believe the guy that says I'll have it fixed in a jiffy? Jiffy really means... sometimes next week after you've called eleven times... or the caller who says I'll pay you for it Saturday?

When you run that fast mile to answer the telephone and there's nobody there... that's a myth... You expected somebody to talk... to say something... You expected something that just wasn't... That's a myth. There's as many different kinds as there are colors in the rainbow... which, incidentally is also one...

You can take your favorite... little something that isn't there... and give it a name... whatever you prefer... You can hang it in the closet or swing it on the front porch and never be embarrassed... 'cause nobody will see it... And... we dare say... nobody will believe it...

So when the doorbell rings next time... just ignore it... chances are there's nobody there... It's all a myth...

And come to think of it... if this looks like a blank space to you... it is... We didn't write this column at all... You just think we did...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: I read, and appreciated, all your Editorials in The Franklin Times, but I want give you a little extra "thanks" for what you have in the two papers this week. They are both extra good. Again I say thank you and may the good Lord continue to bless and help you in the good work. Hugh R. Mosley

To me, your remarks about Johnson, Kennedy, Rockefeller, King and some others fits just perfect. I just can't understand why more people can't see it that way. Many parents learn much by helping junior with his lessons.

Progress would be faster if people could go forward on excuses.

"Well, It Wasn't Very Pretty Before, Either."



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Loss Of Free Choice

Durham Morning Herald

Franklin County's hopes for freedom of choice school operations apparently have reached the end of the line with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling which upholds a lower federal court on the issue. Franklin perhaps is not surprised, for powerful attacks had been directed at its position, but the county understandably is disappointed that freedom of choice had so little chance to prove its point in the school integration argument. The appellate court's decision held, among other things, that "acts of violence and

threats against Negroes requesting transfer of their children into formerly all-white schools" rendered the plan unworkable. Yet, on the record, parents of 32 Negro children assigned to predominantly white schools under court order requested freedom of choice instead and their attorney accused the Federal Bureau of Investigation of intimidation in connection with questioning concerning their decision. Franklin County's desegregation under freedom of choice admittedly was slow, so slow that federal officials and other

protesting parties might conclude that restraining factors were at work in the white community. Or perhaps they simply were disappointed. But at any rate, freedom of choice has suffered another blow. Although it has been outlawed in Franklin, it is operating satisfactorily in some other areas. In one, Durham city schools can be cited as an example of how well the plan can work. Freedom of choice, in fact, was ordered by U. S. Middle District Court and was upheld by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Now that Franklin has lost

its case, the county can proceed - as it must - with implementing massive changes in its public school structure. Fortunately, the county has prepared a plan and has submitted it before the deadline set by U. S. Eastern District Court. Whether it is accepted and, if so whether it will work better than freedom of choice remains to be seen. It at least will force integration, whether or not citizens of both races desire it. And that appears to be a compelling, although not totally acceptable, fact of life.

Remembered As Great

History may not record Dan Moore among North Carolina's greatest governors. Certainly he will not be listed among those surrounded with controversy such as Sanford and Cherry. Nor is he likely to be noted as an education governor in the same class with Aycock.

He will be hard-put to rate with Scott as a road governor, the road bond money notwithstanding. And he is unlikely to reach the heights of Hodges as an industry leader.

But one thing can be said for the Mountain Man. He is a cool customer, under fire.

There can be no criticism of the manner in which he handled the race riots in recent days. He did not make a lot of rash statements; he did not look for excuses; he did not wait to act. He faced the crisis straightforwardly, intelligently and fairly. He put a stop to it almost before it began.

This action, if no other, is to his and to North Carolina's everlasting credit. For this action, if for no other, Dan Moore will, in these quarters, always be remembered as a great governor.

Hazards Of Childhood

In light of the hijacking of a Franklinton school bus Tuesday it comes to mind that sending one's children to school nowadays is becoming more and more hazardous. In recent days, a number of parents have called to ask if it would be safe to send their child to school.

Nervous parents are constantly asking if there has been any trouble in the schools. This concern did not exist a few short years ago and with good reason.

Junior used to walk a well-worn dirt path from home to school, seldom seeing an automobile and if he lived in the rural areas, the trip on the school bus was uneventful. Nowadays, kids must face the growing

menace of speeding automobiles, boycotts, marches, racial incidents between students, and now kidnaping on a bus.

The recent fire in Henderson, which thankfully, resulted in no injuries is a credit to school system. Improvements in construction, constant vigilance in the area of fire prevention and safety have minimized the fire danger everywhere. However, it is still a possibility as it has always been.

It takes a lot of love to make a child a man and it takes a lot of looking after to protect him until he becomes one. The growing hazards of childhood makes one ponder the desirability of the good old days.

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