

The Tar Heel

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To the STUDENT BODY... ... from the EDITOR

MISSISSIPPI SHOULD HIDE ITS HEAD IN SHAME

The speech of Senator Eastland of Mississippi in the Senate the other day, in support of his colleague Bilbo's filibuster against the Federal Employment Practices Committee, was a disgraceful performance that ought to shock, sadden and make ashamed every Southerner who loves his country and believes in fair treatment for all its citizens.

The speech was a gratuitous and slanderous attack on the performance of Negroes in this war. The Negro soldier, the senator said, has been "an utter and abysmal failure" in the war. Negro officers could not be trusted, he declared, and added that Negro divisions could not be placed in important positions in battle lines, because Negro soldiers "had no initiative, no sense of responsibility, and very low intelligence." Also, he said, criminal conduct of Negro soldiers all over Europe had "disgraced the flag of their country."

The Tar Heel has frequently heard contemptible comments of racial prejudice fall from the lips of persons in authority, but never have we been aware of anything so dastardly and destructive to human understanding as this speech by Senator Eastman. We hope that we will never live to see the day that North Carolina will send a man like Eastman or Mississippi's other senator, Bilbo, to represent us in Congress. We see in his speech a challenge for all young people who have been educated according to the principles of racial understanding. We must fight this thing which is as contrary to the spirit of Carolina as is theft or cheating.

The senator made no exceptions. As Marquis Childs characterized it, it was the most shocking speech ever heard on the floor of the Senate, slandering whole races and armies and damning them down to the last individual.

The Mississippian's authority for these outrageous defamations, he said, were "high-ranking generals" with whom he talked on a recent junket to Europe; but, significantly enough, he refrained from identifying a single such officer, being content to particularize the helpless victims of his own slanders, but careful not to name as the original authors of them high Army officers who might bring him to book for his recklessness.

The point of the speech was that the appropriation for the agency ought to be defeated because the FEPC would grant "unfair preference" to these unworthy Negro soldiers—an untrue statement itself, because the FEPC never was authorized to grant any preferences to anybody, its only function being to prevent discrimination in employment on account of race and religion.

We don't believe a single word the senator said; we don't see how he can believe it himself. It is physically impossible that such a blanket indictment of the 700,000 Negroes in the Army and the 170,000 in the Navy can be true.

No doubt there are bad and stupid and untrustworthy Negroes in the Army and Navy, as there are also bad and stupid and untrustworthy white men. But that they are all like that, none except a simpleton or a villain would suggest and none except a moron would believe.

Moreover, if the Senator's charges had any basis in fact, or were anything except the creatures of his own poisonous fancy, he would not allow the sources of his information to remain unrevealed. No man, senator or not, damning in good faith a whole race of his fellow citizens would hide behind the anonymity of un-named "high-ranking generals." In sheer self-defense, he would bring these generals out in the open to speak for themselves. In fact there are no such generals; Under-Secretary of War Patterson told his press conference Friday that he never heard of any.

Aside from the facts that were available to Senator Eastland in the public records, it is beyond all reason that his sweeping charges can be true.

The records prove them false. General Eisenhower, the highest-ranking general, who can be named, himself has praised the courage and the competency of his Negro soldiers.

In his Friday press conference above referred to Under-Sec-

retary Patterson says that not only General Eisenhower, but also Generals MacArthur, Eaker and others have praised the performance of Negro troops. He might have named in particular also Generals Patton and Clark. And Mr. Patterson added on his own account: "The War Department is proud of its troops, and that includes Negroes as well as all other groups."

No doubt the percentage of Negro soldiers who have distinguished themselves, or served well in the war, is not as high as the like percentage of white soldiers. As Mellett suggests, this may be an indictment of the South for its treatment of the Negro, which has hardly been conducive to the development of initiative, or a sense of responsibility, or a high degree of intelligence—a fact, however, in which it would seem that even Senator Eastland could find little comfort.

Nevertheless Negroes have done many things in this war of which they themselves and their country may well be proud, a few of which we cite for the benefit of Senator Eastland and others like him who are ready to damn a man for the color of his skin, however valorous and devoted he may be.

Thus this year Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, one of the Negro officers of whom Senator Eastland speaks with unmeasured contempt, was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding work in the field of soldier morale and troop discipline which the citation says, "has been of material assistance to the War Department and responsible commanders in the field."

In March, 1945, Negro Capt. Charles L. Thomas, commander of a tank destroyer company in France, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism in action."

A Reuters dispatch noted an account of one day's activities of our Middle East Air Force over Austria in which American Negro pilots in fierce combat had shot down 12 German planes.

Negroes have made such records also in the Navy, a number having been decorated for extraordinary heroism in naval engagements, the latest of these being two Negro seamen aboard the aircraft carrier Bunker Hill, which was turned into a blazing death trap by the attack of a Japanese suicide plane.

We could go on with this recital if space permitted, but these instances are enough to prove the point and expose Senator Eastland. Stripped of the habiliments of statesmanship, worn by virtue only of his membership in the Senate of the United States, the senator is thus revealed to be an ordinary demagogue of the type which has too often disgraced the South and humiliated her people both at home and in the councils of the nation.

We do not question Senator Eastland's right to oppose the FEPC, but his opposition ought to be ground on something more than blind prejudice and racial hatred. There are Southerners who do oppose it for reasons which are honest. We can respect them, but not this tail to Bilbo's kite in his illicit appeal to the illiterate hillbilly vote.

We hold no brief for the Negro beyond insisting that he receive fair treatment and due credit for his loyalty and patriotism. And this we think, is the right of every citizen, white or black, Jew or Gentile, Protestant or Catholic.

We conceive it to be the duty of every Southerner to repudiate every appeal to racial prejudice. The white people of the South cannot live on terms of enmity and hostility with a racial minority constituting one-third of the population. Persons who fan the flames of racial hatred are enemies of the people and their free institutions.

This speech of Senator Eastland's is one of the basest appeals to such prejudice and hatred we have ever read. We hope that the entire South will repudiate it and that the senator's own state at the first opportunity will return him to the obscurity from which he came.

GRAHAM MEMORIAL STILL IMPROVING

We noticed that the Graham Memorial Cafeteria has lengthened its serving hours in an effort to serve more meals to more students.

It is certainly good to see the University operated cafeteria giving such improved service. Many students are learning that our Graham Memorial Cafeteria is well on the way to becoming the best place to eat in Chapel Hill.

AMERICANS UNITED FOR WORLD ORGANIZATION

The local chapter of Americans United for World Organization has contributed much to campus life and has been a small, but important part in Congressional ratification of many important international agreements. Through its varied and interesting public meetings it has contributed much to arouse public interest in important topics.

Much of the credit for the success of the organization goes to Dr. Maurice Whittinghill, hard working former President, and many others too numerous to mention.

The entire program and purposes of the Americans United is very admirable. It is an organized expression of a democratic right and duty. It has aided in expression of the will of the American people on a vitally important issue. Its various public meetings have been worthwhile.

It is very difficult to see the point of view of the national organizations of the Americans United. If they are trying to decide whether they should continue their organization since American participation in world organization is assured, they are reasoning from false premises. The Senate can block effective participation in the United Nations Organization by refusing to agree to appropriations to the UNO and participation of our troops in the UNO quota force.

However, this is a purely national policy and the local unit is wise in planning for continued activity under another organization. The Southern Council is a permanent organization working for international cooperation on a regional basis. Under its present director, Dr. E. E. Pfaff, it has done an excellent job of organizing Southern opinion for international cooperation.

IRC Forum

By Buddy Glenn

When the Potsdam Conference convened, something was missing. It was a dynamic personality, Franklin Roosevelt. When it reconvened this weekend, another dynamic member was missing, Winston Churchill. One had left because of death amid the successes of his foreign policy; the other left because his constituents repudiated his policies.

The "Old Big Three" reeked with glamor—so to speak. Three dominant personalities composed it. One was an American aristocrat, traitor to his class and leader of the people. Another was the inscrutable product of the Russian Revolution—the mystery man of the age. The other was an English Tory descended from one of England's "greatest" families, a great orator, rhetorician, and supreme master of his language, and highly dramatic. Their meetings were held in some remote spot and shrouded with mystery. As in a group of strong men, their meetings were somewhat difficult with one having to submerge his personality to keep peace among the other two. There are practical matters that made their agreement difficult. Churchill's ideology was reactionary to the point of being anachronistic, Stalin's philosophy could comparatively be described as ultra-modern. Roosevelt could be called a "bourgeois liberal." Churchill and his Tory colleagues were the ones who fostered the expedition to Archangel to crush a revolution to which Stalin was a party. To Stalin many of Churchill's actions had a familiar order to

him—that of a *cordon sanitaire*. This ideological discrepancy and their past reputations made it hard for Stalin and Churchill to agree more than superficially on anything but war. This may have been the case for unilateral action by both parties in such places as Poland, Greece, etc.

Now, the face and philosophy of the Big Three have been changed. Truman, a colorless, mediocre-looking, main street American has succeeded the incomparable FDR. His liberality, or the extent, is yet to be ascertained but he claims to follow the Roosevelt line. Attlee, a mild-mannered, Oxford-educated, Laborite has replaced the inimitable Churchill. His philosophy is definitely left-wing and socialistic.

On the surface it might appear that the Big Three have degenerated. However, it appears that this is not necessarily true from any point of view except that of "glamor." Instead of personal frictions you get evenings of minuets because there is only one strong man left. Also the fact that a Laborite has replaced a Tory has ameliorated the problem of conflicting ideologies: Stalin is less likely to fear a Western bloc of states opposed to Russia with Attlee and his fellow-travelers in 10 Downing Street. As Bevin, new Foreign Minister, said, "Left understands Left."

The point of the matter is that the Big Three have a remarkable opportunity to get down to the business of keeping the world peace and quite possibly justice.

Smoker's Hack

By Banks Mebane

I was strolling down Senior Walk the other day with my good friend T. J. Airedale, who is the President of CICA (Carolina Independent Canines Association). As is always the case, our conversation touched on human-canine relationships, and then drifted off on the tangent of a comparative analysis of human and canine characters.

"The trouble with humans at Carolina," said T. J., "is that they consider themselves far too important. They rush about as if the fate of the world depended upon their getting to their little meetings, and the collapse of the universe would loom imminently if the minutes of each session were not in reality minute to the last detail."

"You're right there," I said, "and that you will find to be a failing of humans the world over. However on the other hand the attitude of your race, the canines, reaches the opposite extreme in pure hedonism. Whereas we humans carry positivism too far in thought and action, you canines relax in a negativism and complete fatalism that preaches 'only the moment matters, the past is beyond consideration and the future is too dim to be considered.' You must admit that this is not a good attitude for a young and growing race."

"You are partially right, but

only to a certain extent," T. J. rejoined. "The psychological states of our two races represent the opposite maximums of a pendulum swing, and the midpoint may be the point which should be occupied by a really progressive culture. However I must be forced to disagree. While the canines do carry fatalism too far as you have pointed out, it is not necessarily an indication of inferiority in a racial degree as it has so often been considered. Rather I should term it a more superior attitude than that of possessing an exalted idea of self-importance. The situation can perhaps best be characterized as a race suffering from a racial superiority complex coming into contact with one possessing an inferiority complex of like degree. Which is the more desirable neurosis it is impossible to say."

"That is a well-termed analogy," I contested, "but like most analogies is merely a rather one-sided representation of a situation. Mental states, like everything else, are purely relative; a sane man in a group of madmen would by one scale be the only abnormal one in the crowd, and by the other standard the only normal individual. By the prevailing standard, certainly, fatalism carried to a degree of See SMOKER'S HACK, page 4



Wheel Thirty-six more ration points!