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What's Wrong With Civil Rights?

III

The death of the anti-poll tax bill in the special session of congress unfortunately doesn't mean that the war over a federal legislative program of civil rights for the Negro is ended. It is unfortunate that that is true, because this war, like most wars, is futile; it almost certainly will create more problems than it possibly can solve.

The war undoubtedly will go on, because we still face the problem out of which the war grew; we face, too, an ever-growing bitterness.

For both the problem and the bitterness the South has an uncomfortably heavy share of the responsibility.

* * *

Year in and year out many Southerners have opposed such programs as that proposed by President Truman. They have argued that it is an invasion of the rights reserved to the states—an argument that may be subject to debate. And they have argued that it is an attempt to progress by revolution rather than evolution—an argument that is difficult to contradict.

But too many of us in the South are inclined to be as smug as some of the non-Southern holier-than-thou reformers who approach the South and its problems with all the missionary zeal of a fundamentalist landing on the shores of darkest Africa. These well-intentioned persons, by their infuriating attitude, probably have done more than all of the reactionaries to hold back progress in the South. Too, they might well do a bit of policing up in their own political backyards before setting out to conquer the world for righteousness.

But none of that changes the facts about the South and the Negro.

The South, quite sanely, insists upon evolutionary rather than revolutionary methods. And it can honestly point to vast progress, both in the creation of better race relations and in improvement of the Negro's lot. But honesty compels the Southerner to admit that evolution could, and should, be considerably speeded up.

The time has come when the South must apply to the Negro two fundamental truths:

1. Every individual is entitled to the opportunity for the development of such talents as he possesses.
2. Discrimination is wrong, constitutionally and morally.

* * *

The South insists upon segregation. It holds that segregation is necessary to prevent frictions, as well as for other reasons. And the South probably can keep segregation; but it must pay a price. The price is to make segregation apply to both races, and to discriminate against neither.

The South insists upon carrying segregation into the schools. The price is to provide equal educational opportunity for the Negro. Incidentally, the money so spent will prove to be a highly profitable investment.

And the South insists that the Negro is not ready to be given the ballot, en masse and overnight. As a practical proposition, there is plenty of evidence to support that argument. But there are many whites who aren't fit for the ballot, either. And if the South really wants to do something about this situation, it can set up voting standards far more intelligent than the poll tax, and then apply those standards with equal justice to members of both races. For after all, nobody objects to an intelligent Negro's voting. Again incidentally, a set of standards designed to determine the citizen's actual qualification for the ballot would result in vastly better government—in the South and elsewhere.

Another Absurdity

State operation of the public school system has produced many absurdities. The latest to come to light has to do with school janitor service.

The state, which long ago assumed full responsibility for operating the schools, has a hard-and-fast rule about janitors. For schools with eight or more teachers, the state provides funds to pay janitor; for schools with less than eight teachers, the state makes no provision whatever. In effect, the ruling says: "We want the big schools kept clean, and we

are willing to pay for it; but it makes no difference to us if the small schools never are swept."

Could it be that members of the State Board of Education care nothing about the children in the small schools? Nobody believes that, of course.

Could it be that the board, in seeking to force consolidations, deliberately has adopted this policy? That, too, is hard to believe.

The real trouble probably is the system itself. This latest stupidity is only one of many resulting in North Carolina from our attempt to set up an assembly line system that will turn out graduates like a factory turns out standardized products. That method will work with steel and wood. It will not work with human beings.

It's high time we learned there is a difference.

POETRY CORNER

Conducted by

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE

Weaverville, N. C.

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

THE MOUNTAINS' GOAL

The billows of the mountains' roll,
The land's mute surging into sea,
Transcend the clouds to reach a goal
From which they view eternity.

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE.

Weaverville, N. C.

HILLS OF HOME

(Dedicated to Highlands)

Mine own people . . . on earth there are
No dearer words than these—
Mine our people . . . and Home, the old Familiarities
Of Time and Place, and those we love . . .
How often when away
My thoughts return and pull the heart
And move the soul to pray
God's blessing on the ones at home—
Wherever I may go
Mine own people and Hills of Home
Are the dearest words I know.

BESS HINSON HINES.

Highlands, N. C., and California.

Others' Opinions

TOURIST BUSINESS IS BIG BUSINESS

Did you know that the travel business is the third largest in North Carolina, ranking ahead of furniture manufacturing? Did you know that tourists form the second largest "crop" in North Carolina, ranking ahead of cotton?

Did you know that not one North Carolinian in fifty knows or cares about this?

Did you know that if the economic importance of this industry is better known, it will be beneficial in many ways to all of you?—State News Bureau.

ONE THING YOU CAN DO

People are continually voicing the plaint that they know how bad is our case, politically, economically, ethically, spiritually, and so on, "but what can I do about it?" Well, there's one thing every citizen can "do about it"—VOTE! By voting at EVERY election voters are sure to pick up the elections where the minions of subversion, disruption, communism, the totalitarian state, gather whenever they can gain opportunity by ballot entries of men and measures, to vote for THEIR SIDE, and against the American Way.

By voting at EVERY election, real Americans who would save the Republic, come face to face with the wide-open opportunity to vote FOR worthy men and sound measures, and AGAINST men and measures who and which, are neither.

—San Marino (Calif.) Tribune.

OUR FARM INCREASE

Unlike other regions in the United States, the South Atlantic states have recorded an estimated increase of 43,000 in farm population, the Agriculture Department has reported.

Elsewhere, except for some of the Middle Atlantic and the New England states, farm population has been on the decrease, displaying a halt in post-war growth.

The number of persons on South Atlantic farms was an estimated 5,714,000 on January 1, 1948. According to the Agriculture Department's bureau of agriculture economics, the South Atlantic area has had more people on farms from 1940 to 1945. In the latter year, population decline stopped and a new increase began.

In 1940, the records showed 6,025,000 on the farms in the South Atlantic area, 5,984,000 in 1941, 5,808,000 in 1942, and a steady lessening of population until the low point in 1945 of

SWEET ADELIN

There are some things that everybody knows about Sweet Adeline. She is the girl who by uninhibited confession is the idol of more than any other. To hear it told, she has been pined for in more nights, her fair face has beamed in more dreams than the U. S. Bureau of Census with all its diligence might count. The alcoholic content of all the breaths lifted to proclaim simple but undying devotion to that paragon of loveliness would stagger the solar system. In every party for the last 45 years there has been a special moment when nothing would do but to huddle and extol in harmony, or what passed for harmony, the heartache for that fair vision which seemed to move all humanity.

Perhaps you didn't know, or would rather not know, about the fickleness that made Adeline what she is today. All the pining originally was after Sweet Rosalie, for that was the name in the original lyric. But another Rosalie in another song was the rage of Tin Pan Alley at the moment, and two Rosalies is a crowd. Almost certainly you didn't know that Adeline Patti, the great prima donna, was the toast of the day, and when there was a practical need of supplanting Rosalie, her name was chosen—and, you can't doubt, with better effect.

And unless your eyes were sharp, and you had more time than most people to read newspapers over the July 4th holidays, you must not know that the man who wrote the lyric, in 1903, Harry Gerard, is dead at 73 in Greenwich Village, where he flourished as a troubadour. But though her creator was mortal, Sweet Adeline herself is imperishable, her face forever fair.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

When I look back on the processes of history, when I survey the genesis of America, I see this written on every page: That the nations are renewed from the bottom, not from the top; that the genius that springs up from the ranks of unknown men is the genius which renews the growth and energy of the people. Everything I know about history, every bit of experience and observation that has contributed to my thought has confirmed me in the conviction that the real wisdom of human life is compounded out of the experience of ordinary men. The utility, the vitality, the fruitage of life does not come from the top to the bottom; it comes like the natural growth of a great tree, from the soil, up through the trunk into the foliage and the fruit. The great struggling unknown masses of the men who are the base of everything, are the dynamic force that is lifting the levels of society. A nation is as great and only as great, as her rank and file.

—Woodrow Wilson.

Smokey Says:



LEGAL ADVERTISING

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of Mary Esther Huger, III, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of July, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 19th day of July, 1948.
Charlotte Barnwell Elliott,
Executrix

Jly22-6tp-Aug26

Byrd's South Pole Operation Chief Pays Visit Here

Commander J. C. McCoy, of the U. S. navy, who was operational chief on two of Admiral Richard E. Byrd's expeditions to the South Pole, recently spent 10 days here as one of 13 adults on a camp with 41 Boy Scouts from Jacksonville, Fla. Commander McCoy discussed his experience at the South Pole in a brief talk.

The Scout party, which was here as the guest of Ed and Tom McNish, camped on the McNish farm at the foot of Wayah Bald, and when they left remarked that the camp here was the best they have ever had.

Leon Frank, Jacksonville city engineer, was leader of the party.

Nearly 300,000 rural consumers were hooked up to REA-financed lines between June 30, 1946 and June 30, 1947.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT BEFORE THE CLERK NOTICE OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY GILMER A. JONES, Administrator of the Estate of ROBERT SCRUGGS, deceased.

vs. ADDIE SCRUGGS, et al.
The defendants, Harley Scruggs, Claudia Scruggs, Charles B. Scruggs, Alice Scruggs, Dora Woodward, Richard Woodward, Sally Keith, Laura Jean Jackson, Thelma Jackson and Robert Scruggs will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina to sell lands of the deceased to make assets to pay debts and the said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court in the courthouse in Franklin, North Carolina on the sixth day of September, 1948 to answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.
This 5th day of August, 1948.
J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE,
Clerk of the Superior Court
A12-4tc-JJ-52

C. O. Robinson, Elizabeth City businessman, is one of the state's largest pecan producers.

Just one left . . .

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The Franklin Press

Phone 24

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SPECIAL COFFEE

