

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Marionian

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JUNE 7, 1956

Closed Minds

People in the South are frequently charged with racial prejudice, and all too often the charge is justified. That is bad, because no problem can be solved by closed minds.

Unhappily, though, all the closed minds are not in the South. And since the problem always present when two races live side by side is nation-wide, closed minds outside the South are just as great a handicap as closed minds in this region.

The daily press of the past week has furnished three striking examples:

Item One: Senator Lehman, of New York, urging Northerners to "clean up our own back yard" in the matter of racial segregation and discrimination, cited Harlem. A largely Negro section, it has a high rate of crime and juvenile delinquency. But, declared Senator Lehman, poverty, congestion, and sub-standard housing and schools are responsible; racial background has nothing to do with it. Senator Lehman may be right; it would vastly simplify our problem if we could be sure he is right — if all that was necessary to improve people was to improve their environment. That isn't entirely true, though, of life other than human, and we have no conclusive proof it is true of humans. But that theory fits in nicely with the philosophy of the all-out integrationists, so they refuse to see any evidence to the contrary. New York state, in fact, by making it illegal to classify crime, etc., by race, makes it impossible for there to be any evidence to the contrary.

Item Two: In Washington, North Carolina's Attorney General Rodman testified before a Congressional committee in opposition to pending so-called civil rights legislation. But neither committee members nor the several co-sponsors of the legislation bothered to hear what Mr. Rodman had to say; when he finished, the only legislator present was the chairman. The point is not whether Mr. Rodman was right or wrong, or even whether the legislation is good or bad. The point is Congressmen make a farce of committee hearings when they decline to listen to any testimony not in accord with their own preconceived conclusions.

Item Three: Race rioting on an excursion steamer operating between a Canadian beach resort and Buffalo, N. Y., created what the Associated Press described as "a night of terror" for the passengers. It was serious enough for the F. B. I. to launch a thorough investigation. But most New York newspapers ignored the story entirely, buried it on inside pages, or carefully eliminated all reference to race.

It's about time we all waked up to the fact you don't solve a problem by pretending it isn't there; about time we realized that the only way any problem ever has been really solved was by carefully collecting every scrap of available evidence, and then considering that evidence with open minds.

Wise Decision

President Verlon Swafford and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce board have shown good judgment in deciding to put the organization's first emphasis this year on tourist promotion.

Franklin is, and for a long time to come probably will continue to be, primarily a trading center for a farming area. Most agricultural communities seek to supplement the community income and balance its economy with some industry. We in Western North Carolina are fortunate in having the opportunity for a second supplemental and balancing factor — tourists. And, since the more diversified a community's economy is, the more stable it is, it would be foolish not to take advantage of that opportunity.

Thanks to the intelligence and cooperation, over the years, of a lot of people, including Franklin

business men, agriculture in Macon County is both progressive and sound; some of our most prosperous citizens are farmers. And we have done more, in the last ten years, toward industrialization than in the previous hundred.

There are valid arguments, in fact, that we have gone as far, industrially, as we should go, at present. A too-sudden change in an economy often is as bad as no change at all; the community needs time to adjust to changes — otherwise confusion and the loss of stability and a lot of values is likely to result.

In any case, it seems to us, the next industrial needs are small, diversified plants. Our two largest industries are both textiles — that isn't diversification. And the plans of one of them for expansion mean what amounts to yet another large industry here. This county has been most fortunate in the industries that have come in; by the law of averages, it will not always be so fortunate. And an unhappy choice of yet another industry that is big — as compared with Franklin's size — could prove disastrous. If we need more industry now, the need is for small — the smaller, the better — plants producing a diversity of products, and preferably home-owned.

We've moved along in farming (with lumbering, mining, and other lines of business making their contributions), and we have gone forward rapidly in industrialization. For a balance, this year's emphasis quite properly should be on tourists (including efforts to attract people who are ready to retire, or who want to build summer homes in this county). And all indications are the tourists will be in Western North Carolina this season; the only problem is to bring a fair share of them to Macon County.

Not just to Franklin, but to Macon County. As a matter of fact, as this newspaper has repeatedly pointed out the past ten years, the effort to attract tourists should be a combined effort, by Franklin and Highlands working together. Such cooperation, in fact, would seem to make so much sense, we believe it will not be long until we have here a single chamber of commerce for all Macon County.

State Needs Him

This newspaper is in no position to pass judgment on the years-long controversy at Woman's College, Greensboro, that has resulted in the resignation of Dr. E. K. Graham as chancellor of that institution.

Even if Dr. Graham were entirely without fault, the controversy probably had destroyed his usefulness, at Woman's College; he suggested as much, in fact, in his letter of resignation.

But the usefulness of the 45-year old educator is not at an end — far from it. The very qualities that made him unacceptable to some members of the Woman's College faculty are badly needed in this state. This brilliant native of North Carolina dares to think, to question if all accepted educational methods and standards are necessarily the best ones, and to seek and try to apply remedies for some of the multitude of problems that face education today.

North Carolina education needs such a man. If North Carolina is smart, it will find a place for him elsewhere within the state.

Others' Opinions

(Opinions expressed in this space are not necessarily those of The Press. Editorials selected for reprinting here, in fact, are chosen with a view to presenting a variety of viewpoints. They are, that is, just what the caption says — OTHERS' Opinions.)

Paradox

(Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., in The Reporter)

Our gross national product rises; our shops overflow with gadgets and gimmicks; consumer goods of ever-increasing ingenuity and luxuriance pour out of our ears. But our schools become more crowded and dilapidated, our teachers more weary and underpaid, our playgrounds more crowded, our cities dirtier, our roads more teeming and filthy, our na-

THE NEW ARISTOCRACY

Our Celebrities---Drunk With Sense Of Their Self-Importance?

Nobody believes that you can fill a man with a lot of liquor and have him stay sober. Then why do we seem so surprised when we fill a man (or woman) with a lot of adulation, and then find that he is drunk with a sense of self-importance?

When a beautiful and empty film actress, who only a few years ago was serving milk shakes at a drive-in, walks off the lot in a tizzy, suspending a million-dollar production, it is the public who has given her a blank check for arrogant behavior. When a loose-mouthed ukulele player is upbraided for treating

tional parks more unkempt, our law enforcement more over-worked and inadequate. And we wonder why, for example, we have a growing problem of juvenile delinquency!

They All Do It

(Chapel Hill News Leader)

British prime minister Eden's refusal to discuss the missing frogman, and what he was doing near a visiting Russian cruiser, will make the supposition all the stronger that some kind of spying work was going on while the Russian envoys were being entertained in England.

No government ought to elevate its nose about spying. They all do it — by virtue of that strange code that forbids certain practices to individuals as abhorrent and yet permits governments to resort to tricks that a skunk would rebel at.

What institution except a government would wine and dine a visitor with every appearance of geniality, and at the same time have his trunk examined, his telephone tapped, and his every movement shadowed by undercover agents?

Some observers might argue that all this is permissible and even necessary as between enemy governments; yet the same thing goes on among governments that are not only friendly but are actually members of an alliance. None trusts another further than a ten-pound shot would fall.

What impels a citizen to be honest and above-board if he sees his own government acting to the contrary? If the present low descent in the moral realm is to be raised, why not demand that one's own government begin setting the standard?

Choosing A President

(U. N. C. Dally Tar Heel)

The trustees (of the University of North Carolina) are in the process of picking a new president to replace Gordon Gray.

There appear to be two trends. One is to leave the state and find a "name" to become president. A "name," it is alleged, will bring the University more "prestige."

The other trend is toward staying at home and picking a president who has given much time and service and thought to the Consolidated University of North Carolina. That man, most people agree (and this newspaper feels certain) is William C. Friday, presently the acting president.

The idea of picking a "name," we feel, is a bad one. It will appear to do the University good, but in the long run it won't add one whit of prestige or advantage to Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Greensboro. The General Assembly may stand in awe of a president with an awe-provoking name for a year or so, but after that the permanent improvements appropriation for Chapel Hill will still be \$0.00 unless the General Assembly changes its state of mind.

The man who should be president of the Consolidated University, we feel, sits right now in the president's office in South Building. Educated at State College and the University here, William Friday is vitally concerned with the University and the state and the University's responsibility to educate the people of this state.

He has, among his many capabilities, one that is somewhat phenomenal in these days and times: He is honest with the people who deal with him and the University. And honesty in public office was never in such demand as it is now.

I would rather be defeated in a good cause than to triumph in a bad one.—Alexander H. Stephens.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Just now I am not very proud of being a Methodist; and here is why.

First, though, let me emphasize that, as a member — even though an unworthy one — of the Methodist Church, I feel a freedom to speak plainly about it that I would feel about no other church. If what I say applies to other churches, too, it is for members of those denominations to make the application. I am speaking about my own church.

At its recent General Conference in Minneapolis, the Methodist Church took the first step toward desegregating Methodism. As to whether that is a right and a wise step, there is room for honest disagreement. My criticism is directed not at what my church has set out to do, but at when.

Desegregation is demanded by

Christian duty, it was declared at Minneapolis. There are strong arguments to support that. But if it is Christian duty, why has the Methodist Church waited so long to act? Specifically, why did it not act, say, years before, the pronouncement of the Supreme Court, a purely secular body?

If Christian conscience, as represented by the Methodist church, no longer dares lead, on a matter it counts Christian duty, but timidly waits for a secular agency to blaze the trail, then Christian conscience is in a bad way. To early Christians, their religion was, first of all, one of courage and boldness; to them, such timidity, in the name of Christianity, surely would have been a desecration of the very word.

The inference is inescapable — (See Back Page, 1st Section)

These faults were at least balanced by a sense of noblesse oblige — by a recognition that birth, breeding and good fortune imposed a certain code of conduct upon the favored ones.

The new aristocracy is vulgar, witless and anarchic. It worships at the shrine of publicity, accepts no merit beyond the figures at the box-office, and respects no loyalties that are not formed on the basis of mutual expediency.

We have created these fantastically inflated robots, and we have little reason to complain when they reveal themselves as beasts or boors or betrayers of our trust.

VIEWS

By

BOB SLOAN



Advertising and promotion pay, particularly in the tourist business.

I know of two incidents which have brought this to my attention very vividly, recently.

Sunday, I went to see a sport car mountain climb conducted at Grandfather Mountain. There were more than a thousand people there.

Now Grandfather Mountain has some pretty scenery, almost as pretty as Wayah Bald, but there weren't two hundred people on Wayah Bald this past Sunday.

The difference was that Grandfather Mountain is advertised and publicized all over eastern United States and someone had promoted an event there — the sport car race.

An incident closer home is the Ruby mine business here in the Cowee valley. A year ago, I doubt if there were as many people looking for Rubies in the Cowee valley in a month as they have there each week-end now. This great increase has been caused by a few publicity stories being released with nation wide coverage. Incidentally J. P. Brady was more responsible for this than any other person, I believe.

A bouquet to the Chamber of Commerce too, for following up with the bumper stickers which advertise the attraction. That is the kind of cooperation which will help pick Franklin up.

We have the scenery and the climate. All we need is the "gimmick" to catch the tourist's attention. The Ruby mine is such a deal.

Entirely of different nature is the joint annual revival service to be held soon at the Friendship Tabernacle. This is one of the finest events we have each year. Particularly appealing this year, I think, will be the music under the direction of Mr. Lowell McKee. Mr. McKee is already working hard to gather together the finest singers from all the churches of Macon County. We feel sure it will be one of the best groups ever brought together here. Be sure to come listen and see if I'm not right.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Three from Macon County received their license to practice medicine after standing the State Board examination in Charlotte. They are Lewis W. Elias, Harry M. Jones, and Mary E. Lapham, of Highlands.

Miss "T" Kelly, who has been teaching in Mt. Airy, N. C., during the past year arrived Friday to spend her vacation with home people.

Mr. E. Patton reported the first French Coach colt in the county foaled Monday morning. It is a female and the first colt ever foaled in the county entitled to registration.

25 YEARS AGO

Miss Bessie Neely who has been attending school at Flora McDonald the past winter has returned to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benson Neely.—Highlands item.

Norman Blaine left Tuesday to attend the University of Alabama summer session.

The Rev. Norvin C. Duncan, of Cooleeme, near Salisbury, has accepted a call the joint rectorate of St. Agnes Church, Franklin and the Church of the Incarnation, at Highlands.

10 YEARS AGO

Miss Dorothy Walker, of Elkin, has been employed as choir director of the Franklin Baptist Church for the summer months and will take up her duties June 13.

J. W. Crawford, a representative of the Van Raalte Company, was in Franklin Tuesday in connection with plans of the company to build a textile plant in East Franklin.

Dr. Eugene Odum, assistant professor of biology, University of Georgia, is to be one of the research fellows at the Weyman Laboratory in Highlands this summer. He is to make a quantitative study on birds of the area.—Highlands item.