

Editorial and Opinion

Federal Aid To Schools

The bill pending in Congress to provide federal aid to the states for schools has come in for considerable discussion because of its many ramifications. The outcome of action in the lower house is awaited with much interest by our state administration as well as local school authorities.

As might have been expected, one of the clearest and most forceful arguments presented in connection with its consideration by the Senate was that of Dr. Frank Graham, the new Senator. Regarding federal control, which has loomed as a boogaboo in many quarters, he told the Senate:

"The federal aid bill itself provides federal guarantees against federal control of state and local school policies and gives assurance of state and local control of the selection of administrators, teachers, curricula, text books, general policies and state constitutional provisions. With the adoption of this bill the states and localities would provide approximately nine-tenths and the federal government approximately one-tenth of the general fund for the elementary and secondary schools of the nation—\$300,000,000 out of approximately \$3,000,000,000. The opponents and proponents of federal aid for the schools, along with the overwhelming majority of the American people, are against federal control of the schools. It is not federal control but honest bookkeeping to require. (1) that the federal funds supplement and not supplant present state funds; and (2) to require that since the number of school children constitute one of the grounds for the allocation of federal funds, that every child receive his share of the federal funds apportioned to the state by counting him. To distribute the funds inequitably between the races would be a dishonest use of federal funds appropriated and accepted on one basis and then misappropriated on another basis.

"To use the federal power to withhold federal aid from the states, having racial segregation in the public schools as a matter of state policy, would be an exercise of federal control of state and local schools. An amendment for such federal sanctions against the states would result in the defeat of the federal aid bill; would deny desperately needed additional funds to the very children who need them most; would cause a setback rather than an advance in the recent increasingly equitable relations of the races in the South; and would give new power to the demagogues against the men and women of good will of both races who work steadfastly, intelligently, prayerfully, and progressively at this complex problem of the races in the religion of its heaviest concentration anywhere in the world.

"The purpose of the federal aid bill is not more centralization of control of the schools in the national government but more equalization of opportunity for all the children in all the states. In taking this position in opposition to federal sanctions against the Southern States, we hold that federal aid to the states for the schools is a next step toward the fulfillment of the historic American dream for the equal opportunity, freedom, and dignity of all people. In taking this simple step for more equal opportunity we still hold on to our religious faith that all people are inherently children of God and brothers of all men whom 'God has made of one blood to dwell on the face of the earth.' An amendment for using federal sanctions against the Southern States would defeat the federal aid bill, would block one of the next steps toward the equalization of opportunity, and increase the present crisis in the schools.

Salute To Alamance

Alamance County's gigantic Centennial celebration is moving forward with the force and momentum it deserves. From the opening event, the activities have been impressive and colorful. Even the rain has not dampened the spirits of the celebration's promoters nor the success of events themselves. To those who have borne the brunt of the work in connection with the undertaking, we hand a sincere salute. Visitors from Orange County, from Guilford, from all over the area are finding much of interest and delight. We offer our congratulations to the moving forces in Alamance who conceived and carried the undertaking to its present point.

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PRESS COMMENT

Eye On Scott From The West

A GOVERNOR TO WATCH
(The St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

Governor Kerr Scott of North Carolina is a State executive who believes in making real use of his appointing power. Just a month ago, he resisted all the appeals of professional politicians in his State for him to appoint them to a vacancy in the United States Senate. Governor Scott's choice was the distinguished one of Frank Porter Graham, president of the University of North Carolina and one of the country's outstanding educators and progressive leaders.

The North Carolina Governor has now made another appointment which breaks with political tradition. To his State's Board of Education he has named a Negro—the first such appointment in North Carolina history. His choice is Dr. H. L. Trigg, who earned a master's degree at Syracuse University, in New York, and now is president of St. Augustine College in Raleigh.

Why did Governor Scott appoint Dr. Trigg? He could not have had better reasons. Because his nominee was "well-qualified" and because "it was time the State recognized its Negro citizens and accorded them a voice on State boards."

Kerr Scott is a Governor to Watch. If he puts as much thought and independence into all his appointments as he has in these, the country is going to hear more of him.

FARMERS ALL

(The News and Observer)

The story is told that back in the early days of the Truman administration when men from the President's State of Missouri seemed to have the inside track for the best jobs, two government officials were discussing a difficult problem.

One was sure he had the right answer. The other one was unconvinced and used the old-time expression from the "Show Me State."

"I'm from Missouri," he said. The other grinned. "Who isn't, these days?"

Something of the same sort attends the North Carolina administration of Farmer Kerr Scott. Everybody apparently, who wants or gets a State job, is a farmer.

The Governor wants, as he said in Manteo, for his new highway commission, men "near to the earth and to the people who need the roads worst." And everybody apparently is getting nearer and nearer to the farm. The new ABC Board Chief R. W. Winston of Raleigh, the Governors announcement says, "operates a large farm in Johnston County." And Secretary of State Thad Eure takes his routine role in the celebration of "Straw Hat Day" as a "country boy."

People who once called themselves doctors are now "farmers-and-doctors." Motors transport operators are "farmers-and-truckers." There are farmer-merchants, dentist-farmers, auto dealer-farmers, banker-farmers. And a lot of city dwellers who make most of their money and spend most of their time in town are just "farmers."

Governor Scott is certainly right in believing that a State so largely rural as North Carolina should draw heavily upon its best rural brains and leadership in the government of the State. But both he and the State increasingly need a definition of the word "farmer" if a farmer is anybody who owns a piece of land in the country, it is to be hoped that that does not eliminate all those in the country who don't own any land. Certainly if a definition eliminated plow handle some of our leading all those who never put hand to

God could not be everywhere, so He made mothers.—Yiddish Proverb.



And How He Bites!

"farmers" would be disqualified.

Of course, there are good farmers who live in town, some of them in bigger houses than that one which belongs to the banker. Also there are some city "farmers" who are interested in the land and the people on it only to exploit both. There are bad farmers in the country, indeed, some of those farthest back in the hollow at the head of the creek and beyond the end of the road are there because they are bad farmers. Farming is no more divided by the city limits than manufacturing is. Some of our newest mills now stand where the cotton grew. The important thing is not the label "farmer" but the spirit of understanding of the needs of a still largely rural State. What Governor Scott is seeking and what this State needs is that "independent yeomanry" which old man Thomas Jefferson believed to be the best basis for hope of good government in a free land.

North Carolina still keeps the pattern best and that pattern is still North Carolina's best hope.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

A mother is a mother still,
The holiest thing alive.
S. T. Coleridge.

My opinion is that the future good or bad conduct of a child entirely depends upon the mother.—Napoleon I.

A spoiled child never loves its mother.—Henry Taylor.

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.—W. M. Thackeray.

The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.—W. R. Wallace.

A good way to use old soap scraps is to grate them into chips on a household grater or if very dry, put them through a food chopper. Or they may be placed in water in a jar and in no time a bottle of liquid soap useful for a number of purposes will have been collected. Toilet soap scraps should be kept in one container and used for shampooing or washing in lingerie, while kitchen soaps are kept in another.

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