

Living With Court Dec

By REED SARRATT

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(Excerpts from a speech before the Conference on Public Issues at Illinois State Normal University.)

I believe that the South can live with the Supreme Court's decision without doing violence either to the decision or to its own customs and traditions. You may ask how this is possible. My answer is: Through full compliance with the court's mandate by removing race as a factor in assigning pupils to schools.

Wherever a gradual approach is needed, both the timing and the location of the changes are important considerations. If the transition is to go as smoothly and effectively as possible, plans must be laid with considerable thought and with proper attention to the sequence in which successive steps will be taken. This planning can best be done by the school authorities working closely with citizen advisory groups composed of stable people who are as nearly impartial as possible.

Groups such as the NAACP are clearly entitled to bring court action and have every right to make their proposals, but they certainly cannot be considered impartial, and they have no responsibility for over-all educational planning.

Of overriding importance to the future of public schools and interracial good will in the South will be community attitudes. Where the attitude is one of defiance of the Supreme Court and a determination to maintain legally enforced segregation, the incentive to gain admittance to white schools will be strong. Where there is apparent willingness to comply with the court's order and a desire to work out harmonious methods of compliance without upsetting deep-rooted customs, the incentive to force admittance to white schools will be missing.

All that the courts require is that no child shall be excluded because of race from a school which he otherwise is qualified to attend. The southern states, in my opinion, can remove race as a factor in assigning children to schools without causing much change in the present racial composition of the student bodies in their schools. I believe that, given choice, free of discrimination or intimidation, the vast majority of Negro children would continue to attend schools with exclusively Negro student bodies.

I lay no claim to knowing what is in the collective Negro mind. But I doubt that very many, if any, Negroes object to going to schools attended exclusively by other members of their race. I doubt, too, that very many, if any, Negroes have any burning desire to attend schools with members of the white race merely to be in the same school with whites.

I do believe that most Negroes probably object strenuously to being REQUIRED to go to schools limited to their own race. They do not like the stigma that attaches to the implication that they are inferior. The protest is not so much against Negro schools as it is against enforced segregation.

If the southern states continue their efforts to provide equal schools for Negroes, their chances of maintaining separate schools will be much better. Given a choice between a good white school and an inferior Negro school, the Negro child and his parents are much more likely to choose the mixed school. But if the Negro school is as good as the white school, they probably will prefer the Negro school.

A number of other factors will tend to keep the schools segregated in the absence of legal compulsion.

Another factor is that of residence. Most children, whether white or Negro, attend schools which are nearest their homes. This practice probably will continue, at least in the cities.

Then, too, the Negroes have a

vested interest in the faculties, the officials, the student Negro community great deal through ment of fine Negro will not relinquish lightly, provided them with honor.

No matter how children attend white children, which have gone between the races expected to change, it will best evidence of found in those there is, and has segregation of the public schools. I force the removals to Negroes, cannot dictate the fates of the people or is a matter choice.

In the segregation in the public limited to the year, 537, or 11 p 4,700 school d Negro pupils had pleted the proces. These distric border states. Al 256,000 Negro c 10 per cent of the region, were at classes.

Desegregation problems. But, of has been accomp "trouble" spots" of one hand — Greenbrier, Was more. If there a have escaped my where the experie lic schools has b to that in the col versities. The out racial friction w tion spawned in Baltimore subsid

The real trou tension, is to be areas which are d ined to keep the regated, despite Court's decision. prevails in thos which are atten out the best me plying with the

Negative Solace In The Assembly's Actio n

The Legislature's passage, as expected, of the Pearsall Plan for public schools operation in the State may be better than some of the more drastic proposals aired in the heat of the Assembly's brief debates. But any satisfaction over the course that North Carolina has chosen to cope with integration must be purely negative solace.

It is not that we fear the destruction of the public school system of this state—the dire prediction made by some local speakers at the Assembly hearings. Nor do we fear the consequences of such integration as may take place—in the face of which many legislators would rather close the public schools.

Rather, we fear, the General Assembly, at the behest of the Governor and many good citizens of this state, has indulged us in a fruitless delaying action that may eventually throw our public schools into the hands of die-hard extremists who will feel that public education should indeed be abandoned before a single Negro is allowed to enter a white school.

The biggest gap in the Pearsall Plan, whatever merit it may have, is that it does not provide for cooperative effort between the races. Rather it can widen the breach between them and encourage the very lawsuits

that it is seeking to avoid.

On the other hand, the negative merit we see in this plan is that its enactment, for the time being at least, has prevented us from being saddled with something worse. Some of its greatest proponents have proclaimed this as a strong point in its favor. This will be all right, so long as this plan is permitted to stand, and we hope it will not be struck down by the courts.

We shall not be surprised if the Pearsall Plan, as a "safety valve," is never exercised and if it is not that will of course be to the good. But it cannot be said that its enactment is helping to better educate the children of our state in our public schools, and it may be harming this process.

The cumbersome provisions of the Pearsall Plan will undoubtedly be brought into operative law by approval of the voters in the special election six weeks hence. But North Carolinians should cast their ballots with thoughtful understanding as a guide, rather than ingrained emotion and a wish to take almost any action, so long as it's action.

North Carolina has a mighty cross to bear in trying to parade something mediocre as a good thing—even though it might have done far worse.



Haynie In Greensboro Daily News

School Prospects Are Gratifying

The prospect at last of a solution to the long-standing inequity between the Carrboro and Chapel Hill school attendance districts is gratifying. And more encouraging yet is the possibility that a new era of harmony and cooperation between school officials of the two systems in this one community is in the offing.

Improvement of Chapel Hill-Carrboro relations—the strengthening of ties between the two big neighborhoods of the over-all community of Chapel Hill—has been one of the main founding objectives of this newspaper. While municipal governing bodies of Carrboro and Chapel Hill have in recent years exemplified the finest in cooperative assistance to each other, we have felt keenly that this spirit needed to be furthered in the two school systems.

The joint meeting on Wednesday evening of the Carrboro School Committee and its parent body, the Orange County School Board, with the Chapel Hill School Board, was a session nearly two years in being brought about. It was an historic occasion inasmuch as it was the first such meeting held in the memory of school officials here.

While the details of working out the supplementary tax disparities between the Chapel Hill and Carrboro schools areas are still

to be spelled out, we feel that the die for this has been cast in the accomplishments of this meeting.

They were: (1) The agreement that some compensation was due the Chapel Hill school System for its failure to receive supplementary tax payments for Carrboro (and White Cross) children sent to its schools; and (2) the Carrboro Committee's decision to study its own situation and to suggest a target date for an election on one or more of several methods whereby supplementary tax money could be raised in its district.

The methods suggested were—a supplementary tax in the Carrboro District, joining in a possible supplementary tax for the Orange County System, or joining the Chapel Hill Special School District.

There is merit to each of these proposals. At this juncture, however, we are more delighted that they are being considered at all than concerned as to which one should be followed.

Carrboro's citizens have an opportunity now to match in quality of education the excellence of the school building they will soon have. Each is useless without the other. We are confident that now that the first hurdle has been cleared the second one will be much easier.

Parade Of The Elephants

Black, Steer and Gorham, jewelers, recently put an advertisement in the New Yorker magazine, "That Certain Party of Yours," it was headed, and went on to urge, "Flaunt your political party symbol in 18k gold. These solid, fully carved charms with ruby eyes were handmade to our order."

This text admitted the existence of more than one party, but the picture of the charms that went with it showed two elephants. There was room to portray a donkey, but the advertiser must have thought it best to double up on the Republican symbol.

With its liberal editorial policy, the New Yorker has Democratic readers, so their emblem can't have been scorned because too

few of the members of that party would see the advertisement. Why skip the donkey?

Glancing at the price of the baubles suggests a reason. They cost \$82.50 each, and even though that takes in Federal tax, it's a pretty bit to pay. Republicans are more likely, by and large, to have that much to spare for a political trinket. Someone with ruby-eyed 18k gold charms to sell has a right to think of them as a better market than Democrats.

Fortunately, although a Republican may have more dollars than a Democrat, each of them has precisely one vote apiece.

? For A Cup Of Coffee

This year's world coffee crop will be 38,700,000 bags. This year's world coffee crop will be 32,000,000 bags. Which experts do you read? That's how far they are apart. Who's right will make a big difference in how much Chapel Hill housewives have to pay for coffee in months ahead. It might change the restaurant price per cup.

The larger figure comes from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the smaller, from the Brazilian Coffee Institute. The difference shows what folks hereabouts, who grow other crops already know—how hard it is to bring those estimates out right. It also suggests that there's some wishful figuring. The

United States, coffee buyer, foresees a large crop, which could mean lower prices. Brazil, coffee seller, foresees a small one, which would send prices up.

When the two leading estimators differ so widely, other folks can do little but wonder and wait. One prediction seems safe. If the crop is small and prices therefore, or for any reason, go up the way they did a few years ago, buyers may balk again.

There'll come a coffee break, which won't be a pause for refreshment. It will be a halt in buying, and that's another way to force prices down.

School Construction—An Issue? Chips That Fall

Remarks of Rep. John Lesinski Jr., D. Mich., in the House; From the Congressional Record:

In making his expected statement that he would run for reelection, the President said that he intended to take up certain specified issues in the campaign this fall. One of the issues he mentioned is the school construction bill.

Just what sort of an issue does he intend to make of this? Does he plan to be honest and tell the people that his own Republican Party deserted him when this legislation was up for a vote in the House?

Mr. Chairman, it was a foregone conclusion that the inclusion of the Powell amendment in the school construction bill would have the effect of killing it. I knew that, as did the other members of this body; and surely the President himself knew it. True, he did make half-hearted public statements that the school construction bill was a necessary piece of legislation but as he has done so often, he substituted words for leadership.

What happened on the vote? Some 148 Republicans ignored their titular leader and put political expediency ahead of national interest and the Powell amendment was adopted. Then on the final vote, on this piece of legislation that the President wants enacted, only 75 members of his political party supported him. One hundred nineteen voted against the bill. The 96 members of his own party who voted for the Powell amendment and against the school bill held the balance of power that could have given the President the legislation which he deems to be so important. Of course, when one realizes President Eisenhower's record in not standing by those legislators who go out on the limb to support him, we can perhaps understand why so many of

them may be reluctant to go along with his vague policies.

I believe the school construction bill should be an issue in the campaign this fall, for it is just another illustration of how the present administration is failing to provide our Nation with the leadership it needs.

Leadership cannot be performed in absence or belatedly. President Eisenhower, of all people, with his military background should realize this. It appears to me that if he is as fit and as capable of handling the affairs of the Presidency as it is claimed he is, he certainly would have exercised some leadership over the members of his own party and the school construction bill would have passed. If he cannot do this, how can he be expected to lead the country?

Mr. Chairman, there are many vital issues facing our Nation today. The welfare of America is much too important to be left in the hands of an individual who cannot devote full time to the tasks of the Presidency. Our country needs a leader who can provide strong, effective leadership the moment it is needed.

Mr. Chairman, let Mr. Eisenhower bring up his issues in the campaign this fall. We Democrats will be pleased to discuss them and to point out that on each one the missing factor was the administration's failure to face its responsibilities of leadership.

One of our friends defines the awkward age in girls as "too old for teddy bears and too young for wolves."—Mason City (Iowa) Gazette.

"The average woman has a vocabulary of only 1,800 words." It is a small stock, but think of the turnover.—Exchange.

Fathers, All Kinds

"Back in 1880, when I was a child, I asked my father for a cent * * * He heard me gravely and then informed me just as gravely that it looked to him as if a Democratic President would be elected that fall, and that it behooved every prudent man to exercise especial thrift. Therefore he would be obliged to deny my request."—Calvin Coolidge

"My father was a failure; only his latest years could be called happy. I am conceited enough to believe that it is just as well that he didn't dispose of me in a fit of low spirits."—George Bernard Shaw.

"My father liked to have at his table, as often as he could, some sensible friend or neighbor to converse with, and always took care to start some ingenious or useful topic for discourse which might tend to improve the minds of his children."—Benjamin Franklin

"My father belonged to those natures who, although they feel deeply, considered every expression of feeling a weakness, and concealed them with an assumed strength."—Goethe.

"Upon all sorts of counts my father was a better man than myself * * * all his days he was a happy and appreciative man with a singular distaste for contention or holding his own in the world."—H. G. Wells.

"The only lessons I ever learned were those my father taught me, for he terrified me by description of my moral degradation and he humiliated me by my likeness to disagreeable people * * *"—W. B. Yeats.

"[My father's] bark was always more to be feared than his bite. He would threaten loudly but punish mildly or not at all. But he improved the fields, he cleared the woods, he battled

That fascinating gadget—the brown globe with the light that winks as a shield revolves around it—in the Electric Construction Company window on East Franklin Street isn't a new, compact radar, or an electronic insect trap, or any of the things many folks have guessed. It's precisely what it seems to be—an attention-getter. If you owned a gasoline service station, you might want to put one up.

A Chapel Hill bride-to-be is having trouble with aunts. Yes, aunts, not ants; the ant-trouble might come after she starts housekeeping, but there's a ready remedy for it. The aunts are telling her just how to run her wedding, and she'd as soon they didn't. When a girl's going to get a new relative, can't the old ones give her a mite of peace?

Tobacco-conscious North Carolina can pay attention to the rush to market of mentholated cigarettes as more than a lad, folks who know the industry say. The minty flavor hides any oddity of taste in reconstituted tobacco—broken leaves and stems homogenized, or whatever, for use. Also, this type of smoke could offer a fine of retreat if firm evidence appears of a link between cigarettes and illness.

It's been pointed out often that Negroes got little chance to say what they thought should be done about the schools and the Pearsall plan. Another group, deeply involved and little consulted, consists of the children. What are their—not their parents'—ideas?

Technology marches on, and puts such marvels in our hands as radios with printed circuits. Excellent! But have you tried to have one of those repaired? That turns out not so simple.

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, who said, "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute," was obviously a piker. He couldn't think in billions.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

with the rocks, he paid his debts and he kept his faith."—John Burroughs

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