

**PERSONAL
PARAGRAPHS**
BY
JACK RIDER

Each time an individual or a group of individuals — black or white, erupts into anger and action as experienced last week in Texas and Tennessee the United States Supreme Court stands re-indicted of being an accessory before and after the fact of any crime that may occur in those eruptions. We have said this before, and unhappily, we expect to say it many more times before peace returns to one of the potentially worst problems of our nation today.

Each of the nine mortal men who sit on that highest tribunal of our country knew, and knew very well the potential horror involved in trying to force a situation upon two peoples who had accomplished so much together under no sterner prod than mutual respect and enlightened self interest. The black and white citizens of the South have marched steadily forward — neither quite equal in many economic and political aspects to their compatriots in other parts of our country. Yet they did progress in every field of human endeavor. The professional negro-baiter had become part of the bitter past. The Ku Klux Klan was fought to a standstill by Southern white men of good will. The great gap between white and black man was closed in all but a very few areas. In business, in education, in religion, in politics the black man was growing in importance and influence with every tick of the clock. He took his place as he became ready. He was not pushing himself unprepared and unwanted into any sphere of Southern life. When the negro did come to school boards, boards of aldermen, college presidencies he did not come as the result of some political concession made by self-seeking white men but he came as an able addition to the position he occupied. He came to serve not just the narrow interests of his race but to serve the South as a citizen and a servant.

Now the professional race baiters are fattening again, the Ku Klux Klan spreads its threat over a Southland that has seen the law turn its back on the majority interests of the area. The federal law is split upon by men of goodwill who five years ago spoke with reverential awe of the supreme court. The federal law has become a cheapened political tool, used to gain office for men of small conscience and selfish motive. That gap that had grown so narrow between the white and black Southerner has been forced further apart than at anytime since 1900.

The pressures beneath such a vast political tent as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are understandable if not appreciated. The hunger for full citizenship in every sense of the word inspires many wild, many sane impulses in every heart black or white. One white father may gnash his teeth and lash his energies to have a home, a car, clothes, recreation, education for his children that are equal to those of the fellow next door upon whom fortune has smiled more kindly. But none but the pure socialist would insist that the family of the second family be deprived of those better things of life because the unlucky neighbor cannot afford them for himself and his family.

True, the question today is hovered around public education, but who can say that the same forces which split the south today cannot split the nation tomorrow when this same socialism infects private as well as public affairs. Already this same irresponsible group on the supreme court has ruled that a Washington restaurant must serve negroes as well as whites. This decision attracted scant attention nationally. It was made long before the May 17, 1954 decision on public schools yet 99 out of 100 Americans have never heard of it. That ruling, completely ending if only temporarily all rights of the individual

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EDITORIALS

*Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man,
And He May Be Wrong.*

The Pearsall Plan

This paper does not favor The Pearsall Plan and these are our reasons:

Firstly, under this plan mixing of white and negro children in the public schools is made legal if a community or its school board so desire. We believe that all of North Carolina — not just parts, ought to maintain its positive position on continued segregation in all public schools.

Secondly, The Pearsall Plan is an absolute abdication of the position taken earlier by Governor Hodges. He has repeatedly said that the Supreme Court did not have legal authority to begin meddling with the public school systems of the several states. By this plan the Governor apparently accepts the premise that the Supreme Court did have proper authority to meddle into affairs of once-sovereign states.

Thirdly, The Pearsall Plan gives all the high cards to the extremists on the integration side of the fence. They can force every white school to close by simply forcing a negro student into a white school.

Fourthly, the absurd notion that private school education can be bought for the pro-rata costs of the public schools is simply meant to be a club over the heads of those both negro and white who want their children to get an education. This will tend to force integration.

Fifthly, The Pearsall Plan represents a surrender by our state to outside forces that have no legal or proper authority. It closes the door to the only method yet successfully used to halt federal usurpations of power. Interposition has been repeatedly used against both the judicial and executive branches of our federal government — and by single states acting to block an illegal federal act.

That interposition has not been used in recent years is not to say that it is not a good, proven method — and in fact the ONLY protection a state or group of states has against illegal abuses of power.

If the will of the majority of the people in our nation, as well as in the Southland, is that any act done in Washington is proper no matter how contrary it may be to precedent, principle and the written law then we are not approaching state socialism but have rather passed beyond those "Freaky Dates" from which no nation re-

turns to self respect, individual freedom and republican government.

Sixthly, The Pearsall Plan represents cowardice in the high command for it turns the actual fight over to the privates and corporals in the trenches of our local school boards.

This is not to belittle the courage or the wisdom of these men and women in the trenches but is to say that in a time of major crisis, such as this, the master hand is needed at the helm.

Our federal courts, foaming at the mouth and mad with hydrophobia of unbridled power would gobble, and have gobbled up local school boards like so much table scraps, but even the mightiest of these pensioned politicians on the federal bench would be reluctant to start kicking around the governor of a state.

Contempt citations against a local school board are one thing but contempt citations against the governor of a state is a political and judicial animal of another breed.

The governor as the chief executive of our state ought to remain in the front lines on this the worst battle since 1865 that our state has fought. We cannot accept the buck-passing provisions of The Pearsall Plan which divides the state into countless small bites to be more easily gobbled up by the vicious federal hounds that bay at our heels.

The advice of Franklin in the Revolutionary War is applicable to the South today as it was to the scattered colonies then. "We either hang together or we hang separately". This applies to the Southern States as a group and it applies with more certainty to the 100 counties of North Carolina. We must be united or we must lose. We need every muscle and every majesty of The State of North Carolina to resist and to win this fight against oligarchical tyranny by the federal courts.

For these reasons we cannot support and will not vote for The Pearsall Plan and trust that our readers will also vote against a defeatist program that can never succeed in preserving segregated schools. We assert and in the belief that The Pearsall Plan will be accepted by the majority of the people of our state who are

Differing Standards Of Justice

The racist propagandists of the north have long made a point of the fact that there are different standards of justice between the white and black Southerner. However, all of their gross exaggerations have alleged that this was always to the detriment of the negro, when, to be truthful, it has been exactly opposite.

No Southerner of much experience in the courts can deny that there is quite a different standard of justice for the negro in the Southern Courts. His crimes are treated far more lightly than those of the white race so long as they are within the race.

It can be truthfully said that there are three sets of standards in Southern justice: Black vs. Black justice, Black vs. White justice and White vs. White justice. The negro who kills a negro, or rapes a negro usually gets far less severe punishment than a white who has killed or raped a white. When the negro kills or rapes a white then his punishment is raised to the extreme levels used against white violators.

Now that there is such a forceful effort to bring equality to the negro at every level — and most particularly at the judicial level, we believe it time to bring the negro up to the equality of punishment in the courts.

Now under indictment in the courts of Lenoir County are two Camp Lejeune negro Marines who are charged with a most brutal criminal assault upon a Kinston negro woman. We feel, and strongly so, that in the light of this cry for equality that these negro Marines ought to face trial for the capital crime they are charged with rather than having the court accept a lesser plea in order to get rid of the case.

Solicitor Walter Britt will not be breaking faith with any principles of law if he insists upon hearing these cases at the first degree level if after hearing the evidence he feels it is sufficient to support the capital charge of rape. We are not attempting to tell Solicitor Britt how to run the criminal court calendar but we are most respectfully suggesting that he give serious consideration to giving "Equal Justice Under Law" to these and to all other negroes who come into his courts.

grabbing at straws and actually have little understanding of just what they are voting for when they vote for this complex club.

In a fight it is better to be un-armed than to be armed with a weapon that will not work. If you depend upon it for protection and it fails you are lost. If you know that you have to depend upon your own ability to resist then the action is simpler and often more safe. North Carolina, in our opinion, would be far safer behind its present laws and principles than behind this new set included in The Pearsall Plan.

We are informed that Kinston City Manager Roy Robinson has been told "to slow down" his effort to eliminate blind corners in Kinston caused by shrubbery and other privately owned constructions on public property. We trust that if this is true that the aldermen responsible will be able to wash the blood off their hands that these traffic hazards constantly threaten.

AIN'T IT SO
by Billy Arthur

Golfers in front of you are the slowest people in the world, and those behind you the fastest.

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