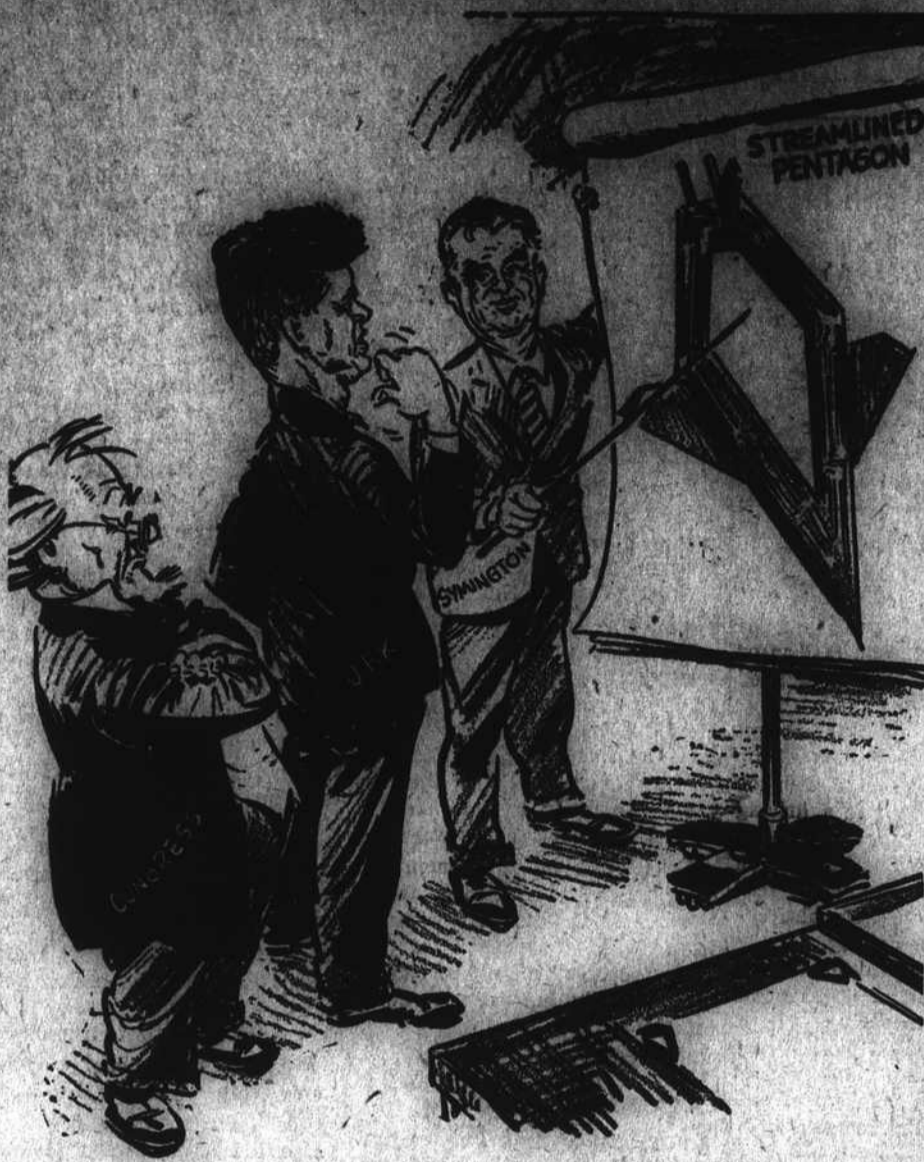


'But Who's Going To Sell It To Him?'



EDITORIALS

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

The Mess In Africa

Except for the terrible individual tragedies suffered by thousands of people—black and white—The Mess In Africa would be the laugh of the century.

A weary old Congo chieftain, recently divested of several hundred wives, summed up the problem by admitting that freedom had been given to his people before they were ready for it. On the surface he may have been moaning the loss of his wife-servants, but with equal certainty he was bound to have understood the philosophical incapacity of his people for freedom.

But this aged chieftain's complaint gives rise to an even more profound philosophical question: When will his people be ready for freedom?

Anthropology and archaeology each indicates that homo sapiens first reared up on his hind legs somewhere in Equatorial Africa. It is also undisputed that civilization first flourished along the shores of the Mediterranean in areas contiguous to this same area.

Perhaps geography had some part in confining civilization in Africa to the Mediterranean shoreline, and in more recent times to the range of the white man's campfire. But the same seed of civilization when planted on the north shore of the Mediterranean—among savages even more fierce than the Africans—spread like a wild fire, across Europe in all directions and finally across the Atlantic to the Western Hemisphere.

While a thousand years of ferment was bubbling and foaming over into the far reaches of the world, Africa, the cradle of mankind remained pre-historic until this very day. Not a tribe in Africa made use of the wheel—or even copied the wheel after being exposed to this most basic tool of civilization. Cannibalism remained their only answer to protein-starvation because in the midst of protein plenty no tribe of Africa had developed any domestic animal, nor developed any method of trapping or killing sufficient quantities of game for food.

Cannibalism had impeded communication. Who would want a road from vil-

lage to village if the next village's basic interest was in eating its neighbors. Occasionally a more shrewd chieftain would tie a few families together into a loose confederation based always on absolute autocracy for that chieftain.

Into this political heritage enters the missionary white man, with his religious and political absolutism. With food and kindness and medicine he traps a handful of these simple savages. The more apt of these is sent to further his education abroad.

Those who return come back laden with an intolerable burden. Pride in their race cannot be squared with the abyss that lies between his father and the outside world. Some such heavily laden young men throw off their yokes of outside education and become more native than before. Others aspire to the political catchwords of whichever nation they went to for an education.

These are the Lumumbas, the Kasavubus, the Mobutos. They are children playing adult games. The outside world snickers behind their backs as they strut and posture upon the United Nations stage. Their own world fears and distrusts them. Civilization in the Congo has been restricted to rifle range and beyond the Law of The Jungle is supreme, as it has been since time began.

White civilization required something near 12,000 years to reach the levels of freedom and responsibility that are the fundamental requisites of representative government.

Black civilization with the example of the whites spread before them may be able to shorten this evolutionary process, but it cannot be done in a day, or even in one or two generations. Habits, superstitions are not so easily shed. Something lies between the witch doctor and the prime minister besides a wardrobe master. The African negro has proven in America his ability to learn quickly, but none but the most fanatic negrohills would today claim that the American negro is a fully mature political animal.

The Gold Problem

In its simplest form the current Gold Problem of the United States is that we are spending more abroad than is being spent by foreign nations with us. In short, we are living beyond our income.

There are some among us who have been pointing to this danger each year as congress adds more billions of dollars to the steady outpouring of money and natural resources in what is loosely called Foreign Aid.

If a man has an income of \$5,000 per year he can struggle along for a few years, while spending \$6,000 per year. But ultimately there has to come a reckoning day. This applies to nations as to individuals.

Now in its last days the Eisenhower Administration is exhibiting its absolute incapacity for intelligent action by thrashing around with a handful of absurd suggestions for stopping the growing gold imbalance.

Now with operational inter-continental missiles at least claimed by the armed forces the need for huge establishments of troops abroad is ended. The European garrisons of American troops could not possibly stop a non-atomic blitz by vastly superior Russian numbers. The presence of American troops in Europe and the Orient are not deterrents militarily; they obviously are economic drags on our own nation and in the arena of international diplomacy they are exorbitantly expensive.

So long as a platoon of American troops is in Japan, Germany or Korea they are a propaganda foil for the Russians. If we

withdrew our troops then the pressure of international propaganda would be directed completely at the Russian occupation of its vast colonial empire.

Removal of wives and children from foreign garrisons represents a saving of peanuts, while total evacuation of these bases would represent a major and immediate move toward stabilization of our gold reserves and serve at the same time the incalculable propaganda service of leaving Russian military might exposed and unexplainable from East Germany to North Korea.

A move of this kind, coupled to a searching re-appraisal of the foreign aid program would yield tremendous savings for the taxpayers and put the national budget and gold balance on safer ground.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

Two More Inequities

Two news items of this week—one from Kinston and the other from Elizabeth City point again to deliberate inequities that are being visited upon un-resisting taxpayers.

The state board of education has approved a community college for Elizabeth City and will use state funds to supplement money being voted by Pasquotank Countians for this college—state funds to which taxpayers in every township in North Carolina contribute.

In Kinston the city school board has found in searching for policy on city school transportation that, insofar as the state school board is concerned, there is no policy.

An interim report to the Kinston school board Monday night revealed these "policies" on transportation:

1. All rural schools have transportation furnished to students living more than 1½ miles from their school with all funds supplied from the state school board.
2. Six towns now provide transportation for some of their students.
3. To some of these six towns the entire cost of this transportation is paid by the state board of education.
4. To others of these city school systems the cost of the operation is split between the school district and the state board of education.
5. And finally some of these city school districts pay the total bill, with no help from the state board of education.

For a city school board to find its way through such a bureaucratic jungle is next to impossible. For the individual taxpayer to find morality in this octopus-like "policy" is beyond possibility.

American white society would fail the same test, but percentage-wise any fair analysis would support this claim.

Democracy and representative government are no more possible in the Congo, or in the rest of Equatorial Africa than in a lion cage.

They are NOT ready for freedom. When they will be ready for freedom depends upon too many imponderables for a specific guess, but certainly not until mass literacy has existed for two generations.

At present all 100 of the rural school systems in North Carolina have school busses, but only six of the 70-odd city school systems have busses and not more than one or two of these receives any help from the state school board for the expenses of their busses.

Why people so generally volatile as North Carolinians have stood for this gross inequity this long is completely beyond my understanding. No one has the slightest objection to paying taxes to support school busses for rural school children, but when in city systems a great percentage of pupils live just as far from their school as the rural students there is absolutely no good reason why they should not get the same kind of transportation.

Over the years since I began complaining about this situation a few people have begun to join in the fight. Both Dr. Rachel Davis and Cameron Langston this spring pledged their support for city school busses. More and more parents who are hard hit by the cost of keeping two automobiles are getting into this act.

Now the City Parent-Teacher Association Council has endorsed the idea, and has offered to lend all support it can to the solution. Some members of the school board agree that a program of public school transportation is not only a necessity, but is a basic ethic which cannot be denied a student who lives on, for instance, the south side of Cunningham Road, while his cousin who lives on the north side of Cunningham Road, is hauled to and from the county schools.

There is another side to the problem in Lenoir County. Every year the busses from the rural system probe deeper and deeper into the Kinston Graded School District. There are two reasons for this: 1. the requests of parents who are seeking free transportation for their children and 2. The understandable desire of rural school principals to increase the enrollments of their school since they get an additional \$5 per month added to their paycheck for each teacher in their school.

At present some over 600 students who live in the Kinston Graded School District are attending Southwood, Woodington, Moss Hill, Wheat Swamp, Savannah and Contentnea schools. This situation would never have developed if the city school system had offered free transportation as the county system.

I believe we're getting closer to home base on this project and with a little help from a few more people at least in a city-

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