

'He Wanted Freedom... in Our Way, He's Got It'



EDITORIALS

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

Power Or Courage

The United States in its failure to act decisively to prevent the military build up in Cuba lacks something. Is it power or courage? If the armed forces of our country lack the power then the taxpayers have been badly treated since more than half the national budget is lavished upon every bauble, bangle or bead that the military spenders want. If our leaders lack the courage then we are badly led. None with even a vicarious knowledge of the horror of war would lightly recommend armed intervention by United States in Cuba. But, is there a practical and safe al-

ternative? This would not be "burning down the barn to get rid of rats." No matter how much posturing and threatening Russia may do on the subject of coming to the aid of its valiant ally in the Caribbean, the physical job is more than the rhetorical threat. The United States cannot sit endlessly in conferences with Latin American governments — that are changed more frequently than their personal linens — and wait for any concerted action on the part of the Pan-American nations. No one else can, so the United States must put the house of its step-child, Cuba, in order because the Russian in-laws will if we don't.

About Juries

No system of justice has ever been found better than the jury system, so long as the jury system is working. But when jurors fail or refuse to accept their part of the responsibility for upholding law and order it is necessary to take a close look at the system, and to find if at all possible why it is not functioning properly. Of course, if one supposes that the jury is supposed to be the rubberstamp of law enforcement agencies he has no notion of the true function of the jury. But when juries reach the point of deliberately ignoring well built cases against patently guilty defendants they can be just as dangerous to democratic forms of justice as the rubberstamp form of jury. In short, the jury becomes a mockery of justice on either side of the prisoners' dock when it fails to live up to the oath taken by each juror before he sits in judgment in any case. The federal courts have a tenuous system for selecting jurors, which very largely negates the principle of the defendant being tried by a jury of "his peers." The state system of selecting juries is outmoded and to a very large degree imposes a responsibility upon boards of county commissioners that they have neither the time nor the inclination to accomplish. The North Carolina system of having

county commissioners draw jurors came from the day when the average board of county commissioners knew either personally or by reputation 99 per cent of the eligible jurors in a county. In many counties this situation still exists and in such counties the jury system works well, because the commissioners are able to select men of character who will shoulder the responsibility of finding even a close friend guilty if the evidence supports the charge. Obviously in the larger counties this is an impossibility. So we suggest that a better system be installed under which people with criminal records would be eliminated from jury duty, or at the very least their records of violations be included with their names so that court officials will know what kind of background the juror has when he sets down in the jury box. In a time when the motor vehicle laws have made law breakers out of a great many of us it would be absurd to bar a man from jury duty because he has had a speeding ticket, but it would be good for the state to know this before the man is called so that he might serve in other cases than those that involve the particular kind of violation that he has been involved in. No good element of society is served when

Farmers Are Learning

Ugly as it may be the action of midwestern farmers under the National Farmers Organization are learning the lesson that has installed organized labor as the bull of the wood and cock of the meadow in national politics.

These farmers have turned economic pressure on Sears, Roebuck and Company and the Ford Company because officials of each of these companies were members of the "Committee for Economic Development," which recently recommended the "liquidation of two million farm families."

This is an ugly way to do business, but it is the way the unions have been doing business for a generation now, and it has proven highly successful.

Why do you think the union label is sewed or printed on nearly every manufactured article you buy? Simply because the good union worker will not buy anything that does not have the union label on it.

If an official of Sears or Ford had helped write the report that recommended an end to the "featherbedding" practices of organized labor on the nation's railroads they would have been just as quickly and far more effectively the target of union boycott.

In the materialistic society in which we live today there seems to be no other pressure so effective as the economic pressure.

The federal government uses its economic boycott to enforce racial integration of industry, of schools and other public facilities.

The unions use its economic boycott to spread and protect unionism.

Farmers produce every bite of every meal eaten by every American.

Farmers have not been getting their proportionate share of the national prosperity.

Farmers have been forced into this position because they have refused to organize except on the sketchiest basis, and even after such loosely drawn organization, the farmers have failed to cooperate.

Farmers are, or should be more able to strike than wage earners.

Small Consolation

The Air Force is ordering a new plane for President Kennedy that has a price tag of \$8,923,000. The same plane when purchased by commercial airlines cost \$6,500,000.

For our tax dollar even the cheaper price is too much to pay for a plane, but assuming that one is absolutely necessary there seems to be no logical reason for spending an additional \$2,432,000 for special decorations and additional gadgets on the presidential plane.

Those of us who see our paycheck grow smaller and smaller with each boost in the tax bite can find exceedingly small consolation in the knowledge that our tax money is being used in such an exorbitantly extravagant fashion.

If the president is sincere when he talks about economies in government the very first place he ought to begin economizing is with himself.

Perhaps, it is absurd to recall, but we believe that our country was just as well governed when presidents travelled at stage coach speed.

Man's mind is not capable of grasping but just so much and when the president is whirling about the world at 600 miles per hour it is too much to ask him to see the problems in the forest, when he is so high in the clouds that he can not even see the broad outlines of the forest itself.

undoubtedly guilty people are turned loose by juries that either lack the intelligence to understand the evidence or the integrity to weigh the evidence impartially once it has been presented.

No system is so good that it cannot be improved and the wonderful jury system of our American courts falls into that exact category — good, but improvable.

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PERSONAL
PARAGRAPHS
BY
JACK RIDER

Only the blundering stupidity of a crowd of teen-aged negroes prevented a terrible tragedy from taking place in the edge of Kinston Sunday afternoon. And although this group is in serious trouble as it is, they might have been facing either the gas chamber or the lynch-mob rope.

This group of about a dozen teen-aged negroes attempted to murder two white men who were complete strangers to them, and with whom they had had absolutely not the first crossword or other difficulty.

This points up with terrifying seriousness the most pressing social problem we have in the United States today: The unemployed, untrained, semi-educated reservoir of young men (both black and white) who have nothing but a burning resentment against society.

This problem is turning hundreds of young men, and women to crime of one kind or another. And, tragically enough, crime without rhyme or reason. Every report from the crime statisticians shows the most alarming rates of increase in crime among young men and women, and especially in the realm of felonious assault, which includes murder, rape and all the lesser crimes in these categories.

Among these young negroes caught in this socio-economic nightmare the problem is multiplied by the propaganda of our time which tells the negro that each and all of his problems are because of his being abused by white people. The miracle is that ANY young negro grows up with anything but the most deadly hatred for white people. Fortunately, a majority of the negro youth is able either to go on to college, or to find work that engages their minds and their energies, and nothing makes a liberal turn into a conservative more quickly than a regular paycheck, a home and family and the many responsibilities that automatically attach to the man in this status. This applies with the same force upon negroes that it does upon whites.

But the massive root of this problem is the inability of so many of these youths to find a job, simply because they do not have the ability to do the things they want to do, and they lack the inclination to do the things they are capable of doing. John Fischer in his editorial last month in Harper's, call it "The Stupidity Problem." This article has been widely reprinted — in Reader's Digest, Newsday and several more large circulation magazines and newspapers.

Congress has very wisely voted last week to allocate \$900,000,000 for public works programs aimed at providing work of a kind that these "rebels" can and will do. Congress has also allocated funds for "re-education" of some of these into trades—many, however, were never educated the first time so "re-education" is hardly the correct word.

One thing Congress might take a lesson from the Kinston Board of Aldermen and the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners on is the tiny public works program set up in Kinston last year to clean out and widen the Adkin drainage canal. The city and county officials agreed that old-fashioned man and hand power would be used on this project specifically to give needy men a job, rather than doing the job a little more economically with modern machinery which would do the job of 50 men in less time. Every public works program should spell out the absolute necessity of using every logical man hour of labor, rather than using machinery.

What earthly good purpose can an estimated 30,000 Russian, 1500 Ghanian and 900 Chinese troops have in Cuba? Assuming that these figures are a 100 per cent exaggeration, the presence of armed forces in this hemisphere should not be tolerated under the Monroe Doctrine. Even after acknowledging that the Monroe Doctrine is a unilateral and perhaps arbitrary policy, it is a good one, and one that has served this hemisphere well, and we are willing to run the risk of keeping it in good working condition.