

You Don't Want The Spinach? How About Dessert First?



EDITORIALS

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

Reverend Sanford

See in the papers where The Right Reverend Doctor Terry Sanford held services last Sunday night in the White Rock Baptist Church in Durham where he told the colored brethren that "Green Pastures" were just across a couple more barbed wire fences.

It's funny how mistaken one can be about a man. Here we were thinking that Doctor Sanford was warming up in the NAACP bullpen to take General Bobby Kennedy's place in the cabinet, when all the time he had his eye on the more lucrative racket practiced by that other Right Reverend Baptist Brother, Adam Clayton Powell.

One thing we have to say for Doctor Sanford, he thinks big. No need of messing around with a little old attorney-general job when there are such rich pickings open as those in the Powell Baptistery.

We keep telling ourselves that these racist panders are going to run out of suck-

ers, but they haven't yet. We keep telling ourselves that "you can fool all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time," and hoping that the day will arrive when the people — north and south, black and white — learn what kind of stuff is in this racial panacea that is being peddled by these barkers at the great political medicine show.

But our error is in forgetting that politicians don't have to fool all the people all the time. All they have to fool is a numerical majority. And when you have about 60 per cent of the people who vote and don't know what they are voting about, another 30 per cent who are voting for selfish reasons, it is easy to split this 90 per cent up on ancient feuds and current greeds so that the race is decided by that top 10 per cent.

The negro vote happens to be that deciding 10 per cent which has the power to make strong politicians quake and crawl and preach in negro churches.

School Figures

The important figures in school systems are not those that tell how many dollars and cents are being spent, but are the numbers of students that are being turned out, their weighted academic levels and their abilities to compete at higher levels of education and employment.

Obviously we are talking about one very tangible set of figures against a set of intangibles.

But it is possible to put the fixed and unknown figures together and come up with some pretty solid conclusions. In Lenoir County where the subject of consolidating small rural white high schools is now getting hotter with each tick of the clock we find such formulas as these:

The overall rural system at the latest accounting was spending \$162.02 per year per pupil. This figure includes both the white and negro and elementary and grammar grades as well as high school classes.

In the Kinston system \$154.13 of county and state money was being spent per pupil per year. Yet both of Kinston's high schools are fully accredited by the Southern Regional Board of Colleges and Secondary Schools, while none of the 10 county high schools is.

If one could wade through the sea of statistics that surrounds every governmental function he would find without doubt that the cost of the county white high school

student is even more disproportionate than the rough figures above indicate.

Since the negro high schools have been consolidated into three large units, and since the size of all the county elementary schools is sufficient to support good education, obviously this accelerates the cost of the seven small white high schools.

The last in a series of surveys made on this subject by an out-of-county team showed the average white high school enrollment in the county to be just a fraction over 1,000. This high school enrollment had a total of 62 teachers — a very high ratio of teachers to pupils it would appear, since this 62 teachers did not include the county-wide 17 additional teachers of such things as driving, band and special education.

Grainger High School with roughly the same number of pupils as all of the seven rural schools combined in that same school year had a total of 33 Teachers, which includes several that are paid completely from the special school district tax voted by the people of the Kinston School District.

Despite this wide variation in the number of pupils per teacher 72 per cent of Grainger High School graduates are going on to college, while only 39 per cent of the graduates from these seven rural white high schools are going on to college.

The reason is clear: Grainger High's 33 teachers in the referred to year were in a

Begin At Home

This week a large delegation of North Carolinians headed by Governor Sanford was in New York hunting for industry to bring to our state. This is all right. We are not knocking new industry.

But we do suggest that the easiest way to boost the local economy is to encourage and expand the industry we already have with us. This, of course, does not get so many headlines as the coming of a brand new industry, but if we could add one per cent to the existing industrial payroll in our area we would have stimulated the economy in one sense even more than the bringing in of a totally new industry.

The wise men who are looking for new plant sites have a number of requisites for a community: Raw materials, labor force, water supply, transportation, recreation, quality of government, schools and nearness to market. But certainly not the least of these requisites is the "industrial climate" and this has nothing to do with the weather.

The broad meaning of "industrial climate" is whether a community is willing or reluctant to cooperate with industry in the day-to-day ways that are far more important in the long run than the speeches, banquets and fanfare that mark the general announcements of new industries coming to an area.

There is no better way — in fact there is NO other way to prove the healthy existence of an "industrial climate" than to live it 365 days each year. Certainly a part of this is the encouragement of existing local industry in every possible way.

This is an area in which we have made some spasmodic efforts from time to time in the past, but more generally as an after thought than a fore thought. We suggest that we apply ourselves just as energetically and just as regularly to this as to hunting new industry in hostile territory far away.

A great many philandering "community husbands" have found — too late some times that while they were "romancing" an out-of-town gal they were leaving much richer resources back at home.

A Happy Trend

Nothing makes a conservative more quickly out of man than a mortgage and two or three children.

In the past 10 years in North Carolina we have seen an eight per cent increase in the percentage of home-owners. From 55 per cent to 63 per cent of us now live under a roof that we call our own, no matter how big the mortgage may be.

Owning a home generally means that the house hears tiny little foot steps and has jam smeared about the door facings and furniture.

The responsibilities of paying for the home, and trying to take care of those "little ones" will cause any but the most fanatic socialists to lose interest in big government, because the bigger government gets the more severely it penalizes the family that is trying to do something for itself.

So the paternalisms of government come into a hostile confrontation with the more personal paternalisms of those who like to keep a little of what we earn for the future not only of ourselves but for the future of those who bear our name.

This confrontation may be just exactly the straw that is needed to break the back of authoritarian bureaucracy in Washington and turn this country once again to the principles which made it great.

Here's one papa who hopes so, at least.

single well-balanced faculty, permitting specialization, while the 62 rural teachers were divided into seven units, permitting no one of these seven rural schools to have a well-balanced, specialized faculty.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY
JACK RIDER

I have seriously been trying to study the deficit financing proposals of the men who are dictating President Kennedy's economic thinking. Stewed down to their juices these theories are based in the logic that people are more important than money, and that deficit financing by a government is a moral necessity in times of national stress.

I don't believe that there are many people who would argue with the basic concept of this theory. If our nation is imperilled by war or great national disaster few among us would question the correctness of doing everything possible to weather the storm. That is exactly what President Roosevelt had to do in the Thirties. More than a third of the work force of the nation was unemployed — really unemployed. Our country faced anarchy and revolution if something were not done quickly and dramatically to pull the people out of the quicksand they were sinking into.

But the argument for an unbalanced budget, bigger deficit and increased national debt today is not predicated upon an emergency but is based upon textbook theory and such illusory figures as "Gross National Product," "unemployment rate" and "viable economy". What is suggested today is the Galbraithian fantasy, called the managed economy.

This ivory-tower concept begins upon the tissue-thin presumption that the "natives" do not know how to wisely manage their money, and that the "natives" will be much better off if a major part of their income is taken to Washington where the learned elders can provide for them the things which they refuse to provide for themselves. The list is endless, and includes every imagined "necessity" and a great many of the splendid luxuries that these "natives" have come to expect in the "stagnant" American economy.

This is surely not a new principle of government. It is, in fact the very oldest system of government. But dressed up in new phraseology, and sprinkled with the holy water of modern-day socio-economics this return to the political dark ages is made to sound like the very singing of angels.

The common man, humanity over balanced budget, environmental factors, the urban society — these are just a few of the newly injected catch phrases of this selling job. All of which, and each of which is a direct contradiction of the nations of freedom which once inspired this nation to inspire the world.

When the state imposes charity it is just as guilty of killing freedom as when it imposes prison. Freedom includes the right to NOT want some things as well as the right to aspire to greater things. Today the hobo is a vanishing American. He has become part of the great statistical pile as one of the "unemployed." Every village exerts a large part of its emotion and money on "saving" the derelicts of society; each of whom obviously prefers to be a derelict since the original choice was his.

We are permitting ourselves to be changed gradually from a nation of free men into a collection of do-gooders. This does not mean that a free man cannot do good, but it does assert as positively as I know how that the majority of "do-gooders" despise freedom because it connotes something foreign to the do-good spirit.

If a man wants to be a drunkard, a vagrant, a rag-picker, a hermit, he deserves the right to ply his trade so long as he does not interfere with the rights of others. But we have assorted associations and executive secretaries whose dedication is to sobering up the drunks, enriching vagrants, garbing the rag-picker in ermine, fraternizing with hermits. Today we build "hospitals" and surround such people with men in white jackets and treat them for mental illness. Which sometimes makes me believe that the real nuts are on the outside.