

Other Editors

WRAL VIEWPOINT

The Negro is Being Abused

If the Negro leaders of America would simply stop long enough to take a good, hard look at what is going on, they could not possibly fail to realize that the Negro race is being used as a pawn in the greatest political power play in the history of our nation.

Strained race relations are spreading across the country. Instead of gaining ground, the Negro race is losing it. Bitterness is now rampant where only a few years ago it was non-existent. The situation is growing worse by the day.

Negroes need to ask themselves: What purpose is being served? What progress is being made — and at what cost? These are deadly-serious, vastly-important questions that cannot be answered in pious political language.

We read with amazement a press association account of a statement issued by the White House last week. Martin Luther King wanted to be put in jail to draw attention to his activities; he candidly said so: There was not the slightest hint that King had been mistreated while in custody; in fact, he has now been released under bond and he acknowledges that he was not mistreated. Nor was he held incommunicado.

Yet, the White House issued a press release saying that President Kennedy had interrupted his vacation in Florida to make telephone calls to Alabama. Then, according to the press release, Mr. Kennedy called King's wife in Atlanta and advised her that he (the President) had "made arrangements" for King to call his wife.

What the White House didn't mention was that King had already called his wife, prior to the President's intervention. In fact, King had called her twice, once the day before the President introduced himself into the affair and, again, two hours before the President placed his call to Alabama.

The White House, of course, did not say that King was being held incommunicado. But the implications of the press release were clear. The impression was left that King would not have been able to communicate with his wife had it not been for the President of the United States.

A great deal is said about the "world image" of America in connection with racial difficulties in

our country. It is not difficult to see the effect abroad of the White House press release.

No election, the political career of no man, is worth the discord being created by efforts to weld together the votes of Negro Americans into a solid bloc. What has happened to sincerity and truth and good faith? As matters now stand, those who cry loudest for equality of opportunity are frequently the very ones who offer no jobs for Negroes. Check the employee lists of newspapers; examine the law firms of the politicians — all the rest. Almost without exception the story is the same: "Do not as I do, but as I say do."

This is a sorry ladder which Negroes are trying to climb. It will not support the weight of their dreams of progress.

And, of course, the need for personal responsibility on the part of the Negro race is constantly showing itself. In Washington, D. C., where public schools are integrated and Negro-dominated, Negro hoodlums are creating chaos. The superintendent of schools, Carl F. Hansen, has repeatedly warned that "a volcano of problems" exists in the the school system because of the inability of officials and teachers to discipline or get rid of chronic trouble makers.

Hansen urged his board of education to permit such pupils to be expelled or to be given corporal punishment. The eight-member

school board includes four Negroes, plus its chairman who is a Negro. Hansen was rebuffed by a vote of 5 to 4.

North Carolina Congressman Basil Whitener has introduced a bill in Congress to permit expulsion of students and corporal punishment in Washington's schools. It will be interesting to see how certain members of Congress vote on this measure designed to restore order in the schools of the nation's capital. It will be equally interesting to see what, if anything, the Negro leaders of Washington do in the meantime to encourage personal responsibility among the Negro pupils and their parents. Whether Negroes like it or not, integration is being tested in Washington and Negro citizens everywhere will be judged by the results of the test. No civil rights will long endure without personal responsibility.

'Country Girl' Being Given May 3rd and 4th By Kinston Dramatists

"Country Girl," an interesting drama by Clifford Odets will be presented Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4 at Northwest School by the Kinston Community Theatre. Curtain time 8:15.

This production deals with man's intricate self and society. It gives a vivid characterization of backstage life which is seldom seen as it tells of a has-been actor given his last chance to regain stardom.

Taking part in the final production for the season will be: Bob Negroes who deceive themselves on this point, or permit themselves to be deceived, are simply walking down a blind alley.

It cannot and will not be otherwise.

Armistead, Jean Ford, Reece Gardner, Billie Ann Reeves, Norwood Anderson, Emanuel Traub and Gray Gilbert.

Betty Rhodes, a Kinstonian who has studied drama in New York, is the director for the "Country Girl."



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