

Other Editors
WRAL VIEWPOINT

Good Medical Relations

We saw, in a fleeting instant, the measurement of a man's character one morning this week. A child did it, as only a child can, unhesitatingly and unmistakably, with shining eyes and a trusting countenance. And when it was done, it was as though the width of the horizon and the height of the sky had been determined.

Dr. Lenox Baker of Durham may blush if and when he hears these words. But as we accompanied him on his rounds at a children's hospital, we saw the things that are important in Lenox Baker's world. In one room a tiny blue-eyed girl stood shakily for the first time in her life on straight legs. Only minutes before she had been set free from casts which she had worn since January when Lenox Baker's surgical scalpel had offered her hope of normalcy.

Next there was an older boy, the one with the bright, shining eyes, whose body had been so handicapped by the infirmity of cerebral palsy. Here again, Lenox Baker's skillful scalpel had proved itself. Here again, hope had replaced hopelessness. Dr. Baker lowered his tall, erect frame onto a chair, looked with pride at the little boy, and said: "Walked to me son," The child's eyes brightened — and he walked!

Not many citizens — relatively speaking — are even aware that the North Carolina Cerebral Hospital exists, and fewer still know what goes on beyond the walls of that simple, functional building in Durham. The misfortune of cerebral palsy strikes the children of very few families — again speaking relatively. For those who do experience it, there are both heart-break and challenges.

Lenox Baker made a decision years ago to help meet those challenges and, wherever possible, sweep away the heartbreak.

His success is a measurement, then, not only of his character, but of his will. He has demonstrated a love for children in need, and they see that love with a clarity that only a child's perception possesses. There is nothing syrupy-sweet about Lenox Baker's relationship with his children, but there is a sincerity that builds a bond between them.

"Walk to me," he says to them, almost prayerfully, yet commandingly. And they walk, with tiny arms outstretched and eyes fast-

ened on this man who has given them hope.

Lenox Baker, and again we will cause him to blush, represents the best possible kind of public relations the medical profession possesses. His is the story that the public needs to understand, so that it may fully appreciate the wonders of American medicine, Lenox Baker, and countless thousands of other physicians and surgeons across this land, have never known an eight-hour day or a five-day week. They have never gone on strike. For all the faults that a sometimes ungrateful public may find, the American people enjoy the best medical service the world has ever known.

We're solidly in favor of the Lenox Bakers of this country, and the unfettered medical profession which they have built, the splendid hospitals which they man, the lives that they save, and — yes — the crippled children to whom they give hope. We question the judgment of those Americans who would trade this for a system of government-controlled medicine, even the first step in that direction. Those who would participate in such a reckless swap would unwittingly exchange a part of their heritage for a dose of socialized humbug.

There is occasional criticism of doctors for taking an active interest in politics. The only fault we find in this is that not enough



The battle over the so-called civil rights bill continues in the Senate. As the debate has progressed the country has learned more about the provisions of a bill that is probably the most deceptive piece of legislation presented to Congress in many a year.

Indicative of this is a statement attributed recently by the Augusta Chronicle to Congressman Frank Chelf of Kentucky, who co-authored the measure in the House as a member of the Judiciary Committee. Later, after studying the bill more carefully, he reportedly said: "It's an awful bill. I hadn't realized how bad it is."

If we embarrass Dr. Baker with these observations, we are sorry. But he is a remarkable part of a noble profession whose story needs to be told. The little boy with the shining eyes is all the testimony that is needed. In an instant the story was told — all of it.

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If one wonders how a situation like this could occur, it would be well to recall that this bill has never yet received legislative hearings either in the house or in the senate, and that thousands of its most ardent supporters have never read the bill.

When emotionalism rather than logic becomes the standard by which legislation is to be judged, perhaps the nation needs to reflect upon some things which it knows to be true.

Dr. Walter R. Courtenay, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, Tennessee, in a sermon which I placed in the Congressional Record some time ago, said as much when he reminded us of the realities of our world, as follows:

"Equality has intoxicated the modern world. Men walk starry eyed through streets and halls dreaming of new days and improved status. The whole world seems in a pep-rally mood, and the bonfires grow larger and burn more fiercely, even as the songs, chants, and shouts of the participants become louder and more fervent. In

a thousand tongues men scream their demands for equality, for place, for recognition, for rights, for privileges . . ."

"In my summer setting, close to nature, I looked around for evidences of equality in nature, and found none. Trees and hills are not the same in breadth and height. Rivers and lakes are not of uniform size . . ."

"As I thought of it, the same seemed to be true of history. Nations and races do differ in size, wealth, prestige, power, creativity, and vision. Some soar like eagles. Some grow like vegetables and weeds in the garden called the earth. Between individuals, races, groups and nations, there are broad differences, and equality is not a characteristic of either nature or human nature . . ."

"The church, as someone has said, learned a long time ago that it is easier to create liberty than it is to establish equality. It has always known that equality can only be had by a loss of certain liberties . . ."

Dr. Courtenay's commentary raises some needed questions about a philosophy that seeks a legislative solution for problems that cannot be solved by laws, but could endanger the rights of all.

DRIVE-IN TROUBLE

Sherill T. Ferguson of Raleigh was charged with trespassing and assault after an argument Tuesday night at Carlyle's Drive-In. He, in turn, signed a warrant against Wheeler Carlyle, charging him with assault with a deadly weapon.

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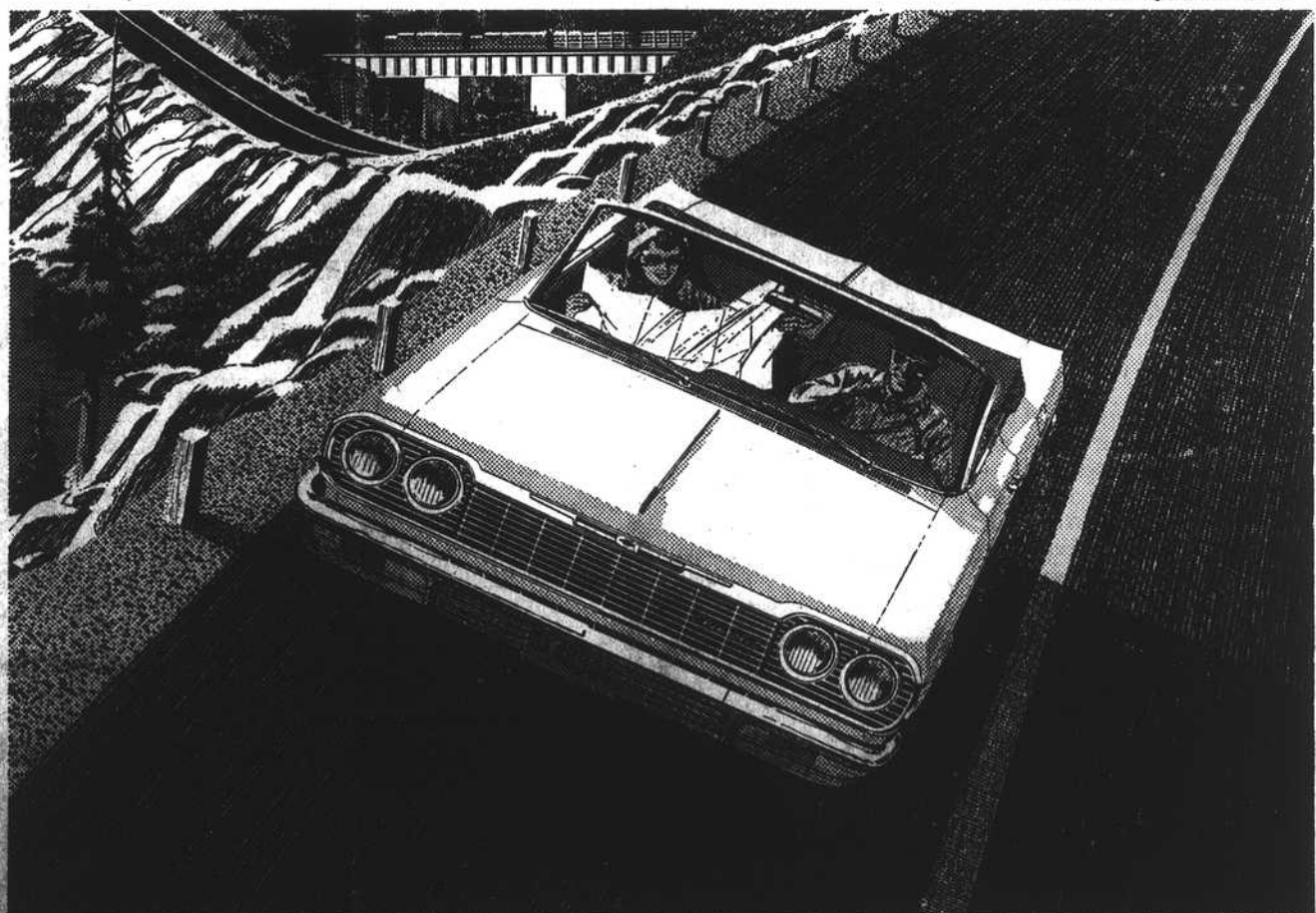


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