

IF THEY DON'T LIKE WHAT WE ARE DOING, THEY CAN TAKE THEIR CHILDREN OUT

By Jack Rider

Monday I went a'tilting against the windmills of bureaucracy in Raleigh.

My lance was an accumulation of 18,614 signatures over letters, cards and personally drawn petitions by people who joined me in protesting the crude manner in which an admitted 1200 patients of North Carolina's schools for the mentally retarded are being abused.

My first stop was in the office of Governor Dan Moore, who listened politely to me tell the reasons for my asking an audience.

I told him that firstly I wanted it clearly understood that although I was a 140-per cent racial segregationist I was not protesting the racial integration of these state schools and hospitals because I recognize all too clearly that I had lost that war in last year's presidential election when the over-

whelming majority of the nation's voters endorsed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In the face of this I told the governor that I had to accept, if reluctantly, that until this law is repealed public institutions cannot be operated in any manner that discriminates against anyone because of race, color, creed, or national origin.

My mission, I explained, was to protest in the name of these 18,614 petitioners and myself to the summary transfer of 1200 children from Caswell Training School at Kinston and O'Berry Center at Goldsboro without the consent — and in the vast majority of instances — over the vehement objections of both the children themselves and their families as well.

I told the governor in my more than 40 years in Kinston as an observer of the operation of Caswell that there never had been

a time when morale of the staff and the patients was in such a bad state.

The governor asked me if I had seen Doctor Hargrove — who is director of the Department of Mental Health. I told him I had not and he had a secretary call and make an appointment immediately following our talk.

The governor told me he was aware of this problem because it had been brought to his attention before, if not in quite the manner I was using.

I told the governor I would talk to anybody — even the devil himself if it would help correct the abuse of these children and their families. He said he felt it would be a good idea to talk with Hargrove and get the views of the people who are administering our schools for the mentally retarded and hospitals for the mentally disturbed.

Dr. Hargrove, it developed, was out of town, but an appointment with Dr. Sam Cornwell, director of the Division of Mentally Retarded, was made and I went to his office.

I told Cornwell essentially my position as outlined above to Governor Moore.

Cornwell said that the transfers were a part of the Department of Mental Health's effort to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and that it was the department's conclusion that in order to comply it was necessary to establish all schools and hospitals on an absolute geographical basis. He reminded that the state operates four schools for the mentally retarded at Kinston, Goldsboro, Butner and Morganton, and he admitted that the proximity of the Kinston and Goldsboro schools made the job more complicated than it might have been if their locations had not been so close.

Cornwell tried to console me with the fact that children who in recent years had been transferred from Kinston to Butner and from Kinston and Butner to Morganton had made excellent adjustment. Each of these being recently opened schools for mentally retarded patients. For a generation Kinston's was

the only such institution in the state.

I emphasized to Cornwell that I even had no objection to the use of geographical zoning if it were done on an individual application basis, and above all with the consent of those families involved.

I admitted that I appreciated the difficulty of his department's position, but that it seemed improper to me that the civil rights people were accepting all across the nation so-called "Freedom of Choice" plans for the racial integration of public schools.

He admitted that the Department of Mental Health had not attempted to "sell" a "Freedom of Choice" plan to the civil rights bureaucrats, since it was the consensus of his directors that a geographical plan would be more acceptable and in the best interest of patient and families alike to summarily transfer hundreds back and forth between all institutions rather than to have piece-meal integration on the basis of individual applications.

He said he felt that it was better to have several hundred white children transferred hurriedly to Goldsboro than for one or two to be entered there on the petition of their families.

I countered by reminding him that last year in Kinston's white high school of about 1,000 students there had been only two colored students, but each was there with the full knowledge and consent of his parents.

Cornwell admitted that when children were transferred from Kinston to Butner and to Morganton very special care had been taken to consult with the families of the patients involved and no transfers were made except with the full knowledge and consent of the families involved.

He said, however, that perhaps, in mixing the races they could have moved with similar deliberation, but lack staff to make large numbers of transfers on short notice while giving such careful attention to each patient.

Cornwell admitted that there was no medical reason for the transfers, and that they were being made only in the department's effort to satisfy the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Cornwell also asked me to ascribe to him and his staff the same concern for the welfare of the children that I felt and that was represented in the more than 18,000 petitioners.

I told him I was sure that each and all of these involved were utterly sincere, but it simply happened to be my conviction that they had reached a terribly wrong conclusion as to what was the best way to handle a bad program.

He said that his staff had to be concerned with what was best for all the patients involved and that if a few were hurt and their families distressed it was unfortunate.

I told him that this is exactly the point of the great dialogue going on in the world today: Whether the state had the right to make people do things that some isolated official decided was best for them. He admitted that this is a matter of great concern.

And Cornwell concluded that after all families involved do have a freedom of choice in this matter: "If they don't like what we are doing they can take their children out and see if they can manage them at home."

I thanked him for his time, his courtesies and told him that although I understood the nature of his problem I differed completely with the manner in which his department was seeking a solution.

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School Board OK's Faculty and School Calendar for Coming Year

Special Meeting of the Jones County Board of Education minutes.

Members present: Messrs. F. Rogers Pollock, Jeff J. Conway, W. E. Phillips, J. C. Wooten, Vice-chairman and J. C. West, Jr. Chairman.

The members of the Jones County Board of Education met on the above date in the office of the superintendent and after the meeting had been called to order. Chairman West let the group in prayer. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and found to be recorded correctly. The chairman opened the meeting for business.

A motion was made by Mr. Wooten, seconded by Mr. Pollock and unanimously carried that Connie Rene Thompson be assigned to Trenton School for school year 1965-1966.

A motion was made by Mr. Conway, seconded by Mr. Wooten and unanimously carried that the following school personnel's resignations be accepted according to their wishes: Louvenia Smith Gidron, Jones High and Esley A. Robinson, Jones High, Janitor.

A motion was made by Mr. Conway seconded by Mr. Wooten and unanimously carried that the following school personnel

be duly elected and approved to teach in the Jones County Schools for the school year 1965-1966:

Aubrey Lee Little, Jones Central, Driver Education; Daniel S. Ballard, Jr., Jones Central, Coach; Henry H. Goodman, Jones Central, Distributive Education; Rayburn Rhodes, Comfort; Lucille G. Eubanks, Comfort; Sudie H. Simmons, Maysville; Irene S. Oliver, Maysville; Marie A. Warren, Jones High School; Willie J. Hayes, Jones High; Timothy J. Autry, Jones High; Elvira Dillahunt Shaw, Jones High; Alyce Warren, Jones High; James E. Ervin, Jones High, Janitor, Ruby J. Wilson, Trenton Elementary, Mary I. Simmons, Trenton Elementary; and Louise J. Willie, J. W. Willie Elementary.

A motion was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Pollock, and unanimously carried that the School Opening Calendar for the 1965-1966 school year be approved.

The secretary gave much information that had been received from different sources since the last Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting stood adjourned.

Divorce Sought

An action was filed this week in the office of Superior Court Clerk Walter Henderson in which Clifton B. Smith of Jones County is seeking a divorce from Lillian Mary York Smith, address unknown. The suit alleges their marriage on June 22, 1961 and their permanent separation on June 21, 1962.

EXPENSIVE FIRE

Fire of undetermined origin early Wednesday morning did an estimated \$25,000 damage to a packhouse and its contents on the J. W. Poole farm of Kinston route 2. Poole valued the barn at \$6,000 and equipment and tobacco stored in an around it at \$19,000.

Jaycees Conducting Survey in Effort Secure Improved Telephone Service

In its continuing effort to secure improved telephone service for every part of Jones County the Jaycee organization is now conducting a survey of several hundred telephone subscribers.

The reason for the survey is to determine the present levels of use of both local and long distance calls by both business and private telephone subscribers and to determine if people using phones would be willing to pay more for an improved service.

Doug Connor, who is chairman of the survey team, said

Five Jones Arrests

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports five arrests during the past week: Robert Lee Gooding of New Bern route 3 was charged with reckless driving, Paul Edward Morgan of Pollocksville route 1 was charged with speeding 80 miles an hour, Isaiah Hill of Maysville, Joe Bender of Pollocksville and Talbert King of Trenton route 2 were all accused of being publicly drunk and Hill was additionally accused of being disorderly.

ville route 1, Caleb Dove of Trenton route 1, James Heath of Kinston, Ben Cox of Kinston, and Walter McNeal Jr. of Kinston.

Armed Robbery is Alleged Against Four Leathernecks

Four Camp Lejeune Marines are being held in Lenoir County jail on charges of armed robbery growing out of a Saturday night escapade south of Kinston.

Teen-ager A. B. Dickerson Jr. of Cove City Route 1 and two other youths from the same neighborhood say they were picked up and later assaulted and robbed by four Camp Lejeune Marines; one of whom dropped his pocketbook at the scene of the robbery.

The four accused are John Dalesandro, Stephen Lima, Michael Schultz and Rex Wren.

Railroad Executives Named by Governor

Last week Governor Dan Moore exercise one of the duties of his post by "recommending" that the stockholders of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad give careful consideration to the appointment of Bud Dixon of Morehead as president, Olin Reed of Kinston as secretary-treasurer and Don Brock of Trenton as one of the directors of the company.

The State of North Carolina owns 75 per cent of the stock in the company so the governor's recommendation was accepted without dissent.

Principal function of the officers is to receive and distribute rentals from Southern Railways which leases the trackage from Goldsboro to Morehead.

Routine Clearances Account for 18 Cases in Recorder's Court

During the past week trials by Judge Joe Becton and submissions before Clerk Walter Henderson cleared 18 cases from the docket of Jones County Recorder's Court.

Donald Ray Shivar of Trenton route 2 was found not guilty of non-support and a similar charge against William Andrews of Maysville was withdrawn by the plaintiff who paid the court costs.

Roosevelt Garris of Trenton was found guilty of passing two worthless checks which he was ordered to make good and pay the court costs in each.

An assault on female charge against Ben Bruington was not pressed with leave since Bruing-

ton is awaiting trial on charge of first degree murder.

Roman Milton Jernigan of Kinston was fined \$15 and costs for speeding 75 miles an hour and Bobby Ray Jackson of New Bern was fined \$10 for reckless driving.

Stephen Lemley of Camp Lejeune, Jackie Dixon of Jacksonville, Charley Jennings of Cherry Point and Terry Donald Glover of Rocky Mount were each fined \$10 for speeding.

Ava Riggs Jones of Pollocksville route 1 had a charge of making an improper turn not pressed.

Others paying the costs for minor traffic charges were Lillie Meadows Chadwick of Pollocks-