

WHY SUPPORT THE UNPOPULAR SIDE?

JOHN J. SYNON

There is before me a rather churlish letter: "What's eating you", my correspondent wants to know, "why don't you get off this race thing?"

I have an answer. I persist because I look upon racial integration — miscengenation — as the only mistake we cannot undo. I take it to be the most serious issue of our time, incalculably greater than all the rest. Therefore, I persist.

I maintain the unpopular side because I have gone to some pains to learn what the evidence discloses; I have read what very wise men have written. Among the wisest of these writers is Dr. Wesley C. George, professor emeritus of histology and embryology, formerly head of the department of anatomy, University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

Here are excerpts from this wise man's writings. I offer them for your consideration and for the consideration of my correspondent:

The people of the entire country might well concern themselves with the race problem in a most serious and thoughtful way. It requires our best thought and a careful consideration of all pertinent facts. It will not be solved by good-intentioned but ill-informed people giving what they consider to be idealistic, inspired advice and exerting pressures to bring about ill-advised revolution.

On a television religious program I heard a minister report that the National Council of Churches has recently said that love is the ultimate solution of the race problem. Any one worthy of being the shepherd of a flock should know that unrestrained and unguided love has led many people to tragedy. By all means, love should be involved in considering human affairs including race relations; but love is not necessarily wisdom and it does not eliminate the necessity for making judgment based on fact and reason.

The United States Supreme Court's ruling on the school integration cases is potentially one of the most fateful decisions ever made by a court. It could largely determine the nature of the flesh, bone, blood and mind of future generations of Americans. Support for that decision and adherence to or rejection of the programs that it imposes should be based upon the most

complete and reliable knowledge and understanding that it is possible to obtain. There is no record that the Court or the Federal government has at any time sought to get that knowledge and understanding . . .

When the Justices of the Supreme Court abandoned former legal precedents and the historic meaning of the Constitution, and based their decision . . . upon "science" and the opinions of "authorities", they inevitably made the validity of their ruling dependent upon the truth and validity of their scientific material. This should have been subjected to critical examination and was not. In addition there was a great deal of established fact and pertinent evidence bearing on the issue which the court neglected entirely.

Our special concern in seeking an answer to the question confronting us should be with truth and genuine goodness, with the creativeness and the capacity to develop and maintain a high culture and the virtues and benefits of what we call civilization. Transformation of that concern into wise action requires knowledge and thoughtful rather than emotional judgment. Insofar as the races are involved in that problem, we have no better guide to wise decisions than knowledge of the natures of the two races and their record of behavior and achievement. To ignore those natures and those records is to court tragedy.

That is what is "eating" me, why I don't "get off" the race question. The truth, the wisdom of Dr. George's words rings in my ears. There it is: To ignore, as we are ignoring, those natures and to ignore, as we are ignoring, those records is to court tragedy. And I don't want tragedy for this nation. It has been a long time building.

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