

GARY: A CITY WITHOUT HOPE — III

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IF ANY CITY in this nation should be able to integrate successfully, it should be Gary, Indiana. And yet, except for "tokenism" and except for forced public-school integration, Gary is as segregated as any Southern city — more segregated than many.

Theoretically, though, social integration in Gary should pose no problem. This is why:

Gary was created from a wasteland only 62 years ago. It has never known a middle class, and the upper class, the town's owners, live elsewhere. Its workers, with rare exception were, as they remain, muscled immigrants — now the sons of immigrants — who make steel. Until World War II, its citizenry had seen Negroes, a few even lived in Gary, but "race" as we know it today was not among the problems besetting the town built by U. S. Steel. There was no overt "prejudice"; there were not enough Negroes in residence to form an opinion.

Since 1940 or thereabouts, and the coming of the war, the unprecedented demand for the output of the mills has maintained an extraordinary high demand for labor — any strong black. Today, the lowest paid receives about \$3.00 per hour, \$25.00 a day, and many such jobs go begging.

Because of this high hourly known in Gary. Every man is his rate, servants are practically unopposite's economical equal, if he has what it takes. If not, there is an abundance of Federal "relief" money — no stigma attached — for those who find both mill-work and domestic employment not to their liking. Moreover, with the Negroes now in complete political command, with a Federal government anxious to spend whatever is needed to make the town's Negro Mayor (and thus' its own policy) look good, there is no cause for riot — nor have there been any riots.

Gary, then, is a near-perfect hotbed for the theories of the integrationist.

But there is no social integration in Gary, nor any sign of it.

INSTEAD, the "native" population, pushed off balance by the black newcomers, eyes them warily and goes its own way. Where integration is forced, however, as in the public schools, racial troubles do exist. They are vicious, unceasing and unreported. There is little on-the-job trouble because the white workers of Gary, as elsewhere, are not really in competition with the Negroes since the whites hold the straw-boss and supervisory positions while the Negroes seem unable to rise above the lowest — the \$3.00 — rung. There are exceptions.

Thus, while there is no integration, in the sense sought by the Federal government, neither is there any threat of grand-scale racial troubles. Times are too good for that.

But if the employment situation changes, if hard times come to Gary, if job competition develops, a holocaust seems inevitable. It will be Raw Power vs. Black Power in that case and there is little question as to who would win such an imbroglio as that. If Gary's Poles and Slovaks, its Croats and its Italians,

those who go to make up the town's indigenous population, if such as these begin to move, they will clean Gary's sinkholes like rotor-rooters, the good and the bad, alike. Physical violence is the stuff they are made of.

A NUMBER of knowledgeable Garyites were questioned as to the upcoming November election. They were in near-unanimous agreement: Against Nixon, and anybody else but Bobby Kennedy, George Wallace would carry Gary (Lake County). But if Bobby Kennedy is the Democratic nominee, they were not so sure of a Wallace victory. "Wallace would have a fight on his hands". Their reasoning turned on the voting practises of Gary's Catholic women. In their opinion, the white women of Gary would thoughtlessly abide by what the church urged them to do, vote for Kennedy. Their votes could spell the difference.

They would do so, it is be-

lieved, despite their resentment of the preferential treatment being given Negroes. They would do so despite these facts:

*Public housing — mostly Negroes occupied — is being erected in Gary at a cost of \$16,000 to \$18,000 per unit, and is eligible to people making to \$9,000 per year.

*Public schools have degener-

ated to such a point some Negroes, now, are refusing to allow their children to attend.

*Lawlessness is universal. In a Gary area known as Tolleston, Negroes have armed patrols to protect themselves from other Negroes.

Gary's present is black. Its future is blacker.

"It is inevitable", a resident

said, "Gary will be totally black, one day. And the blacker it gets, the worse it gets. It is hopeless; just hopeless.

That's Gary, Indiana, a city without hope.

(This is the third of four articles on Gary, Indiana, written by John J. Synon. The fourth and concluding article will appear next week).

**REMEMBER DEAR FRIENDS
TO VOTE MAY 4th AND THEREBY HELP
PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM
AND RIGHT TO VOTE**

You are invited to support and vote to re-elect GUY ELLIOTT for Seat No. 1, N. C. House of Representatives, 9th District comprised of Greene, Jones, and Lenoir Counties.

An experienced public servant — having served for many years in the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of our government.
Your vote and support sincerely appreciated!

Guy Elliott

(Paid Political Advertisement)

**Walter P. Henderson
Candidate for
Fourth Judicial District Judge**

**GIVE JONES COUNTY SOME
REPRESENTATION**

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is a representative in the N. C.
Legislature.**

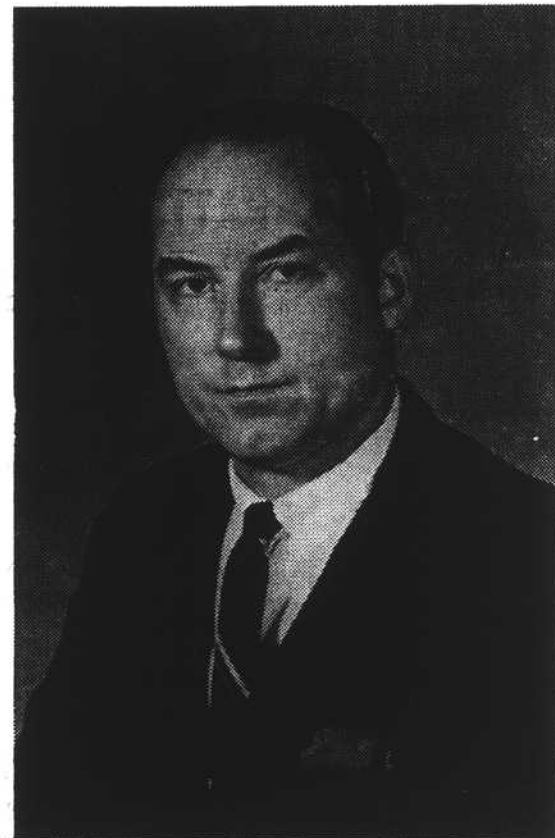
**No Jones County resident
is a North Carolina senator.**

**No Jones County resident
is a district solicitor.**

**No Jones County resident
is a Superior Court judge.**

**No Jones County resident
is a U. S. Congressman.**

**No Jones County resident
is a U. S. Senator**



"I respect the pursuit of justice and shall give myself unto it."

**SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATE FROM JONES COUNTY
FOR DISTRICT JUDGE**

WALTER P. HENDERSON

If elected, I will subscribe the oath of office of District Judge and pledge with the help of God to solemnly uphold the responsibilities of said office both legally and morally,

WALTER P. HENDERSON