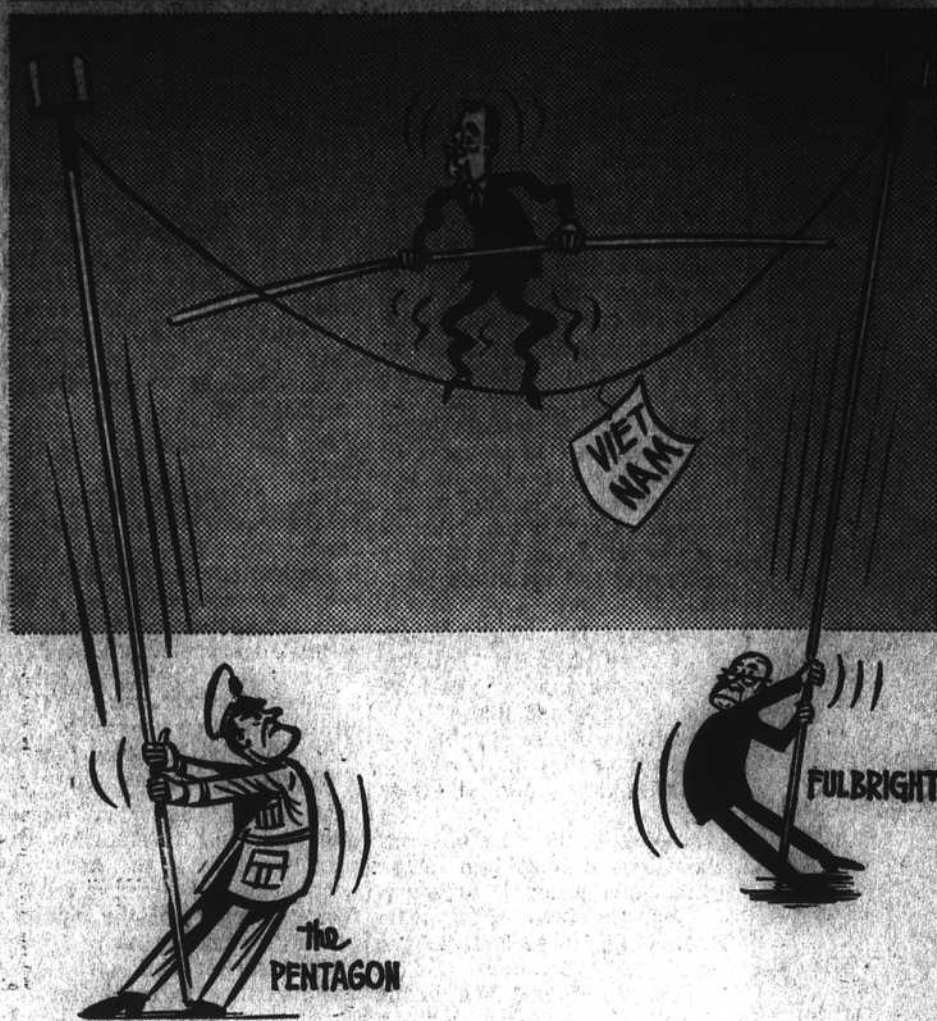


Have a heart, fellows... It's tough enough as is!



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man And He May Be Wrong

Suggestion to Governor Scott

Governor Bob Scott in his first year in office has alienated more voters in less time than any governor since reconstruction days. There is one simple political stroke that would almost instantly regain him all the friends he has lost in this brief period, and at the same time gather to his banner perhaps more new friends than he had voting for him in 1968.

And that simple political stroke would be to call a meeting of the 159 school boards of North Carolina and tell them that they had his backing and the total support of every branch of the state government in taking steps to save the public school system of North Carolina.

By urging these 159 school boards to return to their respective school districts and begin immediately implementing the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 says that no child shall be barred from any school for which that child is academically equipped because of race, creed or national origin.

To enforce this law strictly and firmly, and do no more.

To refuse even to sit down with the constant passing parade of faceless bureaucrats out of Washington who have far exceeded their authority by trying to jam forced racial integration upon all students, white and colored alike, whether they want it or not.

To refuse even to answer the illegal, despotic aberrations of power maddened federal judges.

In short to go back to the basic business of education.

Whether one likes it or not, until it is repealed or amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the duly enacted law of the land, and from a standpoint of exact equity it is hard to contradict the prin-

icipal which permits a parent to choose between schools of his district that he feels best for his children . . . and that is the law, and that's all the law demands.

The law does not demand closing perfectly good school buildings to permit children to be transferred into schools they do not wish to attend.

The law does not demand that school boards spend huge sums of money to build new schools with one hand while closing existing buildings in good repair with the other hand.

But school boards have not had from Luther Hodges, nor from Terry Sanford, nor from Dan Moore the kind of moral, financial and legal support they need and deserve to bolster their courage against these external, illegal usurpations by HEW gestapo agents and federal judicial flunkies.

If a majority of those 159 school boards would follow this pattern it is as certain as day following night that these 20th century carpetbaggers would sneak away into the dark to chisel their living from others more pliant and less courageous.

Tyranny exists when good people are willing to let bad people work their evil will. Tyranny exists when intelligent people become accessories to total idiocies. Tyranny exists when wronged people come to accept their burden as the price of peace. Tyranny exists when the majority permits a tiny minority to dictate. And today tyranny both literally and figuratively exists in public school education.

The schools of Washington, D. C. from which a majority of this tyranny comes are the most racially segregated public schools in the nation today. No public school system in Alabama or Mississippi

Vote Yes Tuesday

Every voter who believes in fairness should vote yes next Tuesday in favor of a one-cent additional sales tax to be returned to the counties and corporate communities of the state.

Those who oppose this step toward equity use the absurd argument that a sales tax favors the rich and penalizes the poor. This ignores the fact that the more one spends the more one pays with an across-the-board sales tax.

These same opponents also insist upon arguing that the ad valorem tax is a tax that penalizes the rich and favors the poor. This ignores the fact that the ad valorem tax is passed on to the consumer, whether it is the poor person who rents a cheap apartment or the rich person who buys a T-bone steak that has been grown on some heavily taxed pasture land.

In order to really get to the basic facts of life insofar as tax equity is concerned one has to be able to understand, and accept that all taxes are consumer taxes. No tax is really paid until the product or the service is used. True, the tax may be levied and collected, but the tax is never really paid until the consumer consumes.

Refineries pay gasoline taxes to the government and then collect them back from the car or truck driver. Distilleries pay huge levies on whisky and beer but they recoup those taxes when the drinking man drinks, and not before. The theater owner pays a tax on each ticket, but he collects that tax from the movie goer, and so it is without exception with every kind of tax. It cannot possibly be any other way.

Employers withhold income taxes from the worker's paycheck, and remit them to the government, but it is the sweat of the worker's brow or the product of his brain that is actually paying the tax . . . not the boss . . . and the people who consume the products that are being made or use the services being performed by that worker absorb, not only the wages he takes home but the withholding tax that the worker never saw.

When this is understood and accepted no one can rationally oppose the basic principle of the sales and use tax that is applied at an equal rate and to all commodities and services in trade.

can compare with the degree of racial segregation in the "model" schools of the national capital. And yet it is from this biased bosom that so much milk-and-honey flows on this particular subject.

We see the schools of Greenville closed, the athletic program of Rocky Mount schools completely disrupted the athletic program of, Richmond schools completely cancelled. Hardly a day passes without another school being burned because of this anarchy that white cowardice has unleashed in the public schools upon which we have lavished so much money and so much affection for so many years.

There it is, Governor Scott, do you want to be a leader of this white cowardice as your immediate predecessors in office or would you like to use a little of that Scott grit your daddy made famous?

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

During its brief history the North Carolina Fund has spent a lot of money exposing that fact that there are a lot of poor people in North Carolina but it's prescriptions for curing this poverty problem has been less profuse than its discoveries. A majority of its money was spent on high-priced young college graduates who filled hundreds of file cabinets with profound studies. Another lesser chunk of the North Carolina Fund went for printing fancy brochures that were either filed and forgotten or more often tossed in a waste basket.

One such brochure filed, but not forgotten, that has been on my desk or about it for some time is titled, "North Carolina's Present and Future Poor." It includes the summary of a great deal of work by some well-intended sociology majors and it is interesting, and even in places as amusing as anything could be on such an unhappy subject as poverty.

One of its first conclusions is that Baptists are the poorest people in North Carolina. On the poverty scale 59 per cent of the Tar Heel "Pore Folks" were found to be Baptists, 16.2 per cent Methodists, 10.1 per cent "other Protestant," 7.1 per cent "Fundamentalist" which creates, thus statistically, a completely new religion in North Carolina since, the study further reported, 6.1 percent of the "Pore Folks" have no religion, .8 per cent are Roman Catholic and surprising to those who are asked frequently to contribute to Jewish charities, the North Carolina Fund reports no Pore Jews in Fair Tar Heelia. So if you haven't made your decision yet it might be worth your time to study these percentages unless of course, you are the kind of person who is looking for his "reward" on the other side.

And then there's another summary sheet on which the question was asked of a group that is called "The Working Poor," which is what most of us are after helping to pay for the cost of such studies of poor folks. The question is: Would you move to get a good job? If you think you know the answer you'd better wait for the rest of this paragraph: 33.1 per cent said, Yes, without question they'd move. Another 18.6 per cent said, "Yes, but with reservations, 7.6 per cent wouldn't say yes or no, and 40.7 per cent said, "Hell, no!"

Which can be interpreted several different ways. One is the hog way, which says one mud hole is as good as another, and another is that the "Pore Folks" really don't realize how bad off they are unless somebody explains it to them very carefully and very frequently. And there is, of course, the philosophical interpretation which is the Thoreau principle that all rich folks ain't happy and all "Pore Folks" ain't miserable. Fortunately for the makers of file cabinets and printers of brochures all social workers, whether amateur or professional, are always unhappy and doing their damndest to make everybody else unhappy!