

Balancing act



EDITORIALS

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

The Die Is Cast

The patrons whose children are involved and the taxpayers who underwrite the costs may as well accept the fact that the public school die is cast and there is so little chance of changing the direction that it is safe to say there will be no change.

This is a sad day and an unhappy conclusion because our area has lavished so much tender loving care, and money, on its schools that it is calamitous in every possible way to see well-intended people deliberately going about the job of destroying those schools.

If one wishes corroboration of this extreme view he needs go no further than Washington, D. C. to see what happens when unreasoning force is used to cause social change. There they had instant total racial integration and since they have had almost total re-segregation. And what is worse; the District of Columbia school system has fallen from one of the very finest in the nation for both white and colored students to what has to be one of the very worst.

And while falling from splendor to squallor the costs of those schools in the national capital have skyrocketed to the point now where the per capita cost per student in the current school year is over \$1500 per year, compared to a cost of much less than \$500 per student in North Carolina schools.

For three times as much money students are getting far less education. How much less education cannot be measured for perhaps a generation, but in Washington it is conceded by people at either end of the segregation-integration rainbow that the national capital schools are a national scandal.

That this is a sentiment shared by

colored as well as white parents is accentuated by the fact that this year private school enrollments in the District of Columbia include 9,132 colored students and just 8,272 white students. So the picture is clear: That every parent who can, or who cares, is removing his children from a system that has become intolerably expensive and intolerably unproductive in the first business of schools which is teaching.

Poor New York

New York has more than its fair share of the nation's population and as might be expected it also has more than its fair share of nuts, especially political nuts.

In December ex-labor-lawyer-supreme-court-justice-UN-ambassador Arthur Goldberg announced he was completely retiring from politics. On March 19th he announced his candidacy for governor.

To complicate the affairs of New York taxpayers the polls are quoted as saying that Goldberg will easily beat incumbent Nelson Rockefeller, who spent an estimated \$6 million four years ago to buy this job for one more term.

Whether pollsters are right or wrong New York loses, and to add insult to injury the state's major metropolis has Little Lord Fauntleroy Lindsey as mayor.

But a state that will elect a man as one of its two United States Senators who does not live in the state is likely to have strange political birds of prey hovering over the public weal.

Norman Mailer, as wild and drunken and profane as he is, may have had the happiest solution to the overall

And Why Not?

Some observers, including the President himself, are upset because the liberals have twice combined to defeat what they feared to be nominees to the supreme court who would construe the constitution as it is written and not as the liberals would prefer it to be written.

And why not?

The liberals understand very clearly that the basic key to their intense federalizations of our government has been in the complete prostration of recent supreme courts before the 14th Amendment, which among other things never was legally ratified.

But all that any ugly principle, or lack of principle needs to survive is lack of resistance by people who know right from wrong. There is not a federal district judge in the United States who does not understand the basic illegality of a series of decisions that completely ignores every other phrase in the total constitution except that particular phrase which fits the purposes of state socialism.

Equal justice under the law is one thing but the pattern of the past 16 years under which all law has been based upon this phrase from the 14th Amendment: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty of property without due process of law, nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

This alone guarantees state socialism if it is strictly enforced to the exclusion of all other guarantees of the constitution. If it were enforced strictly in all things it would immediately be unconstitutional to tax one man at a higher rate on his income than another. If a 10 per cent tax rate is legal under this interpretation for one man it has to be the tax rate for all men. But these liberal courts have not only ignored the total written instrument of government, but have also elected to use their most precious phrases at the leverage points most immediately supporting the establishment of state socialism.

Of course, they are going to fight and fight like hell to keep a court that will continue this prostitution of the constitution.

problems of the Empire State. As a candidate for mayor on the nut ticket last year he proposed withdrawing New York City and declaring it the 51st state.

Perhaps the only better suggestion would be for it to secede from the union and become a foreign country, since it has little in common with either the rest of New York State or the nation.

By becoming a foreign nation it would be eligible for foreign aid and it could charge high tariffs for its products and perhaps balance a budget that is even in worse condition — far worse — than the federal budget.

New Yorkers must long for a La Guardia and a Lehman, both of whom brought good government to the Big City and The Empire State.

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PERSONAL
PARAGRAPHS

BY

JACK RIDER

There are people who romanticize themselves into believing that there were "good old days" for which the patina of time has covered the harsh realities and about which there is far more myth than miracle. But time moves on, and whether the old days were good or bad there is not much to be gained by wishing for things that were; either as they were or as we prefer to remember them.

The profit is forward. Individuals and nations cannot profit from the trade of yesterday except as that bygone era offers us lessons about what to do or perhaps more importantly, what not to do. And here again, each generation prefers to make its own mistakes, even if they are frequently the same set of mistakes of yesteryear.

Pollockville merchant and insurance man John Creagh told me a little story Monday night at the annual meeting of the Neuse River Regional Development Council, of which he is an executive committee member, and the story has a perfect pertinence for those who often dull their day, and the company they are surrounded by with over-romanticized memories of the good old days.

Creagh said a teen-ager came into his store and asked for some ice cream, and he flinched a little when he was told the smallest order of ice cream dished up was ten cents. The teen-ager expressed the view that this was not the very best policy he'd run into that day and Creagh said he asked the boy if he were doing any afternoon chores or summer work and the boy replied that he had a job cutting grass at the golf course. Creagh further asked what he was being paid for his job and was told: \$1.25 per hour.

Creagh then used a little quick arithmetic to let this youngster who had been hit by inflation know that he could buy 12½ servings of ice cream for one hour of work today and yet when Creagh got his first job back in the thirties he got 75 cents for working 10 hours a day in a tobacco field, or 7½ cents an hour, which was enough to buy just 1½ cones of ice cream at the prevailing price in those "good old days."

This same arithmetic can be applied to practically anyone today who complains about either inflation or too-high taxation. More people have more money to buy more things in these United States today than any people ever have had in the history of the world. Yet a great many of us spend a very unconstructive part of our time belly-aching. Naturally I include myself in this belly-aching category, but I do hope that a majority of my complaining is a trifle more constructive than the same old sing-song about the good old days.

I join Creagh in preferring what I have today after taxes and after inflation to what I had in those "good old days." And if you don't you are the very rare exception.