

'Next - ear pollution?'



EDITORIALS

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

A Beginning?

Although it surely does not mean a renaissance of reason is about to become epidemic in public education there is some basis for the guarded optimism that Saturday's vote for member of the Lenoir County Board of Education may be a beginning.

For the first time in the history of public schools in the county a majority of the county school board is Republican and those Republicans freely and frequently declared that they would accept their election as a mandate from the people to keep the county school system as it presently is insofar as racial integration is concerned; meaning that they would stick with a true Freedom of Choice plan that would force no student to attend and no parent to send his children to a school against their will.

Now we shall see. There is a weak whine that it is disastrous to inject partisan politics in the schools, but this is ridiculous on its face for the very lifeblood of public schools is political involvement.

But after their brief honeymoon of joy the Republicans are likely to find that promising is one thing and delivering is another. Despite the Republican occupancy of the White House there is no clear evidence yet that Washington intends to lessen the demand for an end to what it refers to as "dual school systems." Which leads one to wonder what they call the public school system in Washington today, since in a town that is 55 per cent Negro the schools are over 95 per cent Negro.

If the Republicans in Washington have enough political common sense to understand what kind of political hay they can harvest in North Carolina by exercising some of that "benign neglect" to the racial issue in a few key Eastern Carolina counties this purely political

opportunism may buy a few public school systems enough time to permit reason to rise from the ashes that now exist where so many wonderful public school systems existed before.

Politics is not a gentle art, but it operates within the same physical laws as botany; that one can cut roses only where roses grow and while they are blooming.

There is a potential Republican Rose Garden here in Eastern Carolina if the national Republican leadership has intelligence enough to cultivate it.

The Real Message

The real message written between the lines of the Cambodian invasion is that Vietnamization has failed.

The area invaded has been a Viet Cong staging area and sanctuary throughout this interminable bloodletting in Indo-China, so using it as an excuse "to protect" our troops in the field has no validity. They need this kind of protection no more now than they did last year or five or seven years ago.

And after seven years of fighting with, over ten years of training and billions of dollars spent in equipping the South Vietnamese they were still unable to mount a 20-mile thrust without American direction and American help.

If Nixon persists in this madness it will end his political career just as surely as a similar madness ended Johnson's career.

Nixon must either decide to drive it or park it. If he doesn't want to "lose a war" he must decide to win it. Until now that simple ingredient has been missing in the American involvement in Vietnam.

Different polls, taken by different ends of the political rainbow mean nothing,

Predictable Tragedy

The death of four students Monday at Kent State University in Ohio was a predictable tragedy since from the outset of campus disorder the goal of those promoting and financing this effort has been the creation of martyrs. Now they have four.

But these young people who choose to fight on college campuses rather than in Vietnam cannot expect sympathy from the nation they are seeking to destroy. Their life is no more precious than that of any frightened young man who has died in Vietnam. They chose their form of violence and died exercising it.

The real tragedy in this, and all other campus disorders has been the total abdication and sometime support of college officials in this determined effort to convert our nation into a totalitarian society over which (they hope) the intellectual elite will rule.

Few of the students being used in this plot are really aware of the degree to which they are being abused. They are young and idealistic and easy prey for the people who desire to destroy our system and replace it with the lock-step conformity of the ordered society.

And any person in our country — young or old — who believes that this nihilism is simply spontaneous and youthful resentment against our country's mistaken involvement in Vietnam is living in a fool's paradise.

Before Vietnam it was the racial issue that was used to irritate and wound the body politic.

Before that it was such noble causes as the Atomic bomb spies and the bathos over Oppenheimer's rejection and his later cleansing during the Johnson era as LBJ tried to make a few points with the socialists who kept him locked in that gilded White House cage.

It was the liberals who very largely involved us in Vietnam because they realized in it a golden opportunity to bankrupt our country morally as well as economically.

The real struggle between Russia and the United States is not military, but economic and now in two wars (Korea and Vietnam) they have dissipated our resources and divided our country without the loss of a single Russian soldier.

And nowhere have they been more successful than on our college campuses.

ing, but at this late date, and even after all the terrible toll in our finest young men and vast amounts of our natural resources the country would rally behind a clear-cut decision to win.

A decision to win would involve first of all a declaration of war by the President and congress and a mobilization of the national effort to that end. Too many people have been getting rich and dodging their responsibility in this affair, and if the President cannot get a Declaration of War out of congress — which is most unlikely — then he should immediately and by the very most rapid manner withdraw every American from that tortured little country.

Congress permitted itself to be painted into this corner by delegating its powers to make war to the President in that absurd instrument called the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

China and Russia are too near each other's throat to interfere unless we make again the mistake MacArthur made in Korea of trying to go all the way into China. Total victory in such a small land as Vietnam is militarily possible. But in time it will become politically impossible here at home.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

Vice President Agnew is a man after my own heart because when he makes a speech there is no difficulty in understanding it. He speaks clearly, bluntly and intelligently. Consider in his recent speech in Fort Lauderdale, Florida his prescription for ending anarchy on the campus:

"First, the era of appeasement must come to an end.

"Second, a concise and clear set of rules for campus conduct should be established, transmitted to incoming freshmen, and enforced — with immediate expulsion for serious violations.

"Third, it is folly for universities confronted with their current crisis in our turbulent times to open their doors to thousands of patently unqualified students.

"Fourth, no negotiations under threat or coercion.

"Fifth, no amnesty for lawlessness or violence. This canon is crucial.

"Sixth, any organization which publicly declares its intention to violate the rules of an academic community and which carries out that declaration should be barred from campus.

"Seventh, we must look to how we are raising our children. Today, by the thousands — without a cultural heritage, without a set of spiritual values, and with a moral code summed up in that idealistic injunction, 'do your own things,' junior — his pot and Portnoy secreted in his knapsack — arrives at 'The Old Main and finds there a smiling and benign faculty even more accommodating and less demanding than his parents.

"Eighth, we must look to the university that receives those children. Is it prepared to deal with the challenge of the non-democratic left?

"Ninth, let us support those courageous administrators, professors and students on our college campuses who are standing up for the traditional rights of the academic community against what the New York Times rightly calls 'The New Fascists.' Their number is growing."

And The Vice President ended his speech by saying, "It is one of the tragedies of our time that faculties and students sit in catatonic trance while the raucous militants destroy academic freedom. When will they awaken?"

Maybe the tragedy of Kent State University this week will wake up the trustees of more colleges and universities who will appreciate their own dereliction in permitting college and university administrations to sink to such a low level. If this small benefit is derived from this tragic incident the sacrifice of four young lives may not have been in vain, although they were working in exactly the opposite direction.

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