



Whistling in The Dark

Dr. Craig Phillips, who is the state superintendent of schools, is doing a lot of early work digging up legislative snakes even before the election of the membership of this august congregation has been held.

Faced with a drop in total enrollment in the state's public schools Dr. Phillips typically wants more money — lots more money. He wants to boost the bi-annual budget of his department by almost a half billion dollars. — that is 500 million extra dollars, and while whistling this expensive little tune the dear doctor dragged out his crystal ball and predicted that the 1971 general assembly "will be hearing a number of new reactionary voices calling for retrenchment, and cutting and eliminating services, for drastic cuts in use of our resources, even for possible abandonment of our public schools."

Now run that through your computer for a gilt-edged example of whistling in the dark. Of course Dr. Phillips does not know of such a number of new reactionary voices who will be in the 1971 general assembly. His remark is very simply a reflection of growing awareness among public school officials that their little red wagon is in trouble. But typically, he is barking up the wrong apple tree.

It is not the conservative or reactionary voice that has dragged the public schools into deep trouble. It is the ranting, raving, lunatic noises being made from the socialistic liberal side of the political street that has sung this siren song that has lured the school ship onto hostile shores.

Certainly, from the lowliest taxpayer to the highest placed official there is nothing but absolute irritation with the mess these liberal experimenters have made of our excellent public schools.

But it is the hallmark of the modern liberal that he would rather die and go to hell than to simply confess he has made a mistake and be granted instant passport to heaven.

Sadly it is not this misguided, do-good, hand-wringing liberal who is suffering because of his compounded mistakes. It is the child above all, the classroom teachers, the school principals and frightened parents who are suffering.

The boys in the ivory tower such as Dr. Phillips are too much concerned with extending the limits of their education empire to suffer much concern for the quality of education, or the quantity of suffering now so widespread throughout all the South.

Question: Why should the taxpayers be penalized with efforts to rescue assorted nuts who take off on such ventures as the three balloonists who are lost in the Atlantic, trying to free-float from the United States to Europe? Perhaps millions of dollars are spent each year in such rescue efforts for nuts who are out on a stupid project. Saving shipwrecked persons on bonafide ventures is one thing but looking for publicity hounds such as this trio is a project of a completely different flavor.

Mayor Lindsey's "Fun City USA was happy hunting ground for criminals in the first six months of this year: Murders increase from 470 to 530 over last year, rape held steady at 1,047 to 1,034, robbery rose 30,002 to 33,734, assault with injury rose from 14,552 to 14,987, robberies rose from 84,275 to 88,049, burglaries went down 64,578 to 53,728 and auto theft rose from 41,050 to 43,746.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

Last week there was a little item on the wire about a speech made by a character named Sol Rubin, Chief Counsel for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

He was speaking to a penal study commission of the state of North Carolina and among other things he said: "In general, confinement is a hopelessly useless attempt at criminal rehabilitation" and he added that not more than 100 of the 800 men in the state prison should be confined there. He says the major problems facing correctional systems are tight confinement and unnecessarily long sentences."

We say he ought to have his pointed little head examined.

Every year for the past 10 years there has been a steady drop in the prison population here in the United States and every year the crime rate has risen higher and higher.

In 1961 there were 220,149 persons in all state and federal prisons. By 1967, the last year for which we have figures, total prison population had dropped to 184,896. This is a decrease of 35,253 in the prison population, or a drop of over 16 per cent. This was taking place while the crime rate was increasing 66 per cent in the last five years. So for anyone capable of reading and writing and doing simple arithmetic it is absurd to reach Brother Rubin's silly conclusion.

The more we have babied criminals the worse they have become. The more money and effort spent on rehabilitation, the more criminals we have.

This is nothing new. Any parent worthy of the name parent knows that if unruly children are not punished they will become more unruly. If instead of punishing that unruly child he is rewarded he obviously soon becomes unbearably brat-fish.

Putting prisoners in country club prisons, lavishing tender loving care on them and giving them far more and far better of everything than most of them have ever had before is a peculiar kind of punishment. In fact, it is not punishment, it is reward.

Until such empty gourds as this Rubin totes around on the top of his shoulders find a sure way of rehabilitating a murder victim from his grave, it is idiotic to talk about rehabilitating the murderer who put that man in his grave. Anyone with an ounce of common sense knows this but too many judges, juries and penologists refuse to recognize the truth.

The death of Egyptian leader Nasser surely cannot make peace-making in the Middle East anymore easy at the moment but there is the possibility that his successor will be in better health, and will be less pliant in the hands of the Russians whose only concern is total domination of the Mediterranean, a dream that has haunted Russia for centuries.

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EDITORIALS

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

The Saddest Pity

The civil war in Jordan has killed far more Arabs than the Israeli have killed in the three miniature wars they have had with the Arabs since 1948. It is a peculiar reflection of this muddle in the middle east that Israel is now sending food and medical supplies to Jordan, while still fighting an undeclared war with this same country.

Rumors have it that the basic reason for President Nixon's trip to Europe is to do all he possibly can to bring peace to this on-and-off war that has been simmering now for 22 years. On the surface it looks like a hopeless job.

The real issue is the fact that several million Arabs were displaced when the Jews took over their ancient homeland. This was an act that would be historically about like the Indians re-occupying Manhattan Island.

Here in the United States we shut the Indians up on reservations after several generations of fighting Indian wars and practically wiping out those scattered tribes of a once proud people.

And, of course, the tribes of Israel suffered a similar scattering and locking up in enclaves all around the world which gave birth to the word "ghetto."

So man's inhumanity to man is as old as man, and the pain one man suffers today he inflicts on another tomorrow — always righteously — but so long as this generation of Palestinian refugees is alive they will continue to give trouble. Perhaps even into generations yet unborn.

It has been 2,000 years since the Romans scattered the Tribes of Israel all across the face of the then known world. Still the passion for that ancient homeland sparks the fire that today causes such a small handful of Jews to fight so courageously and to work so hard to make a success in a land where success

does not come easily — either politically or economically.

But still in the Jewish breast there is that passion for the fatherland. A passion that has brought Jews back to that dry, rugged area where they have known little, but suffering since the beginning of recorded time.

It is the saddest of pities that this tiny, troubled land where three of the world's gentlest religions were born continues to suffer so much, and still very largely because of religion. If the three religions involved would practice what they preach the problem would never have arisen.

Since the census "did us wrong" and we can no longer make boasts about the growth rate of Kinston we might spend a little energy simply on making it a better place. Quality is far more important than quantity, and if anyone prefers the big city life to small town living there are many fine jobs open in New York, Washington and even in Baltimore.

In the first six months of this year the crime rate in the nation's capital continued to soar: Armed robberies increased from 5,096 in the first six months of '69 to 5,896 this year, assault with injury rose from 1,725 to 2,027, burglaries rose from 10,107 to 11,996, larceny of more than \$50 rose from 4,954 to 5,381 and auto thefts rose from 4,673 to 5,448. There was a small drop in murder from 125 to 116 and in forcible rape from 150 to 135.