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What Would Be The Consequences Of Closing Schools?

By MALCOLM SEAWELL

Editor's note: Closing the public schools for one year would result in the loss of 1,085,000 child years of learning. The closing of North Carolina schools indicated this and other dangers in his speech Oct. 3 in the Trust Section of North Carolina Bankers Association.

NORTH Carolina is now at the crossroads. It has come to the place and to the time when it must make a decision not alone for today but for all of the days that lie ahead of it as a sovereign state. Since the case of Brown vs. Board of Education, which was handed down on May 17, 1954, by the Supreme Court of the United States, there have been many spokesmen, including attorneys, judges, governors and laymen, who have declared that the decision in the Brown case is not the law of the land and that it need not be obeyed.

NO RIGHT
Many people have taken the position that no right to "legislate" or to hand down the decision in the Brown case, and that, since the Supreme Court had no right to hand down such a decision, there is no obligation on the part of people to obey or to accept the Brown decision as the law.

LONG RANGE
In Arkansas, we have had presented to us a view a long range one of what may happen to the people who seek to evade the law of the land. The school board in Little Rock submitted a plan for gradual integration, starting with the senior high school and working down through the various grades, with desegregation to be accomplished in the 1960's.

SWEEPING VICTORY
The governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, won a sweeping victory for re-election as governor of that state upon a platform defiant to the law of the land. When the Supreme Court of the United States, in affirming the Circuit Court of Appeals, denied Little Rock a two-and-a-half year stay,



Spite?

upon it. Our schools are there for a purpose, and that is that our children may be educated and may grow up to be a blessing to their communities, parents, state, and to mankind. This year, in our public schools we have approximately 1,085,000 children. That is the figure which should be more compelling to us than the dollar mark. The school population is increasing year by year and our obligations to the children are increasing with every new school year.

It is unthinkable to me that any people possessed of their senses would say in effect: "We will close our schools and let our children grow up in ignorance." In small part, we are seeing that happen in other states, particularly to the immediate north of us.

LOST CHILD YEARS
Based upon the figures which I have already given you, if the schools in North Carolina should be closed for one day, the result in a loss of 6,028 child years of education. In other words, it would take one child 6,028 years of perfect attendance to make up this total loss.

I need not tell you that there is a relationship, not given to accurate mathematical calculations, between education and income. A rule, the better educated the child, the more income he will have in the state, despite its own strides in all fields of endeavor, remains too near the bottom per capita income. To remedy that condition, our state is making an all-out effort to attract industry to North Carolina, to improve farming conditions, and to make this more and more a state of greater opportunities to

the people who are here and to those who will be attracted here. No large business will desire to locate in a state where its employees will not have available for their children the opportunity to be educated. When school doors are closed, progress must be arrested, and for many reasons, come to an end.

Not only is it my oath-bound duty to support and maintain the Constitution of the United States and its laws, and the Constitution of the State of North Carolina and its laws not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, but it is my duty as a citizen, just as it is your duty, to promote the welfare of all of the people of North Carolina.

While I have said over and over again that I do not like what the Supreme Court of the United States has done and what it continues to do in the field of public education, it is my duty as a public official and as a citizen to urge the people of North Carolina to consider what I have defined to be their duty.

NOT PLEASANT
It is not a pleasant thing to speak out for obedience to the law and then to receive letters such as the following, which was, of course, unsigned: "When the peoples of North Carolina want your advice on education, they will call for it. When did you join the NAACP, you nigger lawyer."

However distasteful may be the job which is assigned by law to me, I intend to take my stand on the side of law — and neither through public utterance nor in any other manner will I seek to advise a people to take any other course than that which I know under law is the only stand we may take. If this is politically inexpedient, dangerous or fatal, I'll just have to be content with what the future holds for me.

DAMAGING BLOWS
The most damaging blows yet given to the attempts on the part of people who, in good faith, seek to keep alive public education in the South have been given by Orval Faubus of Arkansas.

We here in North Carolina are not without other states, particularly to the immediate north of us. In small part, we are seeing that happen in other states, particularly to the immediate north of us.

UNDER LAW
Recently, in two successive issues of the U. S. News and World Report, which is a highly regarded weekly news magazine, the editor, Walter Lippman, has made it clear that the general consensus that North Carolina had the best program dealing with integration of the states involved. We have been called a "middle of the road state" because of the fact that we do not have our own North Carolina laws, do not seek to nullify the law of the land, nor do we, despite its own strides in all fields of endeavor, remains too near the bottom per capita income.

We must not be swayed by extremists on either side. We must, in good faith, take that middle course, which will, under law, save us.

The 'Bunk' About Per Capita Income

If Tar Heels expected sympathy at the teller's window about the state's low per capita income they were sorely disappointed this week. THESEL, BANKER, the monthly magazine of North Carolina Bankers Association, contemplated the latest statistics and summed up its reaction with a four-letter word: Bunk.

The statistics themselves are "fallacious" and "misleading" says the NCBA journal, and we are all pretty silly to get "almost hysterical" about them. "We've done a lot of traveling around these United States," the magazine continues, "and nowhere have we seen a better place to live than North Carolina. We wouldn't swap our state — nor its standard of living — for a dozen states exactly like the one which leads the list in statistical per capita income."

Well, we're proud, too. Mighty proud. But precisely because we're proud we're concerned about the state's low rank and we refuse to explain it away with sentimental nonsense. It's our conviction that North Carolinians prefer to face the facts. Our willingness to examine ourselves in the bright light of self-criticism and analysis, as Walter Hines Page once said, is a mark of the maturity of the state.

North Carolina's low per capita income illustrates an economic weakness. That's a fact. The sooner it sinks in the sooner we will correct it. There is really only one answer, that is to develop more industry in North Carolina, both manufacturing and agricultural.

Call it "hysteria" if you must but we believe this with as much fire and fervor as Gov. Hodges. It was the governor himself who sounded the alarm in his last biennial message: "We must create more industry locally financed, and we must bring in more industry from outside. We must encourage in every reasonable way the expansion of industry which is already here."

The peculiar role of the banker in this campaign for North Carolina's economic betterment surely has not escaped the editors of THESEL, BANKER. The banker is one of the keys to that better tomorrow. He has been responsible for so much past progress. He will be called upon to underwrite the future as well.

That's not bunk.

Franco's Spain & The Silver Birds

BEING both bullfight aficionados and fanatics of political dictation we were drawn to reports this week of Generalissimo Franco's celebration of 22 years in power in Spain. At the same time we were drawn to a letter in The New York Times from Salvador de Madariaga, a distinguished refugee from Franco's politics, pointing out that the generalissimo holds 500 political prisoners at Burgos, Spain. The issue Madariaga raises is not one of just procedure, which is entirely reasonable for the generalissimo's taste. It is that Franco has denied these men, who have been locked away for their politics, the elementary dignity of being called political prisoners. He has said he locks up only common criminals.

Of course when the generalissimo wiggles a finger, these five years past, Washington gets into an uncommon bustle. We have air bases in Spain; and during the past five years Franco's government has received some \$1 1/2 billion in foreign aid. Even if the missile race has, as some have hinted, already made airplanes out of date perhaps a case can be made in romance for keeping those star-patched silver birds in the air and aimed at Russia's heartland.

The strange paradox of our foreign aid, however, is that we do not use our dollar support to Franco and other dictators as a lever in the same old and same new argument. Congressmen urge we use it against Asian democrats like Nehru who are "neutral." Franco, backed by a picked police hierarchy, a lackey press, a rubber stamp parliament, and a clergy who would stomp Pope Leo XIII as a dangerous radical, practices government of a much more dictatorial sort than Nehru and the "neutralist" leaders. Yet when Nehru pleads for dollars for his five year plans, American nationalists want to tie a thousand strings to our aid, to insist that it be spent "capitalistically" and "democratically."

There is, of course, no public record whatsoever that we attach strings to our dollar aid to Franco, who keeps millions of people in poverty and ignorance and looks on mild political liberalism as a dark threat. No one ever complains of Franco's national predilections so long as he sits down in the "Western" tepee and lets us have our airbases.

Perhaps some day one of William S. White's vaunted "inner club" of the U. S. Senate, they of the great traditions of debate and political dignity, will make a speech about Franco's political prisons, who are not only locked up but smeared as ordinary jailbirds, before we smear another million off to Madrid. But of course this would be an embarrassing inconvenience. Those silver birds have to fly.

Higher Education

DURING 1957 U. S. universities awarded Ed. D. (Doctor of Education) degrees to candidates who wrote dissertations on the following subjects: "The Prediction of Baseball Ability Through Selected Measures of Foot Structure and Strength"; "School Camping in New Jersey"; "A Study of Boating and Boating Education in Selected Schools, Colleges and Universities in the U. S."; "Ph. D. (Doctor of Philosophy) degrees were awarded to candidates whose dissertations included 'Personalities of Athletes' and 'The Effect of Neuro-Muscular Re-Conditioning on the Amount of Energy Expended During Standardized Walking'."

When You Were 12 And It Was October

There is something in October sets the gypsy blood on fire. —BLISS CARMAN

BUT you didn't need the campfires, or the caravans, or the mysterious power to tell fortunes, or the expy blood if you were 12 years old and there was a wood nearby. In summer months the wood was a deep forbidding place, a tangle of leaves and thick vines and green honeysuckle, where perhaps poison ivy or a snake waited. In October when the leaves went brown or scintillated or yellow and the saplings were stark, you could walk endlessly and just wander, listening to the dry crackling of the leaves, or in the distance the sharp crack of a hunter's gun. You could stop at a fallen tree by a stream and climb out on the limbs. Then you could sit there and before long the silent wood around you would begin to come to life in the chilly air. There would be the white of a squirrel's under-

Life In America

M. ROCKFELLER is trying a new campaign technique. He is using the facts and, on occasion, even ideas. This is a bold and original approach and it will be interesting to see how it works. —James Reston in The New York Times.

THE HUMILITY FETISH

EVERYONE'S excessively humble today except Jimmy Hoffa and Dennis the Menace. Anyone who is rewarded for some special attainment exudes humility the way a sack of flour exudes flour, be it Miss America or Mickey Mantle. True, proper humility is a divine quality, but you wonder if some of these meekish displays wouldn't strain the credibility of Simple Simon.

Too much bluster is unseemly, but confidence in strength, devoid of ostentation, is not improper. You crave the good wishes of your neighbors, but their effect on your winning a golf championship is somewhat obscure. Hard work and innate talent fetch the marbles, and yet almost every weekly hero now accepts his award with tucked chin, a benign countenance, a slavish twitch of

I Didn't Think They'd Stoop To A Dirty Trick Like That

TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Justice Dept. Goes After Investigators

WASHINGTON FOR a long time the Justice Dept. under Herbert Brownell and William P. Rogers has had the reputation of thumbing its nose at the blindfolded goddess of justice who is supposed to mete out justice to one and all impartially. Never, however, has discrimination been officially admitted.

Two Admissions But last week there occurred two virtual admissions that there are two brands of justice in Washington — one for Republicans, the other for Democrats.

Record The Goldfine Record—One of Bernard Goldfine's firms, Lebanon Mills, has failed to file federal tax returns for six years. Another Goldfine firm, Northfield Mills, did not file for two years, while Goldfine himself did not file for 1956. The average American, whether Democrat or Republican, can't get away with this. No action has been taken against him, Goldfine has also flagrantly violated the Wool Labeling Act, which carries a criminal penalty. But after Sherman Adams, Justice intervened with the Federal Trade Commission, action against him was dropped, despite a strong recommendation to the contrary by subordinates. Goldfine also failed for eight years to file information required by law with

People's Platform

Peet Dee Council Sends Best Wishes Florence, S. C. Editors, The News: The Boy Scouts of the Pee Dee Area Council extend their best wishes to you and your paper as you observe National Newspaper Week, and wish for you many more years of successful service to your community and state.

We, in scouting, sincerely appreciate the very fine cooperation your staff and are most grateful for the excellent manner in which you have held the story of scouting to the public.

During the past several years, scouting in this area has made great strides in membership growth and other phases of the program. This has been due to the unselfish work done by hundreds of volunteers and the generous support you have given in publishing scouting in your coverage area.

What Of Believers Of Yesteryear? Charlotte Editors, The News: "While 'Graham the Great' is in town, I would like to ask you about the story of segregation and others now condemn segregation and say it is un-Christian. If they are right are all those good preachers, laymen, et al. who have lived and died in years past condemned to Hell because they believed in segregation? If it is un-Christian now, it was un-Christian then. —WALTER PRIGG

Scrutiny

In the course of scrutinizing government contracts, Shackle in ran across the fact that GOP chairman Jim Hall had received a substantial Republican campaign contribution from officials of the H. Starr Co. before they were awarded the contract. Shackle in awarded the contract in Cuba. They finally coughed up \$7,000.

This is a violation of the U. S. Criminal Code, Section 811, and the House government operations subcommittee under Sen. Jack J. Pickens of Texas has repeatedly called for action by the justice department. He got no action.

From The Raleigh News & Observer

Adams He has been forced out of office by public and Republican demand, but no grand jury has been called to pass on this apparent violation of the U. S. Criminal Code. The Shackle in Record—Baron Shackle in first caused the Republicans trouble as chief investigator for the General Services Administration. A career man, he had been appointed by the Democrats and was held over by Edward Mansure, Republican head of general services, who believed in career government officials.