THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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How Alabama Ruling Affects Tarheelia

THE fate of North Carolina's 1955 Pupil Assignment Act still depends upon the manner in which the law is applied by local school boards.

A U. S. Supreme Court opinion yesterday upholding a similar statute passed by the Alabama legislature merely indicated that a system of local administrative control over admissions is not unconstitutional on its face. This is precisely what Judge John J. Parker of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals said of North Carolina's law in 1956.

But a law not unconstitutional on its face may be administered in an unconstitutional manner. That is the danger.

Both the North Carolina and Alabama pupil enrollment laws establish legal machinery for the admission of qualified pupils on the basis of individual merit without regard to race or color. It is possible for the act to be applied to admit qualified Negro pupils to non-segregated schools. This has actually occurred, on a limited scale, in Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

The circuit court decision upheld by the Supreme Court in the Alabama case noted that, while the state's Pupil Assignment Act was not unconstitutional on its face, it "may be declared unconstitutional in its application." The responsibility to insure against unconstitutional application of an otherwise valid act rests, the circuit court said, "primarily upon the local school boards, but ultimately upon all the people of the state."

The same can logically be said of the North Carolina placement law. Used by local school boards simply as a device to prevent any and all desegregation, the act would likely be declared unconstitutional and Tar Heels would be deprived of any means of controlling an extremely delicate situation. Operating under a local assignment act, prudently administered, there is some hope that the state can weather the storm. Without it there is no hope at all.

France: With De Gaulle As Totem Pole

FRANCE voted Sunday for its first National Assembly under the new-born Fifth Republic.

But because only a minority of the 465 candidates for deputy could gain absolute majority needed for election, voters will have to trudge back to the polls next Sunday for a showdown.

To observers of the French scene, disquieting features have already shown themselves.

On many of the hats tossed into the ring by Assembly candidates there was the suspicious glint of military scrambled eggs. Gen. de Gaulle's effort to quiet what a French politician has called "the colonels of division" — insurgent army officers who ultimately choked off the Fourth Republic with their Algerian revolt last May — have been to little avail. Algeria, the big sore-spot, with its savage struggle between European colonials and the extreme-nationalist FLN, lies nowhere near solution. It is, if anything, reverting to its troublesome predicament of last spring — with a costly war, terrorism, torture, and finally military rule.

Before the election, Gen. de Gaulle decreed that two thirds of the deputy candidates from Algeria should be Moslem — some of them nationalist Moslems, he hoped, with whom he could negotiate. But military officials so dominate the scene around Algiers that no Moslem nationalists filed for election.

There was some timid and ambiguous support for Gen. de Gaulle, the man.

About 80 per cent of the candidates, not only Algerian but those of metropolitan France, have gone in for this — so that the election tended to resemble a tribal dance, with de Gaulle as the grand totem pole at the center.

Thus no issues were aired, and in its extreme apathy and personality-mongering, the election would have been familiar to Americans. One of those who went down in the wave of Gaullist personality-voting was Pierre Mendes-France, once a courageous Prime Minister, who almost alone has taken a realistic tack against French problems.

In sum, the election must have been disillusioning in the extreme. The French seem to be on their way to learning what our own politics have taught us over recent years: Problems and issues of the modern democratic state can't be banished or solved or swept under the rug miraculously by a political messiah — not even, it would appear, a *general*.

Life In America

A MILWAUKEE youth who won a baton-twirling contest has been offered scholarships by several U. S. colleges.

The Calm After The Storm Is A Bore

DEPRIVED of the thunder and lightning of Sam McNinch's presence, the County Courthouse will be a quieter place. But quietude has its limitations. After awhile, the calm after any storm is likely to become merely tedious.

During his six years as county commissioner, Mr. McNinch served Mecklenburg with conspicuous courage and candor. No issue escaped him. No matter was too delicate for him to scrutinize critically. And no one ever had cause to wonder how he stood on anything, as he was hardly one to conceal a highly seasoned opinion.

We are frank to say that we did not always agree with him. But, more often than not, we did. For Sam McNinch is a hardheaded realist with plenty of horse sense and a wholly practical approach to local government. Furthermore, he has the gumption to admit when he's dead wrong on a matter of public policy, a rare quality indeed.

His vigorous approach to government was downright contagious. It awakened others to their responsibilities and, more often than not, drew wide attention to matters which might well have gathered dust in a cobwebbed corner of the courthouse. Consequently, his value as a county commissioner was increased.

Mr. McNinch's "retirement" is now official. But swearing off is a part of the politician's litany that can usually be taken with a grain of salt. For a man who has so much to offer in the science of government it will be difficult to find much satisfaction on the sidelines. Somehow we feel that the silence will be broken — and rather soon.

From The Christian Sceince Monitor

LINKS ACROSS THE LANGUAGE

A "COURSE" in America is a "links" in Britain. Or as Gertrude Stein might (or might not) have said: A wiener is a frankfurter is a hot dog. That old political campaigner Al Smith comes in right about here with "No matter how thin you slice it . . ." But there is a lot more than baloney or even "globaloney" to the tale of the golden sausage which now sits (or does a sausage rather recline?) on the conference table of the Association of British Sausage Manufacturers.

The representative of the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who formally accepted the golden sausage from the American meat industries let himself go and called it a "very useful article."

We suppose he meant it would make a paper weight, or, electrified, might serve as a sort of grilled golden frankfurter for warming the hands of the association in conference when their tea cups had grown too cold for this purpose.

The speaker also noted that "it is rather a pity there is no ode to the hot dog." But that may be because there has never been a golden one before. It would not be difficult to write "Hail to thee, bright ferrett, pork thou never wert," or "Thou still unrelished, fried, with pie, I guess," or "The (hot) hounds of spring are on winter's traces." It can be done, you see. But perhaps it also would be "rather a pity."

What really matters doesn't in any case have to be sung in poetry. It can be staged in prose. One merit of the sausage is the togetherness of the ingredients that become, as it were, even more than cousins under the skin. Also the sausage finds security in links when they are broken it often finds itself in hot water.

So it seems specially appropriate (some people in Britain pronounce it "-ly") that the American meat industries should present the British sausage makers with this token of affection — a reminder for us all that sausages that don't hang together stew separately.

Texas produces more ice artificially every day than Alaska does in a year just naturally. We produce more sulphur than Satan. More corn than Broadway. Even our farms use more electricity than any four of Yankeeland's biggest cities. Folks think Texans brag. We don't. We just give statistics. And when we quote statistics one thing we never let stand in our way is figures. — AMARILLO GLOBE-TIMES

A storekeeper on Tahiti was asked why he had sold many of Gauguin's paintings for a pittance before the French artist became famous. His answer is a revealing comment on the uncertainty of artistic recognition. "How was I to know," he asked, "that purple coconuts would one day be famous?" — MATTOON (ILL.) JOURNAL GAZETTE

The old expression "Go fly a kite" may be replaced by "Go set off a rocket." — DAWSON COUNTY (GA.) NEWS

The History Of Civilization Is Rolled Back 3,000 Years

By JOSEPH ALSOP

JERICHO, Jordan

AT the summit of the dusty hill, a great pit has been dug. At the bottom of the pit lies a wide ledge cut into the living rock. A massive wall, well built of heavy boulders, rises behind the ditch; and behind the wall there is a great round tower, also boulder-built. And this, surely, is the most extraordinary sight in the world.

Since the future can only be awaited with patience, hope and misgiving, the best holiday from the present is the past. Any sensible man wants an occasional holiday from the present in the troubled Middle East. But if you take your holiday at old Jericho, as I have just done, you are likely to find the trip in the time-machine almost too violent.

LONG STORY ENDED

The mud and wall and round tower of old Jericho are not extraordinary because they are beautiful. They are extraordinary, rather, because the mere discovery of their existence has pushed back the history of what we like to call civilization by something like 3,000 years. Not much more time has passed since the moment when the trumpets blew and old Jericho's long story ended, and Joshua grimly proclaimed:

"Blessed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this blessed city, Jericho."

But this small and humble town existed in the hill millenia before Abraham. The men who made it had only stone tools, and fire and water to crack the rock for the ditch. From the summit of the tower the people of the city may even have fired their flint-tipped arrows at the last man of the Neanderthal race. For the Neanderthalers seemed to have outlived the Ice Age here in Palestine, these fortifications date from somewhere rather close to 8,000 B. C., not so very long after the last big retreat of the earth-ribbing ice.

Until the great British archeologist, Dr. Kathleen Kenyon, unearthed the tower and wall and moat, civilization's known history began in the Iraqi village of Jarmo about 5,000 B.C. — at least if civilization is to be defined as the adoption of a settled, food-producing way of life in place of the life of the hunter and the food-gatherer. "But what was Jarmo?" cried Dr. Awni Dajani, the Jordanian director of antiquities, who kindly showed me old Jericho. Then, answering his own scornful question, Dr. Dajani added:

"Jarmo was nothing but a miserable, unwalled village! Here, perhaps three millenia earlier, we have a walled, water-moated, fortified town of several thousand, built long before man had even invented pottery."

The proof that man invented war before he invented almost anything else except improved stone weapons and techniques of agriculture was indeed there, staring one sternly in the eye. The carefully-cut sides of the great pit seemed, in truth, to be one continuous record of man's inveterate inhumanity to man.

The people who made the tower and walls and moat at the bottom of the pit lived in round, mud-floored houses. They had a cult of skulls of their ancestors or their enemies. They were the first to till the field watered by Jericho's spring of Elias, which makes a rich oasis here in the desolate Jordan valley. But the time of these first people came, and their city was destroyed and its ruins made a little hill. And another people came to build on the hill.

Rocky Wastes Of Palestine Yield Secrets Of The Past

NEW PEOPLE

These new people still had no pottery. They also made a cult of skulls, even molding plaster faces on the dead bones. But they were certainly men of another race, because they made another sort of brick, they built large square houses, and they neatly plastered their house floors. You can see the line of one of their house floors in the pitside just above the level of the old round tower's top.

In the end, their time also came and their city was also destroyed; and they were followed by other peoples, who had pottery but still used stone weapons. One of these peoples to the east was a rude race, on the still-growing hill of old Jericho, almost as the Bedouin camp today. Finally, they too were driven out by the men of the early Bronze Age, who first discovered that square bricks were more convenient than rounded bricks, as you can see from a bit of their brick construction that is embedded in the site of the pit.

SHADES OF WILSON

These first metal-users of old Jericho were the contemporaries of Egypt's earliest pharoahs. They too had a flourishing city, whose history lasted many centuries longer than the histories of most modern nations. But, at last, they grew complacent and neglected their defenses, for there were Charles Erwin Wilsons even in those days. The resulting drama is all there, to read and hear — the final desperate effort, never finished, to rebuild the fallen defenses, the remorseless onslaught of the invaders, and the fire that was all-consuming.

ONE LITTLE JUG

The invaders were another rude race, fit only to fight and conquer the city-builders; and their time came when other, more advanced bronze-users seized Jericho and its well-watered fields. These were the men of Jericho when Abraham passed this way. Their story was also written in this fair city, as their graves show. But they, too, were killed or driven out in the end, by those who built the last of all the old Jerichos — the Jericho that fell to Joshua, where the harlot lived.

"But, really," said Dr. Dajani, "we have almost nothing from Joshua's Jericho except one poor little jug. It was too early in the story, and erosion of the hilltop had washed away whatever Joshua left behind."

There is some hope, however, that souvenirs of this last Jericho that Joshua razed will be discovered beneath the mud huts of the vast neighboring camp where many thousands of Arab refugees from Israeli Palestine now enjoy their death-life existence.

The camp area is a huge ancient cemetery, and the refugees are glad to dig for hidden tombs beneath their mud floors because tomb-discoverers are paid a few sillings which briefly relieve the long, dull misery of their lives.

The Crises

Gore Scores In Tricky Game Of Diplomatic Give-And-Take

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

TO PUT a new player into the tricky game of diplomatic give-and-take with the Russians is more often than not to draw a blank. But the other day it paid off in a very promising way.

Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee is not a newcomer to the complicated and difficult business of nuclear testing and nuclear weapons. For four years he has been a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and before that, during his earlier career in the House, he had an important role in appropriating funds for atomic development. But when he was named a member of the American delegation to the conference on nuclear testing in Geneva he was a green hand at the savage kind of chess match played with the Soviets in one international conference after another since the end of the war.

BOLDNESS PAYS OFF

What Gore did after sitting in on that game in Switzerland for two weeks was to come up with a proposal that illustrates what common sense and boldness can do when applied to a seemingly insoluble diplomatic deadlock. The senator flew back to Washington, got an appointment with President Eisenhower and found him receptive to the new approach.

In essence, this is what Gore proposed: Put up to the Russians an agreement to end all testing — excepting those conducted underground — for three years. If they turn this proposal down, then the blame for failure of the conference will be on them. And Gore felt after two weeks at Geneva that there was a good chance they would accept it.

Underground tests do not pollute the atmosphere and yet with such tests the military would be able to continue to carry out work on adaptation of nuclear explosives to small arms. The world, and above all those nations that do not have and therefore do not test atomic weapons, would be assured that for a long period no additional poison would be blown into the air men breathe and the seas they live around.

With the common sense that is grounded in his Tennessee background Gore had seen the weakness of the official American position at Geneva. Any agreement to stop testing must be preceded, in the American view, by a world-wide system of control and inspection. But such a system, as Gore perceived, is in practical fact an impossibility.

Therefore, the avowed American objective is an unattainable one. It is merely another piece moved on the chessboard to achieve a stalemate without seeming to want a stalemate. The inspection system would cost several billion dollars. Thousands of experts would have to be stationed at some 37 posts in Asia, 24 in North America, seven in Europe, many more in Australia and South America and on 10 ships permanently at sea. To be really effective the system also would have to include inspection posts in Communist China.

By constantly pushing their proposal for a permanent end of all testing with the propaganda skill they have repeatedly shown, the Russians, Gore felt at Geneva, were likely to come out of a stalemated conference with a propaganda victory. They would have convinced the neutrals and such nations as Japan where the fear of nuclear pollution is great that they wanted to do something and the United States stood on an impossible demand.

Sen. Gore: Idea Man

The Gore proposal is not, of course, new. An agreement to end tests for two years or three years or perhaps longer has repeatedly been put forward. But it was the senator's timing, together with his obvious integrity and conviction, that carried weight. The new player had come up with a new move to break through the old rigid maneuvers.

That has been characteristic of Gore ever since he came to the House from the back country of Tennessee in 1940 at the age of 33. He plays the game by the dictates of his own conscience. When the Democrats in his first year in the House refused to grant him time to speak against an administration appropriation that he thought was wrong, Gore got permission from the Republicans and made a stirring speech that resulted in defeat of his party's bill.

People's Platform

Something Wrong With The Police?

Charlotte

Editor, The News:

MR. JOHN Banks asked a good question in his letter (People's Platform, Nov. 14). I hope someone can answer it. Is it lack of leadership or training? There is definitely something wrong with the city police when:

1 — A policeman instructs a motorist and then gives him a citation for a violation when he proceeds as instructed.

2 — A policewoman writes out and places on a car before 5 o'clock a citation for parking after 5. In addition, the time marked on the citation was 5:03, and even though the driver was ready to move the car before 5 the citation was not withdrawn.

3 — The police department refuses to give the name of the owner of an auto when it would be to the driver's advantage to have a witness in connection with a particular situation.

4 — The police drive at excessive speeds and in a very careless manner (If an emergency call, sound a warning.

5 — They refuse to repair parking meters when advised they do not operate.

The situation described in point No. 3 is most disgusting. It's true these things are unimportant, that is, not much money is involved. But what about the important and serious cases? None of the above things affect me directly, but as a resident of Charlotte it seems that a lot of improvement should be made — now?

Certainly a new chief from outside this police department is needed. We all make mistakes, but the city police appear to make more than their share — if they can be classified as "mistakes."

— JOHN H. PARRISH

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Can Berlin Airlift Be Re-Established?

WASHINGTON

IF THE United States is forced to re-establish the Berlin airlift to carry essential military supplies to beleaguered Berlin, conditions will be entirely different from those in 1948. Then we had such superior atomic power we could risk war. Today it's different.

Uncomfortable Facts

Here are the uncomfortable but irrefutable facts:

USSR strength in 1948 — Total air fleet, 20,000 planes. Practically no jet bombers capable of hitting the United States. Plenty of MIG fighters but these are purely defensive. Very primitive atomic bombs and few of them.

U.S. strength in 1948 — Total air fleet, 21,000 planes, but with much greater combat capability because of American big bombers. The American strategic air command, armed with atomic bombs, could have retaliated with 100 times the destruction of Russian planes in case war broke as a result of Berlin blockade.

Reds Catch Up

USSR strength in 1958 — Total air strength, 28,000 planes, of which more than 18,000 are considered combat types. The big Soviet increase has been in bombers. The Red air force now has enough bombers to match ours with actually more long-range jet bombers than the U.S. Russia's atomic stockpile is now estimated at about equal to ours. In fact, Russia is believed ahead of us on some types of hydrogen bombs.

U.S. strength in 1958 — Our air power has dropped to 20,000 planes, of which only 13,000 are combat. Both countries have cut down on planes in order to concentrate on missiles, but U.S. intelligence frankly admits that Russia is far ahead of us on missiles.

Note — President Eisenhower is still cutting the military budget. Latest cut was 70,000 in manpower. Earlier he had cut Polaris-missiled atomic submarines, also had cut down on intermediate-range missiles.

New Offensive

Diplomatic intelligence from Moscow reports that Premier Khrushchev has launched a gigantic new diplomatic offensive against the West because he's convinced the United State is paralyzed as a result of the elections.

Khrushchev believes he can take risky chances of the kind he normally would avoid, because the Republican President will be busy battling the new heavily Democratic Congress during the next two years. This explains why the Russians are making all sorts of demands on half a dozen fronts — Berlin, Geneva, the United Nations, the Middle East.

Simultaneously, Khrushchev has revived talk of a summit conference. It's reported that he intends to make an all-out drive to force Eisenhower into meeting with him face to face — on Soviet terms.