



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1958

Little Rock: The Golden Opportunity

THE whole nation can be grateful that Arkansas school children are in class only nine months of the year.

Because they are President Eisenhower can remove federal troops from Central High School during the summer vacation without impairing his position that Gov. Faubus cannot be allowed to obstruct the orders of the courts. Simultaneously he can force upon the unwilling governor the responsibility that is his to uphold the law and keep the peace. If Mr. Faubus again uses his office to thwart the courts and encourage rebellion, the President can in reason contemplate returning the troops with the likelihood of general public support.

But heaven and, more particularly, Mr. Faubus willing, that possibility will remain in the future. With a minimum exercise of restraint and responsibility on either side the destructive situation at Little Rock could have been prevented in the first place. With all the hate and injury that has flowed from the crisis in the last few months, it is unthinkable that it will be renewed next September.

In any event, the President saw in the impending summer vacation a golden opportunity to withdraw his troops without abandoning his position. Common sense dictated that he use the opportunity as he has—by challenging Arkansas officials to run their own affairs with due regard for the law and the rights of all citizens.

THE NEWS believes the President acted hastily and unwisely in ordering troops to Little Rock and that the cause of racial harmony and social progress was harmed. He failed to prove that his

action was a genuine last resort. And although there was strong reason to doubt it, Gov. Faubus claimed that his actions were within the law.

Since then, however, the U. S. Court of Appeals at St. Louis has declared with compelling logic that he was mistaken. The governor argued that he had a right to prevent Negro children from entering Central High School because by so doing he would forestall violence. "Under such a rule," the court replied, "the banks could be closed and emptied of their cash to prevent robberies, the post office locked to prevent the mails from being robbed, the citizens kept off the streets to prevent holdups. . . . In all probability the appellate court will be upheld if the governor should appeal."

There remains one possibility that his intentions need not be tested again so soon as the new school term in September. The Little Rock school board has asked that its desegregation plan be delayed until January, 1961. If the federal district court agrees, the result could be a wholesome and profitable cooling-off period for all concerned. But if it does not agree September will see a return of the circumstances that prevailed immediately before Gov. Faubus called out state troops last year, and the governor will have to choose again between obstructing the law or enforcing it.

The President already has made his choice. If a second invasion of Little Rock occurs, the responsibility for it will rest on the governor.

Cool Competence Prevented Tragedy

ONLY the sensation-seekers tarnished the drama at Douglas Municipal Airport yesterday.

Thoughtless thousands clogged roads leading to and from the landing field and posed a constant and considerable threat to the cool orderliness of official preparations on the scene for an emergency landing.

Had a tragedy occurred the consequences might have been worsened simply because a great many people have a taste for immediacy and no regard for the consequences.

On the other hand, individuals who belonged on the scene handled themselves with great competence and enormous composure.

That goes for air line officials, fire-fighting personnel, law enforcement officers, rescue and life-saving squads, doctors, nurses, ambulance crews, Red Cross workers and airport authorities. It goes, especially for the officers and

crew of the Super-Constellation itself. Even local hospitals were observing a disaster alert, their personnel standing by for trouble.

Charlotte was, thankfully, prepared for such a circumstance. Because preparations were intact and because emergency chores were carried out with unruffled efficiency, a possible tragedy was averted.

Surely the value of these rather elaborate, and also costly, preparations has been proved beyond anyone's reasonable doubt. Some of the facilities—the full-time crash crew, for instance—are fairly recent innovations and were only added after considerable commotion.

Charlotte should not only protect its present investment in disaster facilities with stubborn zeal but should be constantly on the alert for improvements. The best is none too good where the protection of human lives is concerned.

The Hole In Khrushchev's Memory

THE cynic might say that the Arctic inspection plan was reminiscent of Stalin's diplomacy in more ways than one.

The veto overrode the expressed desires of the other ten members of the United Nations Security Council. It was accompanied by a vicious attack on the U.S., which proposed the plan, and scarcely veiled threats of retaliation against other nations favoring it. The Soviet delegate also bitterly attacked U. N. Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld for commending the possibilities of the U.S. plan, although Moscow protested not at all when Hammarskjöld commended similarly on the nuclear test ban it recently proclaimed.

Thus a scheme designed to ease world tensions died in a wave of new tension, and peacemakers like Hammarskjöld got their noses bloody. If the Soviet action made the world's balance of terror a little shakier, and it did, it also ripped

away from Soviet imperialism some of the glossy lacquer applied by the artful Khrushchev. The result, in sum, was a propaganda defeat for the Soviet, but one which dimmed hopes for peace.

But even for a Stalin, the wording of the attack on Hammarskjöld would have been remarkable for its inconsistency. The secretary general was accused of "forgetfulness" in that he was commending the U.S. response rather than the original Soviet complaint that American bomber flights toward the Soviet were provocative.

Interestingly enough, when the U.S. first proposed Arctic inspection in the London disarmament talks last year, Khrushchev said there was nothing there to inspect but polar bears. It was not until a few days ago that he remembered the flights of U.S. bombers over the Arctic and screamed that they were a threat to the Soviet and to peace.

From The Florida Times-Union

COOKIE JAR KNOWLEDGE

HERE'S a sweet subject. A group of students at Macdonald Teachers' College in Montreal will go on a cookie diet for a week as part of a nutritional study.

It does seem strange that school authorities would force the students into such a regimen when there must be hundreds of small boys and girls in Montreal who would gladly offer themselves for such a delectable experiment. For many of those little people it would hardly mean a change in their eating habits.

Now it could be pointed out that this is the trouble with our educational system—it reflects too much of a cookie diet already. It's pertinent that the educationists have a hand in this project.

What many have been trying to tell these people is that what's needed in the school is to put away childish things. And here they are feeding college students cookies—a another sugar-coated course.

Life may be a bowl of cherries to some, but a good education can't be found in a cookie jar. If this technique is going to be used in education, then

someone ought to place a mouse trap in the bowl. It might cause something to snap and serve as a reminder that learning is not just a receiving process, but requires a giving of attention and effort on the part of the learner and teacher.

Furthermore, the bowl of human knowledge must be replenished constantly. But what can cookie-fattened students add?

The incident provides a moral on our educational development. Centuries ago Socrates set a noble example for his disciples by drinking hemlock, rather than recant what he believed. Today's pupils are fed cookies.

Socrates' wisdom is still sought after today. How much respect will our sugary education of today command 2,000 years from now?

A mountain in Nevada jumped four inches when an atomic blast was set off inside it. Five at the base of the effect of a cub den meeting in the basement of a nine-room house—Florida Times-Union.

Pentagon Reform Plan Fails To Answer Key Question

By WALTER LIPPMANN

THE layman and outsider, who has never commanded great forces in war, or even worked inside the Pentagon, must ask himself how he is to decide what to think about the Eisenhower-McElroy plan to reorganize the Defense Department. He can, of course, wait to be told by those who know more than he does

about such affairs. Or he can, as he is a little bolder, ask questions which he would like to be discussed.

I am emboldened to do this because the question which seems to me important is not one which only military men are qualified to answer. It is a question of how great and complicated human institutions are governed by more or less ordinary men. The question is a real one, so it appears to me, in a piece of legislation which "means," as the President has put it, is that "strategy must be under unified control."

The crux of the question is who is to direct, and how he is to determine how to direct, the strategy which is under his unified control? According to the new bill, a presidential appointee, the secretary of defense, is to make the great strategic decisions and to direct the control of their application.

NO QUESTION

Now there is no question, it seems to me, that once a decision has been taken it does not have to be carried out without vetoes or objections. Under the present law, and even more perhaps under present practice, the secretary of defense does not have full authority to enforce a decision upon the separate services. There cannot be serious objection to giving him that authority.

But then we arrive at the real question. How are these great decisions to be made? It is all very well to say that they should be made by the secretary of defense. But secretaries come and go. They are chosen from lists of politically available men. They come from banking, from law, from professional politics, from the automobile business and the soap business. Has a man who has spent the first fifty years of his life far away from strategic problems gone into the Pentagon, hang

up his hat, sit down at the secretary's desk, and make the decisions which he is supposed to make?

A TRIAL

This is the question of how great establishments, which are administered by career officials, can be directed and controlled by laymen. The answer is that the layman at the top, be he secretary of defense or President

by endorsing the decision of some subordinate who has his ear.

THE QUESTION

This brings us to the question which I should like to hear thoroughly discussed. Does the proposed reform of the Pentagon make it more or make it less probable that the secretary of defense and the President will hear the great issues of strategy thoroughly argued out? Reading the new plan, and the official statements which are being made about it, I do not know whether or not it promotes or it decreases the effective analysis of the issues to be decided.

There is reason for wondering about this in view of President Eisenhower's theories and practice as to how the head of a great establishment should run his office. It is fair to say, I think, that by and large his idea of a good organization is one in which the chief does not have to listen to arguments but can approve agreements when his superordinates have argued them out.

It is hard not to wonder whether in this plan for the Pentagon he has not gone a long way towards compelling the professional military men to reach agreed conclusions before the issues have been adequately argued out before their civilian superiors.

JOB DESCRIPTION

These doubts are not allayed by what the President said at his press conference a week ago about running his own office. No one, he said, "can do the best job by just sitting at a desk and putting his face in a bunch of papers. Actually, the job, when you come down to it, when you think of the interlocking staffs and associates that have to take and analyze all the details of every question that comes to the presidency, he ought to be trying to keep his mind free of inconsequential details."

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