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THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1954

AEC Should Review Oppenheimer Case

ALTHOUGH the case against Scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer seems to be self-conclusive in places, the American people can only conclude that he had a fair hearing before competent and objective men, and that the national interest will be best served if he is not associated with the atomic energy program.

That conclusion is itself somewhat contradictory. For in denying to Dr. Oppenheimer any role in the atomic energy program on security grounds, the nation is losing the services of its most eminent nuclear scientist, the man who, more than any other single individual, was responsible for the American development of the atomic bomb and America's continuing superiority in all fields of atomic weapon design and manufacture.

Nonetheless, it was the considered judgment of two distinguished members of the special board—North Carolina's Gordon Gray and Thomas A. Morgan, former president of the Sperry Corp.—that Dr. Oppenheimer's clearance for atomic secrets should not be reinstated, despite the fact that they found him a "loyal citizen."

The assignment handed the three-man board was an enormously difficult one. At no point in the Oppenheimer career was the record all black or all white. Even during his days of admitted close association with Communists, his political naivete and his burning anger at Hitler's treatment of the Jews were mitigating factors. Furthermore, his opposition to the development of the hydrogen bomb on moral grounds may have been wrong, but it was not unenlightened.

Proof that the record was not all black or all white may be found in the stirring dissent by the third member of the board, Chemist Ward V. Evans of Loyola University of Chicago. In view of the 2-1 opinion of the board, it is imperative that the Atomic Energy Commission heed Oppenheimer's request for a full review of the record. The AEC is the final authority on atomic energy security. Out of respect for Oppenheimer's contributions to the past, if for no other reason, the AEC must accept the ultimate responsibility.

Kurfees Statement Was In Order

MAJOR Marshall Kurfees's apology for having injected the race issue into the Scott-Lennon campaign just before the primary election partially atones for his error.

Mr. Kurfees accepts full responsibility for preparing and paying for an advertisement signed by a Winston-Salem Negro lauding Scott as a foe of segregation, and he now says that he did wrong. Though Sen. Lennon apparently was not involved personally, the Kurfees move may have had an adverse effect on his candidacy. Thinking North Carolinians, who remember the use of the race issue against Dr. Frank Graham in 1950 and who are acutely conscious of the large problems posed by the Supreme Court school decision, do not want racism to become the plaything of politicians. And it is entirely possible that for every vote gained by the Kurfees maneuver, one or more votes was lost to the Lennon candidacy.

North Carolina political campaigns are usually lusty and vigorous, and it is virtually inevitable that candidates or their more zealous supporters should step over the ethical boundaries at times. In the long run, however, the voters will respond more enthusiastically if they will make better selections if candidates debate the issues and avoid scurrilous campaign tactics.

North Carolina has a precious tradition of high-level campaigning and of integrity in public office holding. That tradition must be preserved at all costs.

The Expert

TO FORMER governor and U. S. Senator-award-nominee W. Kerr Scott goes the award for accurate political prognosticating.

On the day before the Democratic primary, he told newsmen in Raleigh that he would get 51 per cent of the total vote. Complete but unofficial returns on Tuesday gave him 50.7 per cent—which is a good deal closer than any other prediction we've seen.

A Confession . . . And An Apology

THE voters of Charlotte township will have a pretty sorry choice if there is a run-off for township constable, and it is partly our fault.

Both the top contenders—Fred A. McGraw and W. H. Sherron—have police records, as it now turns out. And the run-off, if there is one, will be between them. The third man in the race, Lawrence E. McKee, has no record, but the record books at either city or county police headquarters.

Had that information been available to the voters prior to Saturday's primary, chances are that Mr. McKee would have looked very good indeed by contrast. As it is, he's left out of the run-off entirely, and the voters will have to put up with either McGraw or Sherron.

Not can the Republicans capitalize on this opportunity in November, since they did not offer a candidate prior to the filing deadline.

We confess our delinquency in not digging out earlier the facts about McKee and Sherron. And we apologize for the error of omission.

It will not happen again, however. Records of candidates for public office will be scrutinized closely, and if there are serious and repeated law violations, the facts will be fully publicized.

Plaudits

THE City Council's rejection of the "carport" amendment to the zoning ordinance will be generally applauded.

The amendment would have permitted construction of "carports," open on three sides, right up to the edge of the property line in Residential I and II sections. In many cases, this would have destroyed a measure of the privacy guaranteed by the sideyard restrictions of the ordinance. The amendment was aimed at relieving hardship cases. The Council took the wiser course by leaving it up to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to handle hardship cases by variance of rules.

THE NATION TAKES IT WELL

AT LEAST a trial balance of the impact of the Supreme Court's decision on school segregation may be had in an essaying for whatever contribution it might make toward helping one sector of the nation to understand another. For here is a question to be examined in parts:

The Negro: The Negro press and other spokesmen have rejoiced, of course. But they have not gloated. They hail this as a second Emancipation Proclamation, but they show awareness that neither that decree nor the Fourteenth Amendment brought about automatically the substance of equality.

The North and West: In the border states (Missouri, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware) public school segregation has been required by law. Except for Virginia, and perhaps Kentucky, the problems posed by the decision hardly compare in magnitude with those facing the Deep South. Elsewhere extralegal segregation of Negro homes and social life and job discrimination form the more characteristic signs of the division between the races. News and comment thus far suggest the court's declaration is causing a re-examination of attitudes and practices and a questioning as to which have persisted simply through their own momentum. Wholesome as this is, it would not be realistic to assume that racial problems will henceforth evaporate.

The South: Here the issue is traditional, economic, emotional, political, and moral. Small wonder reaction has ranged from the passionately bitter to the rationally serene. On the whole, however, the South has met the long-awaited hour with restraint and poise.

The bitterness should be examined. Some of the most extravagant cries of rage and defiance come from politicians who must utter the kind of sounds and make the kind of gestures expected by hot-headed elements within their constituencies. Having fulfilled this obligation, many of these men will get down to the sober job of finding workable solutions.

Make no mistake, however. Many good people of the South, neither politicians nor "wool hats," feel very deeply about this. They have accepted equality of opportunity for the Negro. They bear no hatred for him—rather a friendly sense. But their conviction that there should be preserved a separateness between the races rests upon concepts of propriety and morality which cannot be ignored.

There may be isolated instances of violence. There may be some local defiance of directed change. But we doubt that any actual defiance will be statewide and official. What is more likely—and the rest of the country should prepare to view patiently but not condone—are attempts to win delay, to find detours within the letter of the high court's ruling, to win out of the goodness and Christianity of both races evolves a new modus vivendi.

Some of these detours could be dangerous—such as Georgia's proposal to pay state tuition money to private and church schools. It would be tragic and ironic indeed were an overwhelmingly Protestant state to breach so massively the wall of separation which cannot be ignored.



Population Trends Analyzed

South Faces Tough Decisions If School Integration Ordered

(Note: This is the first in a series of articles prepared by Congressional Quarterly on the subject. Eds. The News.)

By Congressional Quarterly

WASHINGTON presented: Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities? We believe that it does.

These words, from the unanimous decision rendered by the U. S. Supreme Court on May 17, established a new legal doctrine. It will have a major impact on education in the 17 states and the District of Columbia, where maintenance of separate schools for whites and Negroes has for many years been mandatory, and which are nationwide, particularly at the elementary level, has been permitted.

So far, the court has confined itself to stating a principle. Decrees in the five cases before it, indicating specific measures required for compliance with the principle, will not be issued before the end of the year at the very earliest, and may be delayed for a considerably longer period.

Next autumn the court will receive further advice from attorneys general of the 17 states as to how to handle the matter. Much of the advice already given, including that in the brief of the U. S. attorney general, urged that the cases be remanded for decrees from the lower courts where they originated.

PLANS FOR ACTION VARY

But active consideration of how to meet the new situation is proceeding in advance in the 17 states. In Kansas, the Topeka School Board has already moved to eliminate the segregation on which Brown v. Board of Education, the case on which the Court laid most emphasis in its decision, was based. The school board of the District of Columbia has already moved to eliminate the segregation on which Brown v. Board of Education, the case on which the Court laid most emphasis in its decision, was based.

Columbia has adopted a five-point program which will begin eliminating segregation in public schools this fall, and complete it by the time school opens next year.

Gov. Thomas B. Stanley of Virginia has invited the governors of the states maintaining separate school systems to meet in Richmond to consider plans. In Georgia, Gov. Herman Talmadge and other state officials have declared their intention to maintain segregation in face of the decision. Georgia and South Carolina have sturdy statutes which would permit operation of school properties by private associations.

Maryland's Secretary of State, John R. Reeves, has said in an unofficial opinion that, as a matter of routine, the state's general assembly may be asked to repeal segregation statutes that are in conflict with the Court's decision.

Officials in more than half of the southern states have indicated their intention to live with the law, even though disappointed by the ruling. In Arkansas and elsewhere, school boards in various localities have announced conforming plans.

Since segregated school systems were established, major changes have occurred, some of which are nationwide in effect. Over the last 70 years migrations have greatly changed the distribution of the Negro population and at the same time the proportion of Negroes in the total population has become less, dropping from 12.1 per cent of the total in 1890 to 9.7 per cent in 1950. In no southern state, in 1950, was the Negro population as much as half of the total. It was 60.7 per cent of the South Carolina total in 1880.

In North Carolina, the percentage of Negro population in 1880 was 38 and in 1950 it was 25.8 per cent. The state's percentages, at 10-year intervals:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Percentage, Year, Percentage. Data: 1880 38.00, 1920 29.8, 1890 34.7, 1930 25.8, 1900 31.6, 1940 25.8, 1910 31.6, 1950 25.8.

From 1920 to 1950, the change

Candidate McKee Has No Record

Charlotte

I AM writing in reference to my husband, Lawrence E. McKee, a candidate for the office of Constable of the Charlotte Township. The records that have been published in the other two candidates, I fear, may cast a reflection on my husband's record. I, therefore, would like to have his record published so that the people of Charlotte may see that a police record is not necessary in order to become a candidate for public office.

He has no police record whatever and his 27 years of service in the Charlotte Fire Department is indicative of his fine qualities.

—MRS. LAWRENCE E. MCKEE (Note: See editorial, "A Confession . . . And An Apology.")

Won't Ever Buy The Charlotte News Again

Lancaster

SINCE MOVING from Florida 54 years ago, I have been a subscriber to your paper, but after seeing nothing but praise and admiration for the decision that the court has recently handed down in regards to segregation, I will never buy your paper again. And I hope there are others who feel as I do.

You are not white, or a southerner, that's for sure, and I would like to see you make your living out of three people—Dr. Frank P. Graham, Thurgood Marshall, Walter White, and the NAACP.

As of now, you head the list of S. O. B.'s of the world.

—THOMAS L. WILLIAMS

Mecklenburg Mothers Asked To Fight Edict

Charlotte

COME ON, Mothers of Mecklenburg County! Get out there and fight that edict. We've got to fight.

Now, don't misunderstand me. Negroes are all right in their own schools, but this is going too far. There will be bloodshed right at our doors. What's wrong with our government? Has he gone to sleep? Or, have we voted for a man that approves of this? We don't all taxpayers, and are allowed to vote. Why couldn't we vote on this matter?

Talking about equal rights—the Clear Creek Negro school is far superior to the Clear Creek white school. But it isn't enough our children have to attend school with them, eat and sit with them—God knows what else before it's finished. So, now if the men we trusted and voted for have gone to sleep and we can't fight this fight through heart-bleeding, let's all sell out and move to Georgia.

It's really heart-breaking to have three small children to say they will quit school when they reach the age of 16, and to think that all your plans and hopes for them have been in vain. The Bible says that there will be wars and rumors of wars when the end is near—if this isn't it, I don't understand my Bible. It looks as though we have enough trouble without asking for more, and will someone please explain to me why we all both black and white can't vote on this matter if our children being mixed together like this?

—MRS. TOM WATERS

Demand A Referendum On 'Minority Rule'

Charlotte

WHAT IS the true meaning of the word 'segregation in our country today?' Is it a word of honor or activity, is it in itself discriminatory against a minority of the population? No, there are differences in people as there are in all other things, but these differences do not constitute the quality or usefulness of any particular person or object.

People's Platform

In social life there is segregation which cannot be referred to as a racial barrier or discrimination against one race. There are numerous organizations which determine the eligibility of one to enter into various organizations, based on the requirements, as well as financial standing, background, belief, etc.

However, there are certain factions in this country that would destroy us from within by crossing two separate walks of life with little regard to the rights of the states or the desires of the majority.

Despite the desire of the majority, the Supreme Court rules in two separate cases that equal classes of people with different tastes, cultural backgrounds etc. are to be integrated, and thereby crush a states right vector which has been doing good for both the Negro and the white, and which is actually with its attendant problems since 1865.

The majority, by order of the Supreme Court, is therefore forced to yield to the minority, which is equally as good as discrimination against the majority, and will definitely lead to dissension and much ill feeling on both sides. It is not the majority, but the gratifying to the Kremlin this program, created by the unjust majority, which is the cause of so much more profound than public reports have indicated thus far.

We, as Americans, as parents, and as Southerners are aware of the true problems in the South regarding segregation, and hold little regard for the protestations (propounded by various Negro organizations and their affiliates) that he feels inferior simply because he cannot associate with the white man. We feel that it is our right to conduct our civil affairs in such a manner as to promote the smooth functioning of two equal classes of citizenry without the friction of intermingling an opposite minority. We do not, and we indubitably mean to, reach a much desired result in a much desired.

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When thinking of segregation and discrimination, remember the words of the Apostle Paul: "Let us who are men as we meet at the Mayflower!"

Have we forgotten the noble and sacrificial efforts and hardy work of our forefathers in such an extent that we shall sit idly by and be ruled and perhaps some day, subdued by the minority? This is not an amendment of the Constitution to this effect. It is not too late, if we act collectively and immediately.

—NAMI WITFIELD

There'll Be Trouble When 'Mixing' Starts

Charlotte

I AM sorry one writer thinks I am a person not living a Christian life because I said I am against segregation in school with colored people.

I would not mistreat anyone but I would not want my children in school with anyone who might not be good and kind. If God meant for us to be together, He would have made us all white, and I have never mistreated a Negro. I would like to want them to have good schools and everything we do. But there will be a difference in a mixed colored state, for there are mean whites as well as colored.

As for me being a Christian, I am God knows me, and you too. I know you are a good man, please, and live as close to God as I try to, and you won't misjudge me, for I am singing mad at no one and I love my colored sons' school, but don't want to see trouble with our schools.

—MRS. M. BARGER

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round California Campaign May Set Pattern

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

IT HAPENS that the Congressman has a letter from J. Edgar Hoover thanking him for his fight against Communism. Also Kuchel made the mistake of using a name that Hoover shares the same, but not the republic.

California labor, which usually splits up for the Democrats, this time is split. The Teamsters, who are close to GOP Mayor Rounton of Los Angeles, led a bolt to Gov. "Goody" Knight, and the AFL has now officially endorsed the Republican ticket.

So, with the fireworks starting this year, it looks as if it would be a hot summer—and not merely in California.

Note—The Kuchel sheet smearing Congressman Yorty even in a union label at the bottom, though investigations by the printers' union showed it was actually printed in a non-union shop.

California-Go-Round

Here's more on the hot and important showdown in the Golden State. Jimmy Roosevelt is almost certain to win despite his marital troubles. A Republican legislature had gerrymandered his district before the election was going to run, and had lumped as many Democratic votes as possible in it, so as to make other GOP representatives in the blast by Democratic Chairman Steve Mitchell boomer.

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