

# INCIDENTALLY

By NELL BATTLE LEWIS.

**THE GOVERNOR ON LOCAL OPINION**  
At his press conference last Thursday, Governor Hodges, in a brief statement, said that, as he said, local opinion as to schools "would simply put into local communities the authority to run their schools the way they want to or to not run them at all if they choose." He added that he was not prepared to say what the details of this suggestion would be, that he was being asked to act as a press conference on Education, which, he hopes, "will take time to consider it thoroughly along with all other suggestions that have been made before any final evaluation or detailed recommendation is made."

On October 11, in the column, "Under the Dome," in The News and Observer, the Governor was reported to have said at a press conference on the preceding Thursday (October 6th) that the local opinion plan would involve a Constitutional amendment and thus would have to be approved by the Legislature and by a vote of the people.

Although it seems to me that it would be better if the segregation problem in North Carolina could be solved on a uniform, State-wide basis, rather than in a hundred separate localities, in possibly, a number of different ways, the idea of a Constitutional amendment on any phase of it sounds good to me. For I've long thought that the people of this State should have an opportunity to express themselves on this vital problem, the gravest which has confronted them since Reconstruction.

In this matter which involves the basic structure and the future welfare of our Southern society, the voters of North Carolina as a whole should be allowed to express their will, and, if a Constitutional amendment is referred to them, they can do so. And if they're allowed to speak, do you have any doubt whatever as to what they'll say about the wisdom of continued segregation? Well, I certainly don't!

## "DR. PROELIUM" AND TROY'S "WIND-SWEPT PLAIN"

Dr. William James Battle, Professor Emeritus of Classical Languages at the University of Texas and former Acting President of that institution, who died last Sunday in Rocky Mount, where two of his nephews and two of his nieces live, had many friends as well as kinfolks in North Carolina. He was born in Raleigh and was graduated in 1888 from the University of North Carolina, where, in 1891, he met Kimp Plummer Battle, had been President, since 1875. After his graduation, he taught Latin for a year at our University. During the many years he spent in Texas, almost always in Summer he came back to North Carolina to visit kinfolks and friends, who were delighted to see him, because he was an unusually attractive and lovable man.

Last my taste in writing about him seem questionable, let me explain that, although I loved him, I wasn't kin to him. He was the uncle of my half-brother.

Dr. Battle started teaching at the University of Texas in 1890 and, except for three years, 1917-20, which he spent as Professor of Greek at the University of Cincinnati, following a sabbatical at home made while he was Acting President of the University of Texas by Governor Jim Ferguson, who was trying to get his political paw on the University, all of Dr. Battle's long and distinguished academic career was connected with that institution, where he was revered and beloved.

For 28 years he was Chairman of the Faculty Building Committee, from 1920 until 1948. During that time the University's building program was greatly expanded, and in it he had a big part. Under his office on its top floor, which he occupied for a number of years, when he ended his service on this committee, the Board of Regents passed a resolution of appreciation, in which they said, in part, that Dr. Battle's "artistic perceptions and innate good taste are everywhere manifest; he has been the student newspaper, who has done. He drew plans for almost all the buildings erected while he was Chairman.

One of the buildings which he helped to design was the University's 27-story Tower, and the Board of Regents gave him for life a big office on its top floor, which he occupied for a number of years, when he ended his service on this committee, the Board of Regents passed a resolution of appreciation, in which they said, in part, that Dr. Battle's "artistic perceptions and innate good taste are everywhere manifest; he has been the student newspaper, who has done. He drew plans for almost all the buildings erected while he was Chairman.

Three years after he went to Texas, as students were complain that they were being charged too much by the only available source of supplies, he founded the student co-op and named the original capital for it. Some of the Co-op's early efforts were paid out of his own pocket. It's now a million dollar business. He was proud of it. Among his students, he was affectionately known as "Dr. Proelium" (proelium being the Latin word meaning battle). As for the Robert Averett, wrote, "The students loved him, which his Tarheel friends may like to see now. They are:

"He lived up in a tower all alone,  
Among the books and pictures he had known  
And loved to long they seemed around him  
Much more, perhaps, than we who sought to him  
The surface of the learning that was his,  
For facts that he might up as a quill.  
But when he stood up straight in class and talked  
Of men and gods of ancient days and talked  
The earth, or when he cleared his throat and read  
Aloud from Homer, blind and long since dead  
We saw Andromache with Hector's boy,  
And heroes through the wind-swept plain of Troy."

Because of the decline of interest in the classics in colleges in recent years, I'd like to know how many readers of INCIDENTALLY have after 1925 (assuming that this column has any readers of that vintage) can identify "Andromache and Hector's boy?"

**"COMMUNATION"**  
Mr. John D. Palmer, of Wilson, writes me: "In reading 'Incidentally' over a period of many years, I have come to think of you as having an exceptionally close acquaintance with the liturgy of the Anglican Communion. It was with some astonishment, therefore, to read in yesterday's News and Observer that you were unaware of the word 'communion.'"

"While it has been omitted from the Church of England prayer book, you will find it on page 238 of the Book of Common Prayer, in very large capital letters, the word itself, followed by several pages of explicit definition as to those who are, or should be, 'communicated.'"

Thanks, Mr. Palmer; I'll look that up.

**BOOK-LARN' ON "THE ACROPOLIS"**  
From the well-known Chapel Hill Weekly, published on what Walter Hines Page in his novel, "The Southerner," called "The Acropolis" of North Carolina. I quote as follows:

"The book is written in a self-conscious, tried first-person singular. Made conscious of that error, the reviewer should have a twinge of conscience.  
"A magnum cum laude graduate." Not, I trust, to be confused with a magnum of champagne. Defective of magnum: "A wine bottle of twice the ordinary size; also the quantity such a bottle will hold." Correct Latin phrase: magnum cum laude, i.e., with great praise or distinction. Abusive of manner.

**HOW 'BOUT "THE ANGEL"**  
In his column, "The Corridor," in the magazine, "This Week," Bennett Cerf, under the head of "Good Night, Nurse," wrote: "I can recall the names of only four nurses who achieved world fame in modern times. . . . Florence Nightingale, Edith Cavell, Clara Barton, and Sister Kenny."

Was Mr. Cerf unconscious, or you reckon, during the siege of Dienbienphu?

**DON'T BE MISLED, BROTHER!**  
The Secretary of Missions in the Local Education Advisory Committee who is not long ago visited Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana to swap ideas in the segregation fight, reported, according to the United Press, that he found "a strong determination" to maintain segregation in every State except one, which he asked not to mention.

A little bird tells me which one that was. But my advice to this Mississippi brother is not to be misled by mere surface signs. Maybe he doesn't know that it was only a short time after one of the two members of Virginia's Education Department, a Committee, visiting the N. C. General Assembly of 1850, stated rather sadly that he found in North Carolina something of a "defeatist" attitude toward the segregation issue that our Legislature without a dissenting vote passed a resolution declaring that integration in North Carolina's public schools should be accomplished and should not be attempted.

## They Will Kill

By GEORGE RAYNOR.

SABOTAGE. Any day now we're expecting to see a picture in the paper of a nature "lover" proudly displaying the carcass of our national emblem, the bald eagle.

Bad watchers have recently noted that one or more of the eagles have established residence along the banks of High Rock Lake. Although the lake is widely distributed over the country, it is extremely rare this far inland.

But rarities seldom live long in this section.

Last week a four-foot alligator was spotted in High Rock Lake.

In Florida where alligators are common they are protected by State law; in North Carolina where they are rarities they have no protection.

As a result, the High Rock alligator is no more. The man who spotted it got out his rifle and killed it. He got his picture.

This useless slaughter of unprotected wildlife is common everywhere. Let a black snake cross its head in the open, and somebody is bound to be there to pop it on the head with a shot.

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