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SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1956

Editorial Correspondence

Virginia Plan: Idle And Unfortified

By ROBERT C. SMITH

NORFOLK, Va. VIRGINIA'S Gray Plan has been allowed to idle, unfortified, menaced by segregation extremists and the enigma of the courts. The plan is the only action toward or away from desegregation which the state's voters have approved. Yet one observer remarked recently, "If the interpositionists don't get it, the NAACP will."

At the moment, backers of the plan's moderate approach to the tangled skein of problems created by the Supreme Court's 1954 edict on school segregation have been unable to win so much as a specific date for a special convention of the General Assembly.

This is considered crucial in view of the NAACP's avowed intention of taking the Prince Edward County prototype case back into court at any moment. How will Virginia be able to show the slightest vestige of good faith when nothing has been done to set the plan in motion? observers ask.

Actually, the state legislature in its regular session narrowly defeated a resolution introduced by House Speaker E. Blackburn Moore which would have scrapped the Gray plan for another year of continued, total segregation.

The force of the powered opinion against the plan is evident in the recent words of several key legislators. State Sen. Mills E. Godwin Jr. of Suffolk in Virginia's southside, recently told a Rotary Club gathering that to put the Gray Plan in effect would "lead the way to breaking down segregation throughout the South."

Far from being "rushed" into action, the governor has successfully withstood the pleadings of Attorney General J. Lindsay Almond Jr. and J. Lee Martin Moore Sr., counsel for Prince Edward County, to arm the state with at least the implication of action.

Significantly, though, legislators attending PTA-sponsored panels in Norfolk, Richmond, and other metropolitan areas conceded that adoption of the plan would mean "some" desegregation. While the plan was heartily opposed by church opinion and a few integration-minded groups, there were clearly many votes for it that were not votes against "some" desegregation.

So there were lifted eyebrows in many areas when the Moore resolution—which would seem to have set the referendum vote to naught—came so close to passage. The Virginia legislature managed to conclude its regular session with no further action on the school issue save an interposition resolution which watered down the terminology of protest to the Supreme Court's decree from "null and void" to the adopted "illegal encroachment."

The spark for resistance to the Gray Plan comes from Virginia's 24 Southside counties where Negro school enrollment runs from 50 per cent to as much as 77 per cent of the total. Legislators and other public officials have set themselves firmly against any integration. "We're not mad with anyone," J. B. Wall, editor of the FARMVILLE HERALD, said recently, "but we've been pushed as far as we are going to be pushed."

It is from this area that the spirit of delay and dependence on interposition is fostered. This is the vulnerable under-

ground. Just for record: This was a quiet desegregated town where the highway men came with their "It's coming, take it or leave it" proposition, and left on one side of the street their homes sitting on a mountain and on the other side down in a valley. And yet these people are not complaining of THAT. What they are "complaining" of is the fact that on the southside of the "big shows" at the Coliseum they cannot get in or out of their own driveways. They can never plan a meeting or social gathering, and when at their homes due to the fact that if a big show was at the Coliseum no one could park anywhere, if they could get there, where the "no parking" signs have been placed where the highway guard was would be the parking line.

The same lights from the parking lot directly behind the possible homes make it almost impossible to sleep, and when there's a football game they get up and roll all along the sidewalk for two blocks and in the parking lot until well past midnight.

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In the end, Fortune bowed to White House "censorship" stopped the presses, and yanked the article out of its April issue. Since several thousand copies already had been run off, it cost the Luce publishing empire quite a little money.

People's Platform Square Deal Denied Neighbors Of The Coliseum

Charlotte Editors, The News: I SAT in my first City Council meeting today and came away dependent and feeling that Mr. Average Citizen is not getting a fair deal.

I am referring to the matter of zoning reclassification of the property adjacent to the Coliseum. Let me state that my name was not on the petition favoring reclassification even though I live on the highway in the next block. However, I am in complete sympathy with my neighbors adjoining the Coliseum—and for some reason cannot find out why.

They objected, they said, because of the adverse effect on the \$500,000 Chantilly school and the school children.

Maybe the reason I can't dig up too much sympathy for them is the City School Board didn't seem to be thinking too much of the children at Chantilly School when they built their model school knowing full well a super highway was coming beside it, even though Mr. Brock Barkley, attorney for the City School Board, stated the board always seeks to locate a school away from congested areas and in a residential section.

But living has been made almost intolerable now for the homeowners next to the Coliseum and since they have very little chance of selling as long as it is classified as "residential" they're appealing for a change to business.

All of a sudden the school board is up in the air about what will happen to their children and the school — as if business there would endanger them more than the traffic at the intersection. Everyone knows full well even though they do not let the children cross the boulevard alone.

The serious question involved in this issue is whether the public demand for truth and information is best served by multimillion-dollar corporations mouthing phrases about their "impartiality" and paying cynical Madison Ave. writers to extol their virtues in the slick magazines, "Institutional" ads, so-called. Any of your readers familiar with "The Listener" and a magazine which prints talks and speeches over the British Broadcasting Corporation, a whole lot of state-owned enterprises, must question the wisdom of the present system of parceling out the air waves to a few millionaires. In contrast to the faror expressed by Mr. Raiford's meek expression of opinion on a minor matter, such a vast assortment of diverse opinions that it merits the very highest praise for its devotion to freedom of speech and its catholicity. Certain radio stations, which we need not mention here, suffer horribly by comparison, nor how many stiff-shirts they hire to dwell on their hallowed "objectivity."

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'How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down On The Farm After They've Seen Paritree?'



HERB LOCK 1956 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS CO.

Charlotte, North Carolina, is particularly fortunate in having a Mental Health Clinic which is vigorously alert to its responsibilities to the people of this city, and which has taken the initiative in relating itself cooperatively to the many corollary agencies and churches interested in this problem.

May I take this opportunity to express my own appreciation for the work of Dr. Marshall Fisher, director of the Mental Health Clinic, and his staff for their intelligent approach to the solution of what is always a difficult problem.

—EDWARD A. CAHILL

Press Needs Insight Into Marine Training

Hamilton Editors, The News: I WAS pleased to receive a letter which I sent to General Page, commander of the U. S. Marine Corps.

Dear General Page: Being an ex-Marine, I can say that the last few days have been hectic ones for the relatives of the six Marines who died in line of duty at Parris Island, S. C. Mr. Matthew C. McKoon has also suffered even more in that respect as pointing an accusing finger at the press was one of the things he was called upon to do.

The point is, General, the press is presenting to the public a story of brutality and harassment, and the very symbol of freedom in any American, protested in such a shameful episode of narrow-mindedness.

—R. SCHALANSKY

Mental Health Clinic Fights Alcoholism, Too

Charlotte Editors, The News: ANYONE so naive as to imagine that a free enterprise automatically signifies those liberties and privileges Americans traditionally cherish would do well to ponder the summary disclosure of Mr. Bob Raiford by a local radio station.

This article is justified on the grounds of the usual drive employed in such cases to create the multi-million dollar newspaper and radio station monopolies and to stifle that freedom of opinion that all Americans once enjoyed when disseminators of news were honestly partisan. It would be making excessive demands of almost insupportable process, but may I suggest that despite all the pious phrases of "objectivity" account along with the typical below-the-belt remarks about Mr. Raiford's marital status so characteristically employed by the clowns of "impartiality", it would take a

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON Fortune magazine, published by Lee's close friend, Henry Luce of Time, Life, and Fortune, has been having a splendid time with the withdrawal of an article on the National Security Council.

Article Yanked

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By 80 men fresh from civilian life and added them into present-day Marines by the end of eight or ten weeks is a job that is not available.

During this time the man is put to a test for his knowledge, for his physical stamina, and for his ability to withstand discomfort even under duress.

Sergeant McKoon had orders to train those men to present them to the end of their training, and there is no doubt in my mind that he was performing this duty to the best of his ability and knowledge when this tragedy happened. I cannot be one to condemn Sgt. McKoon for he was the first man on the march and the last man back.

It would do much to alleviate the suspicion of peoples' minds if the press would give Parris Island and take time to grasp the real meaning behind the actions of men and their training.

—HOLLAND M. GIBSON JR.

The Nation Needs 'Home Policy,' S.C.

Charlotte, S. C. Editors, The News: WE HAVE today a policy-confronted and in action by our government — of trying to buy other nations' friendship at the expense of the American citizens' money.

Do not let the present As soon as the choice is determined, this ardor is dispelled; and as a calmer season returns, the current of the State, which has nearly broken its banks, sinks to its usual level. But what can refrain from astonishment at the causes of the storm?

Anxious Ardor The Crisis Of The Election

By ALEXIS DE TOQUEVILLE In "Democracy In America" (1838)

For a long while before the appointed time is at hand, the election becomes the most important and the all-engrossing topic of discussion. The ardor of faction is rekindled, and all the artificial passions which the imagination can create in the bosom of a happy and peaceful land are agitated and brought to light.

It is not a tourist re- there they separate the lives that have been lived by those who do not take a platoon of approximate-

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we are using our money to try to force our ideas upon, as we all resent being told by outsiders how to run our lives and to live. Just look at Washington today. A request to Congress to appropriate the sum of \$4,666,000.00 for foreign aid. Yet a threat of a veto of the plan for our own farmers that they might receive a fair price for the things they produce.

I feel — and not only I, others too—that we should have a Home Policy also. I believe in helping, but not a give-away plan for nothing—when our own people need things done to help them along.

There are those in our government who are trying to get their vote for millions and recommend help for other overseas. You will notice some of the leaders only agree with that motion, we approve of lowering the age limit from 65 to 60, at least, for our aged people to pay, commensurate to any pension, regardless of age when they have no income and are disabled. You can't draw unemployment compensation over 65 and are not able to perform some kind of work.

Some politicians claim it would ruin our economy here at home. I disagree with that statement for our people here at home spend their little money to buy the things from the American market, placing the money back in the channels of trade here and keep our people working and our economy in trade and business of all kinds.

Let Citizens Finance Private School Plan

Most people of the South agree that integration of the races in the public schools is undesirable for numerous reasons.

Set up private schools to be financed as follows: Allow all state, county and city contributions to make voluntary contributions to private schools of up to 50 per cent of their tax assessment.

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