

Ex-Army Post Engineer Convicted of Soliciting Bribe

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

FINAL

Largest Evening Newspaper in The Two Carolinas
Charlotte, North Carolina, Friday, April 6, 1956

28 Pages—Price Five Cents

2-Year Prison Term Given For Bribe Try

Appeal-Type Action Sought By Defense

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Carl H. Woelfel, former post engineer for the Army at the Charlotte Nike plant, was convicted today of soliciting a bribe. Judge Wilson Warlick of Federal District Court sentenced him to two years in prison and disqualified him from holding "any position of trust under the government" for the rest of his life.

Attorneys Guy Carwell and Henry Fisher immediately asked that the verdict of the all-male jury be set aside, an action which amounts to an appeal.

Mr. Woelfel is free under \$2,500 bond.

It took the jury one hour and 20 minutes to agree on the guilty verdict.

APPEARS EXHAUSTED

Mr. Woelfel, who sat through the trial calmly, kept his head down during the announcement of the verdict. He appeared exhausted.

Mr. Carwell revealed for the first time that his client suffered a heart attack after his indictment last year and that he is suffering from hypertension. He said the 35-year-old Woelfel "has not slept since the trial began."

Judge Warlick said in his sentence, "I sometimes wonder how much money has been taken away from the taxpayers through bribes and gifts."

The testimony which convicted Mr. Woelfel, who lived in Charlotte less than a year before the Army fired him, came from Leroy Potter, the mayor of Avondale, Ga., and a salesman for Southern Wood Preserving Co. of Atlanta.

Mr. Woelfel hunted twice that he had handed the flooring contract for Building No. 1 at the Charlotte Ordnance Missile Plant to Mr. Potter's firm "on a sub-platter." Mr. Potter testified, and that he "wanted something out of it."

On Jan. 10, 1955, Mr. Woelfel told him, "Maybe I could get a new car out of this." Mr. Potter said he said he took the matter up with his company, which instructed him to tell Mr. Woelfel the company would have nothing to do with such a proposition.

Mr. Potter reported the matter to the Army on Feb. 7, 1955. Mr. Woelfel was fired from his job last September, after he was indicted.

Mr. Woelfel's life has been spent with large private corporations and with government agencies. A collection of affidavits from his native Hazleton, Pa., represented his character as "excellent" and "beyond criticism."

His attorneys contended throughout the two-day trial that he was falsely indicted and that the other for renewal of the bribe and exception to the way the trial was conducted.

The long Woelfel trial probably meant that the criminal docket will be extended into next week.



SECRETARY TO LABOR columnist Victor Riesel, Betty Riesel (above) is on verve of tears at St. Clare's hospital in New York after witnessing an acid-thrown attack on Riesel, who had just completed a radio broadcast on alleged racketeering, was accosted by an unidentified man who threw acid in the columnist's face, inflicting extensive burns. Doctors fear for Riesel's eyesight. (AP Wirephoto.)

Counter Charges Made 59 Civilians Die In Strip Shelling

CAIRO, Egypt.—An Egyptian military spokesman said today 59 civilians were killed in the Israeli shelling of the Gaza Strip yesterday. He charged the Israelis with "a premeditated attack on the civilian population."

In disclosing new casualty figures the spokesman said one Egyptian soldier was killed in the latest outbreak of firing in the Gaza area today but that the sector was quiet now.

The spokesman made these statements of the action yesterday.

Israeli artillery hit English and Egyptian hospitals in Gaza. Shells dropped in the Gaza marketplace on a busy shopping day while military positions were virtually unscathed.

In addition to the 59 civilians killed, 20 Egyptian soldiers were killed. Of the civilian dead, 27 were women, 28 men and 4 children.

There were 30 wounded civilians, including 22 women, 13 men and 4 children.

Both Egypt and Israel blamed the other for renewal of the firing but the Israelis, in the message to the chairman of the Egyptian-Israeli mixed armistice commission, said they had issued cease-fire orders in compliance with their personal request.

Support Segregation Ideas

Local Lawmakers Plan To Back Study Group

NAACP IN NEGATIVE STAND

State Leaders Okay Report

School Advice Includes Local Option, Tuition

Committee Sees Need Of Assembly Session

RALEIGH.—North Carolina's education leaders, state officials and many legislators generally agreed today the school plan proposed by the Advisory Committee on Education meets their approval.

However, the top officials of the North Carolina chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the proposals outlined in the report will not be accepted.

Kelly Alexander of Charlotte, state president of the NAACP, asserted the report "failed completely to blueprint a comprehensive plan or approach to desegregation in accordance with the U. S. Supreme Court decision."

C. O. Pearson, general counsel for the state NAACP, said at Durham: "There is not a county in this state that would abolish the public school system and allow its children to grow up in ignorance."

Alexander declared the issue is "whether schools will be desegregated, but when and how they will be desegregated."

Atty. Gen. W. B. Rodman commented that he thought the report was "a very statesmanlike document" which "ought to be quite helpful to us in the solution of our problem."

State Treasurer Edwin Gill, a member of the State Board of Education, said he felt the committee "had done a very good job on the whole. I thought it was a good report."

Full text of the committee's report starts on page 4-A.

See The News' editorial, "Preservation Of The Public Schools—North Carolina's Desperate Gamble," on page 8-A.

schools according to "natural racial preference" and on the basis of "the best for the child."

It proposed that the Legislature meet in special session this summer to submit a constitutional amendment to the people which would provide a "safety valve" and escape from "intolerable situations."

Thomas Pearsall of Rocky Mount, chairman of the committee, read the report over a statewide radio and television network emanating from Chapel Hill.

The report had the full backing of Gov. Hodges, who declined comment on it but who has a news conference this afternoon at which he undoubtedly will be pressed to comment in detail about it.

"STATEDMAN LIKE"—Atty. Gen. W. B. Rodman, who worked closely with the committee in drafting the report, said he thought it "a very statesmanlike document" which "ought to be quite helpful to us in the solution of our problem."

State Supt. of Public Instruction Charles Carroll said he thought the committee had given the problem "very intelligent, prayerful consideration."

However, top officials of the state chapter of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People said the report's proposals will not be accepted.

Kelly Alexander of Charlotte, NAACP state president, said the report "failed completely to blueprint a comprehensive plan or approach to desegregation in accordance with the U. S. Supreme Court decision."

The report proposed constitutional amendments would:

1—Authorize financial grants from public funds to pay tuition of children in nonsectarian private schools.

2—Allow local communities to vote to close their public schools and operate on a limited basis to all-white schools.

The committee was set up in late 1954, with Clint Pace, former Dallas newspaperman, as staff director. During 1955

City School Board Study To Continue

By JULIAN SCHEER

Charlotte News Staff Writer

Three members of the Mecklenburg delegation to the General Assembly unofficially voted "yea" today.

They're in full accord with the Advisory Committee on Education in its report of last night.

And they'll go to a special session of the legislature ready to vote in favor of legislation speeding the recommendations into law.

Meanwhile, there was general approval throughout the city and county of the report with only a couple of exceptions.

The city school board's own study committee, headed by J. P. Hobson, will continue its work.

Extremists on both sides weren't happy, but city and county school officials and the lawmakers looked upon the report favorably.

Here's the capsule of opinion by men vitally and personally concerned with the report.

Rep. E. M. O'Herron Jr., "I am in complete accord with the report. I believe we can comply with the state's decision and, at the same time, maintain the type of schools our citizens desire. The school has not yet told us how to proceed, but what I would like to see is that we have only told us how to proceed."

Therefore, we do not violate our obligations. We can still maintain the public schools our citizens desire giving both parents and children a choice of choice.

"I believe the sound leadership of this state will see us through. I don't believe the extremists on either side will stampede our Assembly members into the destruction of our public schools system or attempt outright defiance of the law of the land."

SEARCH ON FOR 'OUT-OF-STEP' TOWN IN NORTH CAROLINA

A big search is on in progressive North Carolina for a community that hasn't kept in step with the times.

Modern street lights, telegraph poles, television antennas, etc. are out. Sidewalks and paved streets are all with dirt. Buildings must be adaptable to sheriff's office, saloons, bank and small stores. Another requirement is a plantation with "interesting terrain" to be located in the outlying district.

Bryna Productions Inc., whose top star is Kirk Douglas, is seeking a small community as location for a movie of the Reconstruction period.

One hundred persons, comprising cast and technical crew, would be brought to the town and would remain for two months. Good housing and dining facilities are a must.

Bryna Productions has written the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, along with other state groups, for assistance. Present plans call for filming the movie during July and August, so an early selection of the community is a necessity.

Any bids?

Evening Prayer

God of the heroic and the vision of our nation. Strengthen our wills to press forward, that we may go forth conquering and to conquer, through Christ, our living Lord. Amen.

also it suggested, through drastic reorganization of inefficient school districts.

The committee traced the building of teacher shortages back to the depression '30s. A "school house famine" began then and has continued through the years, it said, adding that many people decided against having the babies who might have grown up into today's teachers.

THE SHORTAGE, it said, are compounded by the wave of wartime and postwar babies now banking at school house doors. And, it added, the proportion of school age children staying in through high school is steadily increasing.

The committee found that the objectives of American education have been enormously expanded during the past two generations in response to "a genuine public demand."

The basic responsibility of the schools is the development of the skills of the mind, it said, "but the overriding all mission has been enlarged. Schools are now asked to help each child to become as good and as capable in every way as native endowment permits."

"This is truly a majestic ideal," the committee said, "but it is a natural development in the United States. . . . It recognizes the paramount importance of the individual in a free society."

TEACH SKILLS
"Our schools are asked to teach skills currently needed by the nation, but never at the expense of the individual. This policy of encouraging each child to develop his individual talents will be of the greatest use to the nation, for if the one ring is no talent is 'wasted' no skill will be unlearned."

The committee said it unanimously approved "this great new goal for our schools"—full development of the child as an individual—but that "two particular aspects of this goal involve basic disagreement which the committee did not resolve satisfactorily, partly because of the limited time."

The first problem, it said, arises from a modern school's aim to foster moral, ethical and spiritual values, which See COMMUNITY on page 5-A

GRACE DEPT. Chap. 2—How To Make Boat Drill A Success

ABOARD S. S. CONSTITUTION.—Fortunately Grace Kelly's wedding boat is sailing south away from the icebergs that might make great ships go down.

Because yesterday the Constitution had its first lifeboat drill—and Miss Kelly and 250 persons showed up at her lifeboat station, there were no problems for 150.

The deck captain took a despairing look at the milling throng and gave up. Drill dismissed.

Our Weather

Clouds with occasional rain and scattered, severe thunder showers this afternoon and early this evening, followed by clearing and cooler late tonight. Tomorrow, partly cloudy and mild.

Low this morning—54.
Low tomorrow morning—60.
High yesterday—75.
High today—66.
High tomorrow—70.
Sunrise, 6:03 a.m.; sunset, 6:48 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 15-A

Schools Report To Ike Holds 'Each Community' Must Plan Own Desegregation

By HERMAN R. ALLEN
WASHINGTON.—The Committee for the White House Conference on Education told President Eisenhower today "the schools have fallen far behind both the aspirations of the American people and their capabilities."

Nevertheless, the committee said in its final report: "There is far more to be proud of in this nation's schools than there is to criticize. Their weaknesses usually stem from a lack of means rather than any defect in their goal."

Calling for action to arouse and maintain public interest, the report said schools "now affect the welfare of the United States more than ever before."

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and "have become the chief instrument of the nation's future. It is keeping this nation's future in its hands."

The 50,000-word document contained only one surprise—a unanimous committee view that racial desegregation "must be worked out by each community within the intent of the relevant Supreme Court decisions."

LITTLE NOTED
The segregation issue received only scant attention in reports issued during last week's conference. It was not mentioned in summaries of preliminary state conferences, which formed part of today's report.

On another key issue—federal aid to schools—the committee split three ways, with

a majority favoring emergency building grants.

Twenty-eight members of the 24-member committee, headed by Neil H. McElroy, president of the Procter & Gamble Co., held that.

"Federal aid for school construction should be made available on a limited basis to all states and territories and the District of Columbia to help overcome the present school building emergency. . . . under the philosophy of encouraging greater use of state and local funds."

A minority report signed by four members contended federal assistance should be through loans, not grants. Another, signed by two members, Go East to FIELDS—Expert Watch Repairs. (Adv.)

held that it should not be limited to building aid nor to emergency aid.

BLANK ON AID
The majority reported it was making no recommendation regarding federal aid for school operation. It noted "great division of opinion on this subject" at the White House state conferences.

The report wound up a project set in motion in response to Eisenhower's call in his January 1954 state of the union message for "the most thorough widespread and concerted study of the nation's educational system."

The committee was set up in late 1954, with Clint Pace, former Dallas newspaperman, as staff director. During 1955

an estimated 500,000 persons took part in 3,600 community and state conferences. The White House conference was held last Nov. 28-Dec. 1, with nearly 2,000 participants, including the states, national organizations and the federal government.

CONSOLIDATION
The report submitted to Eisenhower today was based on state and White House conference reports, together with further findings of the committee and its consultants.

In broad terms, it drew a picture of a nation strapped for school buildings and teachers but with the financial and human resources at hand to beat these shortages if it chooses to use them.

Much might be accomplished

See COMMUNITY on page 5-A