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Editorial Correspondence

A Sense Of History Hangs Heavy In The Air As Legislature Opens

By CECIL PRINCE
Associate Editor, The News

THE dogmas of the quiet past... There is a certain ripeness in the air... There is a feeling—prevalent among legislators and political hangers-on—that sentiment is shared that will control more than the destiny of the public schools...

But in this peaceful capital city—full of history and humanity and winking perpetual echoes—we are really watching the central theme of an American tragedy be exposed. It is the spiritual isolation that all states before the Mason-Dixon line have felt since the mid-19th century.

THE dark forces of unreason will be unleashed. Not at all. It means simply that the legislation hammered out by this special session will contain no illusive or delusive elements. It will be designed purely and simply to preserve racial segregation in the public schools of North Carolina in accordance with the folkways and customs of the state and the region.

What's Wrong With American History?

THE opening session of the P. E. N. Club congress in London had hardly slipped into second gear before playwright Elmer Rice rose to explain what was wrong with U. S. literature. The writer used to be a punner, he said, but now he is "merely a cog in a vast machine," writing to specifications and subject to controls previously unknown.

During the same discussion, Robert Anderson, author of TEA AND SYMPATHY, added: "I think that every good play goes through a young playwright gets produced sooner or later. You hear them whining in the trees, but I don't think that's legitimate. Every good play that I have ever known gets produced."

From The Franklin Press

'DON'T YOU DARE!'

"JUNIOR, eat your spinach!" For decades, that unwelcome command from U. S. dinner tables has brought protests, tears, and plain sulking from American children.

The announcement was made at a medical meeting, but the word is likely to get around generally, and if it does, we predict the contribution resulting from the doctors' study will be far

Certainly most of the state's legislative representatives here today are seeking legal methods to prevent compulsory integration of the races. It is the sincere belief of Gov. Hodges that he has found a solution sturdy enough to withstand the acid test of judicial scrutiny. That remains to be seen, of course.

THE danger still lies in the possibility of legislative excesses. In this case, the future of public education is at stake. It is an institution that has formed the bedrock of North Carolina's progress in the past and its best hope for the future. It must not be sacrificed on the altar of political expediency—ever.

Mr. Hodges insists that this is not his intent. His conscientiousness is not seriously doubted by those closest to him here. Whatever happens in Raleigh this week, Earl Herles will look to his office with the hope that he will use all of his power and influence to preserve what is precious to all races in North Carolina—the right to a free education.

BUT the legislative thinking during the next few days must be hard and practical and realistic. It must reflect a critical intelligence of great collective impact. There must be questions, too—for legislation is to the moral and legal legitimacy of every act. Any illusion must be punctured with the same simple honesty of the children in the fairy tale who cried out to the surprise and embarrassment of all: "But the Emperor has no clothes on!"

'Everything's Under Control. I've Got Him On A Leash'

Writers have always faced controls and compulsions of one sort or another. Some of the world's most distinguished literature has emerged from periods like the Inquisition when controls were tight indeed.

One critic, Elizabeth Janeway, has noticed a disturbing difference between the American and British approach to writing.

School days can be happier days of your life—if your child is old enough to attend.—GREENVILLE (S. C.) P. M.

Can The Nation Afford Double-Duty Military Strength?

By WALTER LIPPMAN NEW YORK

THERE are going on inside the government... ONE ARGUMENT For the general public the most serious question is raised by those who make the following argument. Now that the U.S.S.R. and the U. S. A. have reached a stalemate in nuclear weapons, neither will dare to use them.

THE second argument, which was brought into the open in dispatches by Mr. Anthony Leviero, turns on proposals by Adm. Radford to reduce the armed forces by about 200,000 men during the coming three years. This would mean a smaller army but one armed with more deadly modern weapons.

PROHIBITIVE COST There is a connection between the cost of maintaining both kinds of military power would be prohibitive. It is not possible as the cost of weapons rises to keep up two military establishments—one for a world war and one for local wars, one with the big nuclear armaments and the other a powerful but conventional Army, Navy and Air Force.

People's Platform Hot Rodders Aren't At War With The Public

Charlotte Editors, The News: I BELIEVE the public to be a little confused with all this talk about hot rodgers. Please let us help to correctly inform them.

First, the hot rodgers are definitely not at war with the public. They are peacefully at home enjoying one of the main American's most cherished freedoms, the right to link.

law enforcement. But, don't you think the public is expecting too much of these programs? Sure, you teach a person the correct way to drive, good, but do you think this and this alone will make him a safe driver?

I hope that such a program can be set up so the young enthusiast can be recognized for his achievements in safety, styling, economy, etc. Believe it or not, you probably won't—there are many boys who are interested in something other than speed.

'Traffic News and Views' states, "Driver education courses develop safe drivers—drag strips



The Push-Button Era Is Upon Us

development race drivers." Surely this is the invention of some man who never engaged in competition more than to see who could be first at the office at 2:30 isn't it marvelous what a man who has never been to a drag race can tell you about one? Don't deny it, the competition spirit is in all of us.

Too Much Gripping About Hodges' Plan

Charlotte Editors, The News: THOSE of us city, county and state who are so strongly against the proposed changes in our school laws, as recommended by Gov. Hodges, I should like to better to offer if so, why not let us hear about it instead of just gripping about the best plans that have been brought forward so far.

Certainly, the proposals are not perfect, but something had to be done, for make no mistake about this, the people as a whole are not going to jump into full integration in the schools in the immediate future.

Equality Of Man Is 'Colossal Lie'

Pittsboro Editors, The News: YOU ARE awfully kind to me to let me clutter up your People's Platform as you do. However, I get many letters telling me that the writers enjoy what I am saying and some even go so far as to say they think I talk sense.

One of our hopeful presidential candidates tells us that we must integrate—remove all racial barriers—in order that we may check the spread of communism in the world. If we are to become Russian in our way of doing things, what have we accomplished by checking the spread of communism? Have we not become communists in attempting to whip communism.

Automobile deaths from 1900 to 1955, the 55 years, are 1,148,414. (U. S. News, Feb. 3, 1956).

War-wounded in all our wars, 1775 to 1955, 180 years, are 1,133,836. ("Information Please, 1956").

Quote, Unquote A diner complimented the chef on his steak sauce. It was the best he had ever had. "How do you make it?" the diner asked. "Oh, I don't have any set recipe," the chef replied. "I just make it up from hand like I take the drippings from the steak, add a bit of melted butter, just a dash of salt, garlic and paprika, and water."

Actually, some of our editors argue that all men are born equal and are, as a consequence

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON SLOW-talking Sen. Olm Johnston of South Carolina soon, doesn't boil over often, but he has a long boiling point when it comes to segregation. The other day he threatened to get a newspaperman fired because he tried to get information from inside the Judiciary Committee. The newspaperman is Frank van der Linden, who represents the Greenville, S. C. News, Wilmington, N. C. Star-News, and other southern papers.

Johnston Threatens Newsman's Job

Johnston's name came out of the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote by a full Senate to be a Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals judge.

He stormed, having in mind the fact that he had already denied such a post existed. However, Soboloff's name was reported out, was confirmed, and van der Linden is still occupying the Senate.

not engage ourselves in a big land war on the other side of the world. We shall remember that we are a sea and an air power, and we shall tailor the shape of our intervention to the character of our military forces.

We are vulnerable in Germany, in Japan, in Vietnam, in Korea and in Formosa, not to military aggression but to political infiltration and maneuver. Red China is working to make a deal with the Chinese in Formosa, and who can be all confident that they will be asked at what place, where Chiang's back then later on when Chiang goes? The same kind of thing is under way behind Dr. Spingarn Herz's back in South Korea and behind Diem's in South Vietnam.

It follows, I believe, that if ever our vital interests are involved in an outbreak of local violence and disorder, for example in the Middle East, we shall not again do what we did in Korea. We shall

American military power, nuclear or conventional, is prepared or even designed. KOREAN MEMORIES It follows, I believe, that if ever our vital interests are involved in an outbreak of local violence and disorder, for example in the Middle East, we shall not again do what we did in Korea. We shall

It cannot be designed for any kind of war anywhere. But no strategic air force designed for a particular war. And it is not the idea that we must also have conventional forces prepared for another Korean war a case of preparing for a war that is past?

of birth, entitled to equal political, social, economic and cultural privileges. Of course, that is a colossal lie. Men from the same mile and female or horn of the same parents are not born equal. You do not have to go beyond a run-of-the-mill community, one sparsely settled, either, to prove the falsity of that contention.

Then, too, I heard a favorite young preacher of mine argue that the scientist could not find any difference between a Negro and a white man, that their bloods matched and are commingled in the same bloodbank. Of course, that is true as to the blood of a cat and a dog, as they both belong to the same feline family; but the cat and lion do not mix their procreative fluids, so we have no hybrids in the underdomesticated members of the great feline family. That is not so as to the species of the human family.

So, let's get back to the earth and to a little thinking and talking that makes sense. We have differences, resulting in segregations, which is as God planned it, but the big question we have had since man became homo sapiens, and so long as we have man we will have differences, but something had to be done, for make no mistake about this, the people as a whole are not going to jump into full integration in the schools in the immediate future.

Let the change come. Then the voters can decide and, if the majority wants it, by all means let us try it. If it doesn't work, we can try something else.

JOHN W. HESTER

U. S. Traffic Toll 'Worse Than War' Quincy, Mass.

Editors, The News: OUR automobile slaughter is worse than war.

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