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Editorial Correspondence

North Carolinians Must Not Defraud The Future By Junking A Principle

By CECIL PRINCE Associate Editor, The News

FOR the first time, during the public hearings, the fears and hopes of individual Tar Heels began to materialize. They grew germ-like in the stifling air of Raleigh's municipal auditorium. They were present in the eyes of a frightened housewife who pleaded against the dissolution of an ideal-free, universal public education.

They appeared again in the vehement, almost passionate, insistence of Peersall Plan supporters.

They cracked ominously in the studied deliberation of those who would go even further to the right in reducing history to a rubble of compulsions.

As the hours dragged on, highly personal attitudes seemed actually to be vivified by the oppressive July heat and to grow disproportionately displacing previous assurances and reducing tensions and bewilderments entirely ununexpected.

A Negro minister from Southern Pines rose to protest constant reference to members of his race as "niggers" by the attorney general of North Carolina. Mr. Rodman himself dismissed the well-centered logic of a member of the General Assembly from Durham as an "absurdity" (the amendment-splitting proposal of Ren. E. K. Pove). A senator found something curiously humorous in the state's apparent lack of interest in segregating the huge audience sitting around and among legislators.

Yet the casual spectator could do no more than touch the circumference of the situation. At the core of it stood a great tangle of fears and hates which, moving beneath the surface of all the optimism and the faith and the conscientiousness, acted to tighten the old solidity of purpose: The prevention of desegregation.

IT MUST BE remembered that those who listened—with remarkable attentiveness—to the parade of spokesmen are largely simple, unanalytical men operating within the narrow limits they were born to. They are heirs to the forces that were so excessively active during Reconstruction and the heyday of Populism and the years of returning terrorism during the early 20th century. It is all part of a half-remembered melancholy with its certain roots in the region's economic and social lot and the paramount problem of race.

This was the pattern the Supreme Court either failed to understand or chose, howfully, to ignore. But nothing happening in Raleigh this week can be grasped fully without considering these historic compulsions. It is not just the threat of integration in the public schools that is troubling these solemn listeners in Raleigh. It is, more significantly, the broader danger to a whole way of life. Actually, a good deal of imagination and memory colors this private world already. But the tap roots of today's South are quite intact and they go directly back to yesterday's pride and prejudice. The South

Stassen Interrupts Len Hall's Lullaby

ALTHOUGH the GOP responded irritably to Harold Stassen's anti-Nixon needle, the party should be healthier for having had the shock.

Stassen jabbed just as the party appeared fully succumbed to Chairman Leonard Hall's win-to-day-and-forget-morrow lullaby. With maximum effect, Stassen's move could lead the convention to face up to the special responsibility placed upon it by the President's illness.

That responsibility is to the party itself as well as to the nation. It is to insure continuation of Eisenhower-type leadership against any future disabilities of the President. It requires the choice of an Eisenhower running mate who shares as much as possible the President's philosophy and attitudes toward government.

Mr. Hall's strategy has been to foreclose consideration of any vice presidential nominee other than Mr. Nixon. His next is to lead the party to a serious illness where changed nothing, and the best way to prove it is to act that way. Therefore, it is silly to go to any special pains over the vice presidency, and thus admit that the situation requires special attention.

This is the overinflated balloon of confidence and calm that Mr. Stassen has pricked. To serious questions as to whether Mr. Nixon could inspire unity in the nation, Stassen adds doubt that he could keep the GOP's own factions in harness.

Great effort was focused, of course, to put down the Stassen rebellion. His future as a member of the White House team seems to be under a cloud with no silver linings for him. Mr. Hall made him look silly by taking over his candidate, Gov. Herter. But whatever his motives and however he mangled political properties, he has properly called

Gov. Luther Hodges: A 'Rabbit-Eared' Political Virtuoso

By JULIAN SCHEER Charlotte News Staff Writer

THEY SAY Frank Porter Graham, after his defeat for the U. S. Senate by Willis Smith, was called to the White House in Washington by President Truman.

"Frank" the wise old Missouri politician reportedly said, "You should have learned a lesson in this campaign. You answered everybody. Next time, don't answer anybody."

It was Graham, engaged in a bitter campaign, who stood up to every foe and tried to fight back. As professed as the Trumanism may seem, Luther H. Hodges could be the No. 1 violator of such an axiom.

A KEEN EAR Newsmen have called Hodges "rabbit ears" and compared him to the touchy, nervous, excitable rookie pitcher of baseball. Yet Mr. Hodges—and perhaps he alone in modern North Carolina political history—has pruned his keen and sensitive ear to a political success.

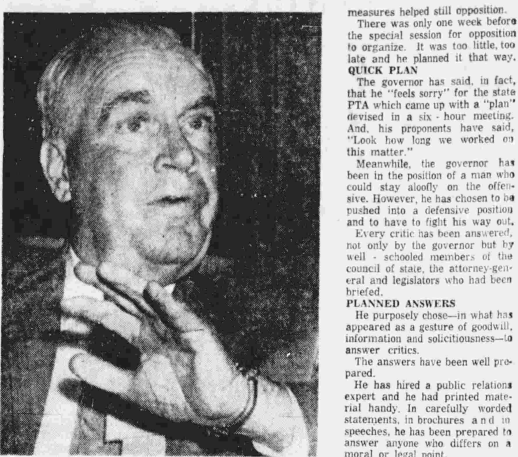
Here in Raleigh this week, Luther Hodges' tree of legislative fruit is hanging heavy with ripeness and the poms will drop on his side of the fence.

Here he will see a successful climax to at least one half of the school legislative program, and with the assurance that the entire program will be endorsed by the people in a September referendum.

THE good, clever job of winning friends and influencing people has been a carefully and skillfully planned public relations maneuver that would do credit to a Jim Hager.

The basis here is not whether the governor's school legislation program is either good or bad. It is the story of a victory for a program and how it was accomplished.

The political history of North Carolina is one of tempered liberalism or, at least, liberalism in comparison with other southern states. Mr. Hodges has not tampered with that effect and has stated the state on a cautious, soft path during the months since the



GOV. LUTHER H. HODGES A Fondness For Landslides

felt it necessary to make a bid for more legislation and more drastic steps — no matter what his motivation was the groundwork was well laid.

AMAZING VICTORY The Peersall Report, made in April, was the tip-off. Fortified by a statement that he would call a special session "to consider legislation," Gov. Hodges went to an amazing victory in the gubernatorial primary.

The gubernatorial victory assured the governor of strong support from the elected officials around him.

Essenson was wiped out of the House of Raleigh, for here was a first class vote-getter. The campaign itself was a clue.

With practically no real opposition, the governor, nevertheless,

worked with the gusto and enthusiasm of a man fighting out of a corner. He would not be content with a small vote and, consequently, went about building up a majority which was staggering.

Not only did he then feel free to move ahead with the "endorsement" of the people, but he knew his own political house was in order.

The whole "team" was ready to go to work. After the bills were drafted, he took no chances.

Despite the attacks on his "select" legislative sessions, he kept the program to the legislators. The measure was guarded carefully, while the opposition fretted.

SHOTS IN DARKNESS He went ahead with a "protest" while critics took shots in the dark. He could argue they were political enemies or integrationists or that his bills were representative of the tempo of the people.

While the tone was generally known, specific forms of protest were not. The late springing of the

'Dick, You Have A Chance To Perform A Great Service'



People's Platform

Ignorance Preferred To School Integration

ASTORIA A native-born citizen of N. C., educated in our public schools and for some time in the past I believe in public education, also in the Christian way of life, which is about as near fundamental American as man can get, follow the teachings of the Bible, the constitution of all churches.

Those following the teachings of the Bible have at all times enjoyed quite a happy life. Integration is an inappropriate word as the final result of integration in the public schools means more mixing of races. It may be and is a shameful thing to look at ourselves as we are if we realize that God in no uncertain terms forbid his people from mixing with others.

It CLEARLY shows that God's people were not to mix, nor covet nor seek wealth of other nations, neither mix their seed nor stock. None of those work now. Why don't Jews mix? Why don't good farmers mix their seed now? depend upon pure bred stock? To whom has God revealed his secrets?

I selected Abraham far that he would enforce righteousness and justice. Genesis: 18:19.

World War II, Korean police action and who is now paying all the bills. I believe in the substitution was conceived and born of prayer. The colored man of this southland is a couple of thousand years ahead of his brother in Africa.

Proponents of mixing races put schools first and claim that as sinners and sinners we should have a state cannot enact any law in contravention of the constitution and I cannot condone the school situation without an amendment to our constitution. I for one had rather my children be ignorant than mixed.

Citizens Should Vote On Fluoridation Plan

ASTORIA This is not the only city that has abandoned the use of fluoride in its water supply. Some of the larger cities in America have also abandoned its use after trying it. Why don't our public health guardians who force fluoride to be put in our water, not also abandoned its use after trying it. Why don't our children thank the polo or any other kind of vaccine shots. After all, the right way is through normal legislative channels without unanimous consent. This was given him—but with the promise that he wouldn't put his giveaway on the North Carolina calendar again. . . . But when his giveaway got blocked in the Rules Committee, Van Zandt, who has purchased and ignored his promise, and made his giveaway back on the unanimous consent calendar, Watchdogs Zelenko and Van Zandt, who are also promoters, weren't watching, and the giveaway passed. . . . Thus operate the cumbersome "unanimous consent" time for the public good—sometimes not. Anyway, that's democracy.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Lobbies Ready 'Sneak Bills' For Passage

WASHINGTON THE House of Representatives of the 80th Congress of the United States was creaking slowly to a close. It had been a long day. The four-year-old son of Congressman Dorn of Brooklyn squirmed and fidgeted.

Good Boy He had been sitting beside his father, as an education in government, all week; and he had been remarkably good.

Two seats in front, Congressman Cecil Hadden of Indiana, who has three grandchildren, looked as if she could have taken care of him, but she sat engrossed in official papers.

In the speaker's chair, Sam Rayburn, bald, placid, patient, looked out over the chamber. He had been a member of that chamber for 42 years, had sat for 12 years as speaker, riding herd on its hectic sessions, watching bill after bill argued, wrangled over, voted on, defeated or passed, to become, for better or for worse, the law of the United States.

Alaska Hospital Speaker Rayburn squinted from the rostrum at the machinery of democracy in motion. It was in slow motion. None of the lightning reports and fireworks that featured debate on civil rights.

The momentous question of Alaska's right to build its own hospital for the insane was before the congressional committee. O'Brien spoke for this right. O'Brien

comes from Albany, N. Y., and is a Democrat. Yet he understood Alaskan problems thoroughly. He also spoke for the Eisenhower administration.

No Vote At the leader's table on the Democratic side sat Bob Bartlett, delegate of Alaska, who no right to vote, but the right to speak.

Bank Reform But a dozen bills benefiting a few and costing millions are poised on the brink of passage. The equality of opportunity bill helping thousands of small businessmen got stuck in the Senate, backed by Welles and Jenner of Indiana. The clean elections bill to stop the buying of elections hasn't got off the ground in the Senate.

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A Right "Those of us who supported this bill have been labeled traitors and Communists," he said, "but we think the mentally ill of Alaska have a right to be cared for in Alaska. Near their homes, not shipped 2,000 miles away from home."

The machinery of democracy is not always so efficient. It can be cumbersome. It can be cruel. It can be sneaky. . . . This is the time, as Congress grinds to a close, when the lobbyists stand in the lobbies ready to push across their pet