

The Pratings of Peter

BY PETER A. McCRAY

When Adam said to Eve "Pass me the apple," besides initiating what has developed into a national pastime, he also set a precedent which has been a source of many human ills ever since.

In this tale of the early days of man lies the story of man's first rebellion to authority. Therein lies, also, the germ of a now established truth: that man will accept willingly only such laws—be they his or God's—as meet with his immediate approval.

Though this is a recognized truth applicable to all men, its manifestations are stronger in some men than it is in others. Hence, some men repudiate the law while others accept it unquestioningly.

And so we have men who, Adam-like, must protest the reality that theirs is not the absolute authority. Some such men we put away in jails, for they stand in need of correction; others we execute because they are hopelessly incorrect. Unhappily, we elect all too

many of them, who are helplessly incorrect and therefore in need of standard remedial action, as guardians of laws they themselves are unable to obey due to their achieved complex prejudices.

Recently, a judge in addressing a grand jury in Columbia openly admitted defiance of the U. S. Supreme Court on the grounds that its rulings were unconstitutional. I am in no position to decide the constitutionality of any court's edicts. The judge is perhaps more so. However, it seems clear that as a judge his position is to declare the law unconstitutional only when it comes to him for adjudication, or to rule in favor of the person being prosecuted under its provisions.

For a judge to advocate defiance to any law is to show that his respect for all laws is something less than it should be and he should not be in position to apply it to others.

Just a few years ago I sat in this same judge's court and heard him mildly reprimand two Negro defendants before sentencing them to terms of three, and possibly less, years for having killed other Negroes. Directly afterwards this keeper-of-the-law sentenced an elderly Negro man charged with assault and rape to seven straight years of imprisonment, even though the only real testimony presented during the trial was by a doctor who testified that upon examining the victim shortly after the alleged attack he found no evidence of assault but did find conclusive indicators of continuing virginity. Apparently, the manner in which his honor dispenses justice is entirely dependent upon the condition of his blade.

A classic example of this up-to-date is evident in the horrendous state of affairs now existing at Little Rock, Ark. Gov. Orval Faubus deludes only himself in maintaining that his orders to the Arkansas National Guard were to preserve order. Were the governor realistic in his statements, he would recognize that in the name of peace, the action of the guards would have resulted in the nine Negro children reporting for classes being allowed to enter and be protected from the hoodlums who would restrain them.

Just the contrary was the case. The Negro children were turned back by the guards, while hoodlums were permitted to jeeringly flaunt the laws of the land with the blessings of the state government.

Such open rebellion and defiance; such barbaric disruption of peaceful organization; such flagrant disrespect for law and order are not to be condoned. It will be

interesting to note the action taken by the federal government in this matter.

THE DIE IS CAST

On Monday of this week, the South Carolina State Department of Education, headed by George Bell Timmerman, Jr., governor of South Carolina and some South Carolinians, informed Allen's University that its graduates will no longer be accepted for teacher certification in South Carolina. No explanation accompanied the notification.

In its edition of Saturday, Sept. 7, THE PALMETTO LEADER carried a headline saying "A. U. Opening To Whites." The accompanying story stated that five Hungarian refugees were slated to enroll at Allen this fall.

The fact that the State Board of Education followed this announcement by less than a week may or may not be significant, however, it would be the acme of sarcasm to suppose that there is not a definite and deliberate relationship between the two occurrences.

Rather, it is to be supposed that die-hard segregationists have been at work and have effected an action which might well prove the determining point in race relations within the state. For the Board's action makes it clear: if South Carolina Negroes, subsequent to this conspiratorial bit of devilment, remain content to lie in their present state of deplorable complacency, and persist in their attitude of "do-nothingness," they can expect to capture not only the toe of the foot now kicking them, but the ankle and leg as well.

On the other hand, the action may be considered a challenge to the state's Negroes' capacity for collective, decisive action. And such action does not include a backing down from previously taken positions. If the University's heads, out of compassion for fellow strikers for freedom and Christian love for one's fellowman, have agreed to admit these parolees in flight from terrorism for those reasons, they should have anticipated possible objection, and now be prepared to show the faith in what is right which has made and kept Allen's prestige high in educational circles.

NOTES, QUOTES AND JUNK

Having nothing else to do, I wonder if the guards in Arkansas are walking to the beat of Rock

NAACP Says Little Rock Defiance Endangers Federal Union Concept

NEW YORK—The defiance of Federal authority at Little Rock, Ark., by Gov. Orval Faubus, who has ordered the closing of Central High School to a Federal court order, is endangering the concept of a Federal Union and the exchange of equal opportunity of rights and privileges of citizens of the United States, wherever they may live, the NAACP executive secretary, Roy Wilkins, said in a telegram from the NAACP.

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And Faubus, elected by Two Favorite People of the Week: Mr. and Mrs. John Hall, Great Falls.

Gentlemen spotted minding their own business: Pete Ingram on Assembly St., Tuesday; Albert Kennedy, Washington St.; A. T. Butler, Allen's north gate, Tuesday morning (and by the way, it was THAT?); Teen-ach Williams, old class mate, Sunday at the Allen and Faubus. Monday somewhere place where I had no business being.

Ladies I've spotted, period.

This is a special note to that little bunch of mischief who reads this just for the laughs. Now that you've read this far I'll give you the bad news—I don't feel funny.

Returning to town Monday I sadly learned that I missed my train by a whisker. Sorry, folks, one, had I knew you were coming I woulda stayed at home.

A letter that was sent to the NAACP executive secretary, Roy Wilkins, said in a telegram from the NAACP that the defiance of Federal authority at Little Rock, Ark., by Gov. Orval Faubus, who has ordered the closing of Central High School to a Federal court order, is endangering the concept of a Federal Union and the exchange of equal opportunity of rights and privileges of citizens of the United States, wherever they may live.

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