

Racial Desegregation Issues Splitting Churchgoers Into Rival Camps

Atlantic UP Chief Finds Integration Ideas Rouse Anger

Editor's Note: The Atlanta bureau chief of United Press is touring the Deep South, writing a series of close-up dispatches on the big issues in the desegregation controversy.

By AL KUETTNER
United Press Correspondent
New Orleans — (U.P.) — The racial desegregation issue is splitting white churchgoers into bitter rival camps in the Deep South.

It is turning church members against each other, pitting clergymen against their congregations, raising community anger at ministers who side with the Negro on any aspect of integration.

There are those who feel that if true racial equality is ever to come in the South it must certainly come early in the houses of Christianity.

There are others who are determined to keep the churches racially separate. They say the Negroes themselves definitely prefer to worship in their own churches, with their own race and in their own deep-rooted rituals. This group is in the vast majority.

The plain fact is that, right or wrong, there has been no real attempt by Protestant religious groups to attempt integration.

Fever-Pitch Fight

The Roman Catholic church is another matter and the fiercest religious fight over the problem is now at fever pitch here in New Orleans, a city with large Catholic population and influence.

A pronouncement has come out from Archbishop Joseph L. Rummel, highest Catholic authority in this area, that segregation is a mortal sin and that parochial schools under his jurisdiction will be desegregated.

Earlier he closed a rural parish which refused to accept a Negro priest.

His refusal has brought flat, unprecedented resistance from many Catholic laymen and unrest among a segment of the priesthood.

Actual tests of integrating the 8,000 Negro and 39,000 white parochial students probably will not come before next September, but the fight already is on.

E. A. Wagner, staunch Catholic member of the Orleans Parish School Board and father of five children in parochial schools is among lay leaders openly opposing Archbishop Rummel.

Caused Serious Division

"The situation is causing the most serious division within the Catholic church in this area in my memory and has shaken the faith of those not too strong," Wagner says.

"I feel it has reached the point where Pope Pius should take a position for or against desegregation. I believe it is of sufficient worldwide importance for his holiness to make a pronouncement to set at rest the confused condition of intellectually sincere Catholics."

Most Catholic authorities feel it is most unlikely the Pope will intervene.

The Catholic situation is, however, only a small segment of the overall church picture in the overwhelmingly Protestant South.

Most Protestant Churches

Most Protestant churches have treaded gingerly around the issue or acted as though it were not there. A number of church boards have met quietly, pondered the problem and decided privately to stay segregated and say nothing. Some denominational groups, notably the Southern Presbyterian assembly, have declared themselves against segregation in principle.

Merger Defeated

It is important to note that Negro church groups themselves are bringing little real pressure for integration. Memphis Negroes voted down a proposed merger of white and Negro ministerial associations on grounds that already "racial animosity has become so intense that at times it has been explosive."

The flareups have come in cases where individual white ministers aligned themselves on the side of the Negroes. In most places where clergymen have taken a positive stand for integration, reaction has been swift.

The pastor of the Batesburg, S.C., Baptist church, where Gov. George Bell Timmerman formerly attended, was dismissed for stating privately he thought segregation was wrong. A Methodist minister in that state was quickly transferred after he criticized the White Citizens' Council.

In Montgomery, Ala., a white Lutheran minister, the Rev. Robert Graetz, has become the subject of hot controversy for his open assistance to Negroes who have boycotted buses since

Billy Graham Sees Christianity On the March in Asiatic Areas

Editor's note: American evangelist Billy Graham is returning home after an eight-week tour of Asia in which he visited seven countries. In the following dispatch written for United Press he tells of the rapid growth of Christianity among Asiatic peoples.

By BILLY GRAHAM
Written for United Press
Honolulu — (U.P.) — Christianity is on the march in Asia.

I have come to this firm conclusion after talking to hundreds of missionaries and national church leaders in seven Asiatic countries. I also learned the reaction of scores of active non-Christians.

Deep in the south of Travancore, in the south of India, I sat in the home of a bishop of the Church of South India. Christianity has made great stride there, and it is estimated more than 50 per cent of the people in the bishop's city profess Christianity.

The bishop told me of the notable increase in activity on the part of the Hindu leaders, and then added quietly, "They are worried because they know that Christianity is going to win."

The importance of the growth of the Christian faith is not felt by church leaders alone. After a long discussion of India's overwhelming problems with a professor of economics at one of India's great universities, I asked him if he saw any hope for the future.

After a moment of serious reflection, he said, "India's only hope is that she become Christian."

I saw positive evidence of the surge of Christianity almost everywhere I looked in India. Out of the Travancore jungles 100,000 persons walked to our meeting one night—half of that number walking more than 10 miles.

There are other Asiatic countries such as Korea, Formosa and the Philippines which may now be spoken of as Christian nations. By that I do not mean that all, or even most, of the

people profess Christianity. But Christianity has definitely become the dominating religion. Influence Felt

In Japan, Christianity is making its influence felt and is having an unprecedented acceptance by the populace. Japan's prime minister told me that when the burdens of state become most trying he finds comfort in singing some of the familiar old hymns of the church.

Throughout the Orient I learned of new schools and colleges being organized, any of them frankly bearing the name "Christian" and all of them receiving far more applications from students than they can accept with their present facilities.

I approached this journey with some apprehension, wondering just what was the message for the "Indian mind," the "Japanese mind," the "Chinese mind." I found no difference whatsoever.

The same gospel message which was effective in America, in Canada, in Great Britain and across Europe was equally effective throughout the Asiatic world. This leads me to believe firmly that human nature is the same everywhere, and that Christ has an answer for the yearning, questing soul who is searching for peace and security in our troubled world.

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Five Youths Released From Theft Charges

Five Central Point youths, ages 16, 17 and 18, were apprehended over the week end for using three cars on February 29 without permission of the owners, Oran Chastain, Central Point police chief reported today.

The police report said the five used cars belonging to William McGee, 312 Maple st., John C. Cimful, 162 North Second st., and William D. Rhea Jr., 120 North Third st., all Central Point.

Two of the autos were reported to have been damaged.

District Attorney Walter Nunley said that the 16-year-old was turned over to juvenile authorities and the 17-year-old had joined the Air Force before his apprehension. The other three, all age 18, were released by authorities in order to join the Marine Corps. Nunley said that the youths will make full restitution for the damage to the cars, which has not as yet been fully determined, and will be given no further penalty.

Registered Hereford Show Starts Tomorrow

Forty-two registered Herefords will be in the Cal-Oregon Hereford sale show ring at 1 p.m. Wednesday and will be auctioned at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Jackson county fairgrounds.

Consignors include Applegate Farm, Jacksonville; Dale E. Bigham, Eagle Point; Bernice Bigham, Eagle Point; John and Edyth Bohnert, Central Point; Marilyn Bohnert, Central Point; Mr. and Mrs. Howell H. Cook, Ashland; Ralph L. Cook, Medford; Robert H. and Nettie Field, Central Point; Merle Goode, Macdoel, Calif.; Walter House, Grants Pass; Otto N. and Treva G. Jones, Gold Hill; Earle and Eleanor Jossy, Eagle Point; E. N. Lippert and Sons, Williams, and Donald K. Nichols, Ashland.

Auctioneer will be Ellis White, Ontario.

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A gift of \$50,000 from the Doernbecher Hospital Guild, Portland, will be used for equipment at the new medical school hospital. Grants from the National Science Foundation to Oregon and Oregon State for basic research total \$44,980.

The board approved 42 personal changes, including designation of Dr. F. J. Reithel, associate professor of chemistry, as acting head of the department of chemistry at the University of Oregon while Dr. A. H. Kunz is on leave of absence.

Plywood Firm Buys Roseburg Company

Roseburg — (U.P.) — The giant U. S. Plywood Corp. Monday announced purchase of the Youngs Bay Lumber Co. The acquisition was announced by the New York president of U. S. Plywood, S. W. Antoville.

It is a straight stock transfer subject to approval at a meeting of Youngs Bay stockholders next Monday. The arrangement apparently provides for an exchange of 275,000 shares of U. S. Plywood stock for an estimated one-half billion board feet of timber, land and the Youngs Bay mill in Roseburg.

The stock exchange lists U. S. Plywood at \$45 a share. That makes an estimated \$12,375,000.

Marshall Leeper, local manager of the association division of U. S. Plywood of Eugene, and Roy Cummings of Roseburg, a major stockholder in Youngs Bay, said that Roseburg would become a production center for U. S. Plywood and would have a yearly production of 75,000,000 board feet. They also said there are plans for establishing a hardboard plant in Roseburg.

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Churchmen Sympathetic

A protest leader in South Carolina who asked that his name not be mentioned said most leading churchmen appear "sympathetic toward desegregation in principle, but like most moderates they feel they are in a no-man's-land, being shot at by both sides."

The Rev. Thomas O. Paris, head of the White Ministerial association in Memphis, puts it this way: "Desegregation will not come in church life immediately, but will be a slow and gradual procedure. Whether that is as it should be is a different question. We must be realistic."

A quiet-spoken Jewish rabbi here in New Orleans sits on the sidelines, counseling that both sides agree to a "cooling off period" to give reason a chance to prevail over emotions.

Asked his own views on the stand churches should take, Dr. Julian B. Feibelman said he possessed a discussion on the subject that pre-dated the Supreme Court's civil rights decisions by almost 3,000 years. He reached for a Bible, turned to the book of Amos and there, in the ninth chapter, seventh verse, he read: "Are ye not as the children of the Ethiopian to me, O children of Israel?"

Red Poland President Dies of Heart Attack

Moscow — (U.P.) — Boleslaw Bierut, the veteran Polish Communist who rose from newsboy to president of Communist Poland, died in Moscow last night following a heart attack. He was 63.

Bierut held the post of first secretary of the United Polish Workers Communist party at the time of his death. He had served Poland both as Premier and President in the days after World War II.

Bierut was the second top foreign Communist to die in Moscow in the past few years. Czech President Klement Gottwald died here in 1953 from pneumonia after attending the funeral of Josef Stalin.

Bierut was in Moscow as head of the Polish delegation to the recent 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist party.

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Margaret Truman's Long Wait for the Right Man Not Unusual to Her Parents

By ROBERT ZIMMERMAN
United Press Correspondent
New York — (U.P.) — Margaret Truman waited a long time for the right man to come along.

When he came he was a gray-haired foreign correspondent more than 10 years her senior, and as handsome and polished a gentleman as a girl could want.

There were those who were worried about Margaret. She had stayed single a long time, to the point in most families where the aunts and uncles would be shaking their heads and wondering.

But for the Trumans it wasn't at all unusual.

Harry Truman, patient and persistent, courted Bess Wallace through his high school days and well into manhood before he got her to the altar of the Trinity Episcopal Church at Independence, Mo., in 1919. They were both 35.

Helped and Hindered

By then they must have known what they wanted, and there is reason to believe that Margaret, their only child, born in 1924, has known all along what she wanted and has been out to get it.

The turn of events that made her father a senator, then vice president, and finally president of the United States both helped and hindered the accomplishment of Margaret's dreams. She was 21, the age when most girls are thinking about getting married, when she spent her first night in the White House.

At Washington dances the men used to cut in before she could take two steps with her original partner. "It would have been nice," she wrote recently, "to think that my face or my smile or my manners or my ball gown or the way I danced had drawn them to my side, but I have never been able to fool myself . . . they wanted to tell somebody the next morning they had danced with the President's daughter."

The maturing Margaret had a twinkling charm, a keen sense of humor and a flare for glamor and excitement. She was attractive but not beautiful, and even the most well-intentioned photographer could not do justice to her appearance.

Had Dates Galore

There were dates galore in Washington but no real romance. A beau taking a girl home to

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