New Orleans School Board Member Is Target Of Phone, Mail Blasts

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Lloyd J. Rittiner, president of the embattled New Orleans School Board that authorized Louisiana's first school integration since Reconstruction, is a rangy, rugged man with no love for telephones or mailmen.

Rittiner's unpaid school board puts him squarely on the horns of a sizzling dilemma.

The Louisiana Legislature demanded he maintain segregation. A federal court ordered school integration.

The school board — which has had its power taken away by the state and restored by the federal courts four times since August—obeyed the court order Monday.

The 44-year-old engineer's phone rings day and night. Mailmen pile letters by the score on his doorstep.

"Let me say, I think you're a disgrace to your country, to the South, and to your race," one letter read.

"Old mealymouth," another said. "I'm a parent of six who would rather see her children grossly ignorant than associates of niggers."

"I am writing simply to express a vote of thanks for the courageous stand you have taken in trying to keep the schools open," a third letter read.

"Traitor, scalliwag, coward, vote hound," the names trailed off endlessly as Rittiner read the letters in his office.

"When I was elected to the board four years ago," Rittiner said, "I never dreamed I would be in the public eye like this. I don't say I would have dodged it. But I didn't think it (integration) could have happened here."

Ironically, Rittiner regards himself a staunch segregationist. Yet he voted with three of four other board members for a pupil placement plan that admitted four Negro girls to white schools Monday.

Why? Rittiner said he figured it came down to a choice between integration or destruction.

"It is one thing to fight as far as humanly possible and still be able to recognize when you've reached the end of the road and surrender," Rittiner said.

"And it is another thing to continue to fight without recognizing you have reached the end of the road and be destroyed. I don't want to see the public schools of Louisiana destroyed."

Rittiner's roots lie deep in New Orleans. He was born here, grew up and schooled here, graduating from Tulane in 1939.

After college, he took a crack at the oil industry, then went into business for himself. He owns and runs three engineering companies.

Rittiner, who is divorced, has two children, a boy and a girl both attending public schools.

Rittiner said he ran for a post on the school board—which has a $28-million budget for its 95,000 children—because he felt like doing some service work for the city.

"Everybody can give money," Rittiner said. "I felt like giving my time."

He ends his one-year term as board president next month. He'll keep his 6-year board seat, however, until 1962.

Rittiner says the phone calls come at all hours. Some praising, some damning, some threatening.

"If they don't say who they are, I don't listen."

Logging Firm Reorganizes Its Operations

SEATTLE (AP) — Reorganization of the Simpson Logging Co., with operations in Washington and Oregon, and Simpson Redwood Co., operating in California, into the Simpson Timber Co. took effect Thursday.

Headquarters for the firm, a forest-products leader in the Pacific Northwest for 65 years, will be in Seattle. It had 19 plants employing 5,500 persons in 11 separate locations.

In announcing the reorganization, the company said H. W. McClary, vice president and general manager of Simpson Logging at Shelton, will become vice president in charge of plywood and door manufacturing. He will remain in Shelton.

G. L. Oswald, vice president and general manager of Simpson Redwood at Arcata, Calif., will transfer here as vice president-manufacturing with company-wide responsibilities.

Revolt Shows Weak Position In Asia

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign Editor

Current unrest in Southeast Asia illustrates one of the ever-present, natural risks facing those responsible for U.S. foreign policy.

South Viet Nam President Ngo Dinh Diem apparently has weathered an army revolt against his iron-fisted regime. But the 3,000 paratroopers who rebelled and held the streets of Saigon temporarily, brought to the surface underlying unrest against his government which has been ardently supported by the United States.

Between them, South Viet Nam and Laos have received in the neighborhood of $2 billion in U.S. aid. Their armies have been supported, supplied and paid by the United States.

Should either or both eventually fall to communism, their loss not only would be a heavy blow to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, of which the United States is a founding member, but would also vastly increase the dangers to the rest of Southeast Asia.

A major risk facing U.S. policy planners is the danger of damnation by association.

Thus support of an Ngo Dinh Diem for the sake of a fleeting stability in the face of militant world communism, might simply result later in his sins being visited upon the United States.

It is not an unheard of position. In Cuba, Fidel Castro rallies anti-U.S. support with the cry that it supported the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

U.S. silence on the revolt in Algeria leads to the charge that it supports colonialism in Africa.

U.S. association in the Baghdad Pact with deposed King Faisal of Iraq helped Nasser crystalize anti-U.S. sentiment in the Mideast.

In South Viet Nam, for better or for worse, the United States is linked with Diem who is militantly anti-Communist and who, so far, appears to have the backing of most of the army.

On the grounds that the Communist threat requires it, Diem's is a one-man rule.

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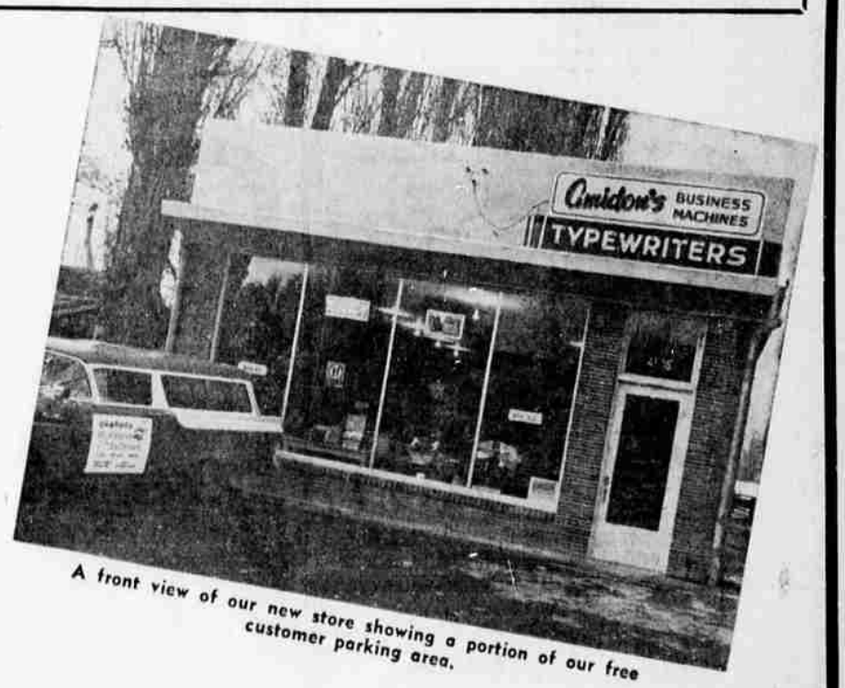

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