

Public Pulse

Lost A Friend?

Editor of the Daily News:

Today the Negroes (those who fight for "equality") lost a friend.

As a student I voted to request the trustees of my college to admit Negroes to my particular graduate school and was disappointed when they did not. I viewed with great embarrassment and shame the way the Negroes were treated when they tried to enroll at Little Rock and other places like that. It may have taken time to get used to it but I do not think that I would mind going to school with Negroes or even eating with them at a public lunch counter just because they were of a different color. But gone are the good old days!

These factors have helped to change my mind:

(1) Those seeking equal rights at the lunch counter, in my opinion, went about it in a way of the belligerent. Instead of starting with a quiet talk with the manager to see what could be done and serving notice of their intentions, they stormed into the lunch section demanding service much to the astonishment of the clerks and local management, most of whom have no control over the rules of the stores. This not only stirred the anger of white extremists of whom I am also very ashamed but even threatened and continues to threaten human life by bomb scares and assaults.

(2) This has placed in jeopardy the jobs of the stores' clerks.

(3) This has brought bad publicity to a state which has done more than any state in the South to help the cause of the Negro in his fight for equality.

(4) I have good reason to doubt the spontaneous nature of this action at the present for it has become too widespread and has become endorsed by organizations from other parts of the country.

(5) The conquering army can enforce rules but isn't it much better if these rules of mankind are accepted through love?

I think that to identify this movement wholeheartedly with Christ or Gandhi may be wrong, because I do not believe that they would enforce their wishes when it might be hurting someone else.

Yes, today the Negroes lost a friend—or at least a sympathetic ear. Let's hope that something will happen so that you who are Negroes and I, a white, can again fight for what is Christian side by side.

REIDSVILLE READER

Reidsville.