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Good Will's Chance

One of the regrettable things about human nature is that all too often the worst of it overshadows or obscures the best of it. That seems to be happening in our racial, or inter-racial, affairs.

We believe that there is a lot of good will among both whites and Negroes. Indeed, we go a step further and say we think that good will far outweighs the bad in both races. That conviction persists despite the ugliness and violence which have scarred and marred our relations with each other of late.

Unfortunately, and tragically in this instance, dissident elements can and do create trouble and disturbances out of proportion to their numbers and relative importance. These dissidents are the extremists, bitterly set off against each other at opposite poles. They make hard the way of the majority who, in good will, would breach the gap of difference with understanding and good sense.

Is it too much to ask that the good will of whites and Negroes be given a chance to make itself felt in this difficult situation? If so, we hate to think where this will all end. Will we never learn that force and violence, instead of solving race problems, only worsen them? Have the lessons of experience been lost on us? If there was ever a situation when common sense dictates that good will should have its chance it is when people of different races must continue to live together.

Good will implies, at least to us, respectful consideration for the differing viewpoints of others, as well as the interests and welfare of society. In that context this means the interests and welfare of two races living together. Those who would carry their point without regard for what this would do to the common welfare are not, in our opinion, acting in good will much, if any, more than those at the other extreme of no compromise.

Through the years, our community has experienced good relations between whites and Negroes. That could not have been without good will. What better thing could we, members of both races, do now than act in that same spirit of good will?

Let us be realistic, though, and realize that good will, to be effective and influential in a time like this, must be positive and vocative. The voice of good will must speak above the sound and fury of unreason and extremism if we are to be spared a loss of what has been built up through the years.

ing public attitudes demand. Already, Almond had broken with the unworkable "massive resistance" to desegregation which the organization's oracle, Sen. Harry Byrd, had decreed.

In the recently concluded legislative session, it was State Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., who led the attacks on Almond's policies, supported by House of Delegates Speaker E. Blackburn Moore and Sen. Mills E. Goodwin. The organization men defeated the sales tax, but were unable to trim the state budget as much as they wished. The truth is that Virginia can no longer operate on a bare bones budget and supply essential services to a burgeoning population. Almond, who recognizes this, thus won half a victory, but without the full amount of revenues he needs, may have a difficult time before his successor is chosen in 1961.

Though Almond ran with the organization's backing, and protests that he is an organization supporter, he maneuvered the Byrdmen into supporting him and was not a handpicked candidate. Now that he has condemned the Moore-Byrd-Godwin group for their "ruthless thrust for political power" and charged that Moore stacked committees against the Almond proposals, the lines between the Almond and Byrd factions are more clearly drawn.

It may be that the organization can once more patch up its quarrels and unite behind a candidate, but its power is clearly on the wane. The new population in Virginia's northern counties and the growth of such urban areas as Norfolk and Roanoke must bring political change. Old patterns crumble slowly in the Old Dominion, but the sign of age and erosion are there for all to see.

Virginia may be entering a new phase of her honorable history, a phase in which the radicalism and revolutionary ideas of a Thomas Jefferson would not be smothered in the conformity and conservatism of the organization squirearchy.

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