

repeated for nationwide audiences that children cheered? Assuming that a very few might have acted unwisely, what has this minister accomplished for his community? Should the unthinking acts of a few children taint the entire community; forever damn the thousands of children who prayed for the soul of the President; for the strength, comfort, and courage of his wife and children. Our children did--and they suggested it long before bedtime. Furthermore, they also prayed for comfort and strength of the Oswald widow and children, not only in their immediate loss, but in the difficult times that will dog them ahead. This wasn't unusual. There are many more devout families in this City of Dallas than the Hardings. I think we are pretty typical of what families felt and did.

And what about the Academic Freedom, or may I become heretical and suggest a need for Academic Responsibility? What conceivable contribution could the University of Texas professor have made with his paper that this could only have happened in Texas? Is this contribution in keeping with a "university of the first class?" I don't think so. This could have happened in any big city in this nation. I have no idea of this man's background but I sincerely doubt that he has any real knowledge of what people are or what they do. I suggest that if he had been a police reporter in Minnesota, he might have reached an entirely different conclusion.

Has the progress of Dallas toward peaceful integration, without pickets and disturbances been any less significant because of this tragedy? Has this one occurrence blinded reporters to a willingness to compare organized crime in Dallas with other big cities.

Has the outstanding service of Police Chief Curry been any the less significant because he extended himself to accommodate the press of the nation, reassured the nation that they believed they had apprehended the right man, permitted the American people to participate in this moment of tragic American history? I think not.

Has an outstanding school system done anything less in the way of achievements because a teacher was suspended for two days? I think not. I daresay Dallas students will rank extremely high with other school districts in this state. Incidentally, I doubt that the teacher has been penalized too severely; temporarily perhaps; but events have guaranteed her of a life-long tenure because every group is going to see that she is protected. I do not for one moment condone action depriving individual freedoms to people, but I do think that if there is to be any organization and continuity in a large administrative system there must also be some measuring stick of responsibility to a community.

We have a fine school superintendent in Dr. W. T. White. We have a fine police chief in Jesse Curry. I, for one, am unwilling to sacrifice responsible public servants on the altar of an emotional blood letting.

Anybody can be all-seeing and all-knowing from hindsight--and that's the usual point of view of most agitators. They are seldom found up front leading in their own areas of activity; they're back behind and sniping at somebody else in an unrelated field.

I think the local press, by and large, did an excellent job. They did a fine job under most difficult circumstances and they did it because they did not have to resort to vilification of their own city to accomplish effective reporting. I feel there were too many instances in which commentators strived for dramatic effects from a situation that was replete with drama and certainly not in need of any embellishments.