The Cedar Rapids Gazette

Editorial Page

Tuesday, May 21, 1968

Can't Keep Good People Down

 $A^{\rm S}$ deep as the sympathy we all felt last week for the people in our neighboring communities who were victims of the devastating tornadoes is the pride we take now in their courageous reaction to their misfortunes. The strength of character so widely displayed by people laid low by a sudden reminder of the overwhelming destructiveness of natural forces gives heartening reassurance that moral fiber has not degenerated to the extent that we sometimes think, and that there is hope for dealing successfully with the many chronic problems which currently seem to have us buffaloed.

It is not so surprising that the people of Oelwein, Maynard and Charles City who suffered such severe losses in the storms should pick themselves up and resolve to build again. For many of them there is no other practical choice.

What inspires admiration is the matter-of-fact way in which they have taken their blows and are buckling down to the staggering task of rebuilding. In the immediate aftermath of such a tragedy friendly neighbors can give some emergency help, and many have been generous in doing so. But the main task of rebuilding large sections of a hard-hit community is a long and arduous one. It must be done largely by the community itself, with its own determination, resourcefulness, faith and will to work.

It is inspiring to see these qualities being mobilized so quickly and sensibly in the stricken communities. They have always been good towns, of which Iowa could be proud. It will take time and prodigious effort, but there is every reason to believe they will emerge eventually as even better towns. For their uncrushable spirit we salute them.

Retiring Old Schools

As an offshoot of the planning for a school construction bond issue probably to go before the voters later this year, Cedar Rapids' school board has been aiming a critical eye at half a dozen of the city's oldest elementary buildings. So far, whether to get rid of some or keep on using them remains unsettled.

How to judge when a building has outlived its usefulness is difficult, because from one year to the next no sudden. striking changes ordinarily appear. The problem is particularly rugged here for two reasons:

1. Exceptionally strong maintenance efforts and remodeling have kept schools built during the 1800s in relatively good physical condition and fundamentally functional even for modern-day needs.

2. Physical plant expansion for sheer population growth has taxed the district's bonding capacity to almost its limits, leaving hardly any room to backtrack and replace outdated facilities.

Yet incontestibly, several of the oldest schools in Cedar Rapids are far under standard in terms of what most elementary buildings offer most of today's pupils. Six of them range in age from 73 to 85 years. Jackson school was built in 1883, Van Buren in 1884, Tyler in 1886, Taylor in 1889, Polk in 1894 and Fillmore in 1895. Each has long since yielded its money's worth in service for what the community invested originally. Each can be regarded as continuing in use on borrowed time. For most, only the land would have much value for other purposes than education.

But incontestibly, too. to replace all of them with modern buildings for the same

Upon reading Governor Hughes' com-

ments after surveying the tornado

damage, I was disappointed that he

would express concern over Maynard's

ability to recover from the storm. I was

in Maynard Wednesday night and Thurs-

day, as it was my father's new church

that was destroyed and my parents'

parsonage home, trailer, and car that

were irreparably damaged. But during

that time I never heard one person say

that they couldn't recover. The com-

ments were very positive — "We'll just

Governor Hughes forgets that the

small town and the farmer are the back-

bone of the state of Iowa. He forgets

that in many years farmers face crop,

livestock and building loss. However,

these same people have courage, they

work hard, and they keep faith that God

Maynard's problems may be great but

they will recover. Governor Hughes

should have expressed a positive re-

covery spirit for this small town rather

Collegians Helpful

papers these days. Killings, riots, tur-

moil and a general laxity in the morals

of our society today have almost con-

vinced us that we live in an unholy

jungle; even apes live more peaceably.

youths heeded the call of help for

Charles City it was never played up by

the press. How refreshing and inspiring

it would have been to have read of a

few of the good deeds of so many of these

The collegians who responded to the

emergency call for help volunteered. No

special recognition was promised to or

expected by these willing students. The

majority of them worked throughout the

night of great catastrophe unloading

Many workers relentlessly searched,

attempting to locate missing persons.

trucks of clothing and food.

When carloads of surrounding college

Mrs. Naomi Thalacker Vrhovnik

Vinton

than discouragement.

To the Editor:

young people.

will see them through difficult times.

build again."

The People's Forum

enrollment would deeply strain the district's financial resources at a time when growth-construction also once again imposes heavy new demands.

The ultimate question, this time or some other, thus becomes: Which has greater urgency - an updating of school facilities for children in the older areas where various deficiencies give them an educational exposure not up to par with others, or an expansion of space into newer areas where overcrowding in even some of the newest schools will put children there at a disadvantage if nothing is done to ease the pressure?

Again, there are no pat answers, no clear ways to tell when this building or that is over the hill and due for abandonment. But the school board's concern about this element of schoolhouse adequacy is timelier now than ever, and the matter needs a good hard look.

Some voices on the board suggest that not much has been done before because previous boards "never had the guts." What the problem needs, we think, is less an infusion of guts than a thorough assembly of facts: How certain olderschool areas might be combined or realigned with others; what the space needs under a replacement program really are; where these might be built; how much of the cost might be offset by a sale of older properties for something else: how all this could mesh with the rest of a new construction program.

When the public can look at the facts and appraise them in light of an over-all picture, a fair, intelligent course of action usually follows. It can again concerning worn-out public schools that ought to be retired.

for undetected dead and injured. A few

had a less adventurous job of comfort-

ing the bereaved and homeless. All, how-

ever, rolled up their sleeves and were

If stagnation of the race disturbs most

people as it does me-why can't we hear

of the other side of our juveniles? Most

of us are a little frightened when we as-

sociate words like "pot," "LSD,"

leaders. Is it conceivable that a few

news stories about the good instead of

the bad and ugly might lift old and young

out of the lethargy our nation is now wal-

Anything is worth a try. My favorite

saying is: "Hope springs eternal in the

human breast", or something like that.

Applauded

Congratulations to the many very ta-

lented people involved in the production

of "Camelot" given recently by Washing-

ton senior high school. It was a tremen-

dous display of excellent showmanship

Marilyn Wessale

Mrs. Gus Pesek

1530 Maplewood drive NE

633 Forty-second street NE

'speed," "the Pill," etc. with our future

full of cooperation.

lowing in?

To the Editor:

throughout.

Maynard Rebuilding



Peace Steps

Campaign Fund Source Probed

Wallace Set for June Pounce

By Marquis Childs

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Early in June the third man will stride onto the national stage, and his theme will be the deep discontents stirred by crime, violence, protest marches, student take-

George C. Wallace is convinced of a wave of reaction throughout America and he believes he will be on the crest of that wave in a position of power no matter what the outcome of the November

He has just come through the kind of happening that could only happen in America, perhaps only in the South. Denied a second term as governor when the legislature refused to vote a change in the state constitution. Wallace had his wife, Lurleen, elected governor by the largest majority in Alabama history.

Up from Poverty

Mrs. Wallace, who won wide respect for her quiet humanity, developed cancer and during much of the nearly 18 months she served as governor endured the ordeal of repeated hospitalization for X-ray and cobalt treatment. She died on May 7 and was given a state funeral with more flowers, so the official record is, than for any state funeral in this century.

That was the end for a simple woman, a southern lady who came from folks who were dirt poor as it is expressed here; not the poverty of lost status with the echo of former affluence as with Wallace himself, but dirt poor.



GEORGE WALLACE Middle mass targeted

Toward the end of her life Wallace suggested to her that he give up the struggle for the presidency. She replied, and this is certain in the weeks ahead to be an important part of the Wallace mystique, the Wallace legend, that he must go right ahead. Nothing must stop him because the people must have a choice and the two old parties would not give them a choice.

Since his wife's death Wallace has been in seclusion. But his organization has gone on gearing up for the national campaign to begin even before the two major parties hold their national conventions.

Besides enlarging existing headquarters in one of Montgomery's new office buildings, a whole building is to be renovated for an expanded staff.

His campaign manager, Bill Jones, says Wallace's name is already on the ballot in 22 or 23 states and he confidently predicts it will be on all 50 with the possible exception of one or two states, such as Ohio, where the law makes it extremely difficult for a third party candidate to qualify.

So far, according to Jones, the Wallace campaign has cost \$35 million. It will take up to another \$20 million before November. Where is the money coming from? A team of Wall Street Journal reporters is here trying thus far with little success to run down rumors of big money from the very rich.

Jones insists that most of the money comes in small amounts, averaging \$6,-000 a day, plus the returns from taped television appeals run around the country that at least pay their own way.

Wallace is confident he will get a sizable vote in northern states and most of this will come from the Democratic side. He believes, for example, that he will carry Indiana's northern industrial counties which Sen. Robert Kennedy swept in the Indiana primary.

He is also convinced that the candidates of the old-line parties cannot preempt his position which he sees as champion of the great middle mass in reaction against violence and upheaval. Richard Nixon's recent speech, blam-

ing the Johnson administration for the great increase in crime and joining in the demand for restrictions of the power of the supreme court, came close to the Wallace stand.

A teasing editorial in the Montgomery Advertiser, long a Wallace critic, quoted this paragraph from a campaign speech and asked who it sounded like:

Local Rights

"We can't have the federal government in here telling people what's good for them. I want to bring that control back to the localities so that people can decide for themselves what they think is best for themselves."

Wallace, the editorial noted, has said almost those exact words. But the speaker was Bobby Kennedy in Fort Wayne,

The track on the right is getting crowded. Wallace is sure he can outdenounce and outclaim anyone on that side, and his critics agree with that

program—if the 1939 state

legislature would decide

it wanted such a pro-

needs listed were those of

board of control institu-

tions and the proposed

Miss Verna Hanold of

Preston, member of Delta

Delta Delta sorority, was

named president of the

state office building.

10 - 20 - 30 This Day Years Ago

1958 A rumaway station wagon - its driver unconscious - careened wildly down Third enue SE then jumped the curb and slammed into a store front in the Higley building. The sidewalk was empty. The station wagon had collided with a city bus. The bus plowed into the side of the car. The impact threw the car driver to the floor under the dashboard, weighting down the accelerator.

Scharm Scheuerman, one of the coolest men in the clutch the late Bucky O'Connor ever coached, was named to succeed Bucky following approval of the University of Iowa athletic board, President Virgil Hancher and the board of trustees.

Judy Barkley, daughter of the O. K. Barkleys, and a Marion high school senior, was installed as worthy adviser of the Marion Rainbow Girls in the Masonic temple.

1948 Two thousand people watched as Miss Kathleen Robison of Cedar Rapids was crowned Queen of Coe at the annual campus May fete. Attending her were other candidates for the honor, Vivian Busby. Mardella Herman, Janet

Lehman and Helen Navratil.

A gift of \$10,000 was received by the May Music gram. Specific building Festival Endowment fund from an anonymous do-

Gov. N. G. 1938 Kreschel sought through messages to Sens. Gillette and Herring to put Iowa in line for PWA grants to finance a comprehensive state building

Coe college Women's Athletic Assn.

The Neighbors By George Clark



"I'm sure Dad's jogging exercise is good for him. But what's it going to do to the house?"

Poor Campers 'Pitiable'

By William S. White

WASHINGTON — Sad and slick are the words of plate and the same and the same are the same and the same are the the words of plain truth for the Poor People's march on Washington sad because the poor devils who put their trust in it are being shamefully exploited and slick because this is an exercise of brazen hucksterism from top

The very terms used by the Negro leadership of this affair are as sentimentally and bombastically fraudulent as the advertising slogans of the worst forms of television commercials.

Simple men and women and children whose poverty is real and grinding are being encouraged to suppose that somehow this melodramatic demonstration, with its "Resurrection City" and all that, can offer cures for all life's ills.

Oversimplified

Rarely have so many been promised so much that is so totally unattainable. For the declared and slickly grandiose aims of the leaders - a flat "end" to want, guaranteed incomes for everybody, and so on - are simply not to be had this side of some Utopia that can exist only in dreams.

This, in short, is the clearest illustration to date of a simplistic, evangelical approach to human deprivation, the approach alike of vote-catching white politicians and of a Negro leadership concerned most of all with its own status, that has so long cursed the civilrights movement in this country.

The real needs of the Negro race are not for some segregated pie in the sky, some kind of all-Negro rock candy mountain.

They are instead an unqualified and unterrified right to the ballot, which has in fact now largely been attained, and the reality of decent jobs which can only come generally when Negroes are better trained — and when the labor unions finally and truly cease the employment discriminations still so widely practiced more by them than by employers.

Nobody, white, black, brown, yellow or in between, can honestly be promised what the pathetic pilgrims now encamped along the Potomac have been promised by those who have brought them

Nor can or will any congress publicly bow to the kind of pressure that is being put upon the present congress by the

"Resurrection City." The net of it all will be that this congress will simply not legislate in this atmosphere, and would not even if the Negro demands were attainable in the first place. At length congress will pack

up and go home and that will be that. So it is that the Poor People's march must itself end at last in distillusionmen and perhaps in a destructive and mindless anger whose real, ultimate victims will, of course, be, as always, the black poor themselves.

White politicians who so tirelessly proclaim their own unique "compassion" for the black race are egging on this thing; and no matter what they may say. and no matter whether some or all of them are in fact "sincere" in their lights, the truth of it is this: The very last quality they are showing is that of honest and fruitful compassion.

Undeliverable

It is anything but compassionate to lead these enormously pitiable squatters in "Resurrection City" - and pitiable most of them surely are - to believe that somehow a life of total security without trial or struggle can be guaranteed to an undentably ill-used people by the high, demagogic rhetoric which is about all that really rises from that city that never was.

Some who walk along the encampment return only with fears that violence along the Potomac will be its result. This columnist, for one, returns not in fear but in pity, and, yes, in anger, that sophisticated men, white and black, are willing to do what they are doing to the truly poor devils of the Poor People's march.

For it is not so much black power that is on exhibition here. It is more a case of black pathos; and of wretchedness of body that must at last end in a wretchedness of spirit as well.

Survey Indicates Support from Unexpected Sources

Voters' Mood Looks Good for Kennedy in California

That is the conclusion that we drew after a full day recently in the Los Angeles area interviewing with Mrs. Beryl Winn, southern California supervisor for pollster Oliver Quayle.

Using a questionnaire prepared by Quayle, we found impressive Kennedy

Purposely, we interviewed no Negro or Mexican-American voters, who give Some even rummaged among the debris

in neighboring Ventura county.

Out of 46 registered Democratic voters interviewed, we found 15 for Kennedy, 12 for Sen. Eugene McCarthy, 8 for state Attorney General Thomas Lynch (who originally was entered as a standin for President Johnson), and 11 undecided.

Assuming that the undecided end up in the same proportions as the decided, that figures out to about 43 percent of the vote for Kennedy. If he actually runs that well in these kinds of neighborhoods, his statewide total may well surpass 50 percent - giving him strong momentum going into the Chicago convention.

ferent when we gave voters the choice of voting for Vice-president Hubert Humphrey. The results were Kennedy 16, McCarthy and Humphrey 11 each, and

What makes this remarkable is that the voters interviewed were hawkish on Vietnam, nearly half of them advocating military escalation to defeat the communists. Some of these hawks, while recognizing Kennedy as a dove, backed him for President anyway.

viewed who advocated unilateral withdrawal from Vietnam supported Mc-Carthy rather than Kennedy. In fact, Kennedy's support had much less to do with issues than McCarthy's and considerably more to do with charisma.

The wife of a union business agent, though favoring military escalation in Vietnam, likes Kennedy because he talks in a "more dynamic way." One retired salesman put it this way: "Kennedy has got what nobody else has."

But the resentment of many who won't vote for Kennedy runs so deeply that it seems unlikely that Kennedy can convert them by June 4 or, perhaps, even by Nov. 7 if he is nominated. His money, his family, his appearance and his personality ("Kennedy just gets too damn mean," one auto mechanic told us) all came under attack.

Humphrey's support appears mainly negative, coming from voters who could not abide Kennedy and did not have a clear image of McCarthy. Contrary to claims of great rank-and-file popularity here by Humphrey's political supporters. we found little enthusiasm for him among the voters interviewed.

More than half said they liked the vice-president less because he does not represent enough of a change from President Johnson.

It is part of Kennedy's good fortune here that the anti-Kennedy vote is divided between McCarthy and the Lynch delegation (with write-ins prohibited). Those who said they would vote for Lynch were generally conservative Democrats who wanted neither McCarthy nor Kennedy and will not back McCarthy as a stop-Kennedy ploy.

Many of them will likely end up voting Republican if Kennedy is nominated. But they do not seem to be numerous enough to stop Bobby Kennedy from winning a substantial California primary victory indispensable to his hopes for the nomination.

If indeed there is any good that could possibly come out of the Charles City disaster it is the kindness that is daily being shown by the many participating disaster workers. Little has been seen of any empathy toward fellow man in the

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

OS ANGELES - Despite deeply-held antagonism against him by a substantial body of rank-and-file California Democrats, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is in an excellent position for a big victory in the critical presidential primary here June 4.

strength — alongside bitter anti-Kennedy antagonism - in areas where he is not at his strongest.

Kennedy nearly blanket support here as elsewhere. Instead, we concentrated on neighborhoods with a strong anti-Kennedy potential: A lower-middle income section in East Los Angeles, a middle to upper-middle Jewish section on the edge of Beverly Hills, and a combined blue collar-white-collar suburban tract

Nor were the results markedly dif-

8 undecided.

A sizable majority of those inter-