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## Mississippi Notebook

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# MISSISSIPPI NOTEBOOK

By TOM ETHRIDGE



## A "Save Our Schools" Move Here?

"SAVE OUR SCHOOLS", an organized move which worked successfully for "peaceful integration" of public schools in Atlanta and elsewhere, is taking root in Jackson with organization proceeding quietly, according to our information.

Pro-integration publicity media supported Atlanta's "Save Our Schools" crusade. This drive reportedly united such groups as the League of Women Voters, YWCA, United Church Women, "liberal" PTA factions, mix-minded clergymen, etc.

Atlanta's highly emotionalized "S. O. S." crusade placed dramatic emphasis on the horrors of being without public schools, but conveniently ignored the undesirable aspects of compulsory integration.

Georgia's capital city won nationwide acclaim for the "peaceful" transition from segregated to integrated school facilities, with a lion's share of the "credit" going to the "Save Our Schools" leaders.

WHAT MAY or may not have

## Can't Win By Raising White Flag -

AN ADVANCE article on the local meeting said, quote: "The Mississippi Women's Cabinet of Public Affairs is made up of member organizations and interested individuals from the entire state. By constitution, it is charged with presenting information on timely matters of public concern and must offer all obtainable facts on any controversial topic."

But it appears, from press accounts, that no "obtainable facts" were offered except those calculated to sell the theme that integration is preferable to closing even one school. Tuesday's forum discussion panel might well have considered the bitter fruits of mixing in Washington, D. C., and suggested means of preventing a similar situation here if integration comes. Also, it would have been fair to bring out that closing one or two schools is far different from abolishing the entire school system.

RATHER ODDLY, although women's clubs usually have a keen appetite for publicity, published accounts of Tuesday's forum did not list those "member organizations" allegedly sponsoring the so-called Mississippi Women's Cabinet of Public Affairs. Normally, prominent mention is given organizations sponsoring statewide projects.

An element of bashfulness seems evident in this connection.

been the opening gun of a "Save Our Schools" campaign in Mississippi's capital city was the special program on education staged here Tuesday by the Mississippi Women's Cabinet of Public Affairs.

Employing the Atlanta "S. O. S." technique, this Jackson meeting featured a one-sided panel discussion by three speakers who emphasized the theme that our public schools must be kept open at all costs—even though integrated.

Few intelligent people quarrel with the idea that Mississippi cannot afford to abolish the public school system. It would be a catastrophe,—a lethal blow to progress and development.

On the other hand, we doubt if many Mississippians favor meek surrender as an alternative to friction or unpleasantness of any kind. In this crucial hour, our strategy should center on peaceful resistance rather than peaceful surrender which seemed to be the spirit of Tuesday's meeting.

Be that as it may, no group or responsible leader is demanding that public education be abolished or that violence be employed in dealing with our problems.

Nor is there public enthusiasm for the meek surrender favored by some, rather than endure any possible inconvenience.

Some among us take the position that we should give the integrationists written guarantees of what we will not do to preserve our system. Such guarantees would amount to telling the NAACP: "Just walk over us to your heart's desire."

That was the spirit of Atlanta's "Save Our Schools" pacifism which made it a jolly picnic for the mixing movement. However, we do not believe that meek surrender is the spirit of the Mississippi majority.

WHY GUARANTEE the mixers smooth sailing in waters they agitate? Why announce in advance just where we will stop in efforts to win?

Why not think in terms of peaceful resistance instead of peaceful surrender?

Why deliver our team signals to opposition quarterbacks and coaches just before the kickoff?

What victory was ever won by raising the white flag before the battle started?