

EDITORS CRITICIZE CRITIC—Grover Hall (right) editor of the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, and Jonathan Daniels (center), editor and publisher of the Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer, figuratively take an editor's pencil to a speech by author Russell Kirk (left), criticizing today's editorial pages.—Star Staff Photo.

School Integration Foes Increasing, Writers Hear

Opposition to the Supreme Court's decision on school segregation is great and in some areas it is growing, the National Conference of Editorial Writers was told today.

The organization, meeting at the Hotel Statler, was addressed by Don Shoemaker, executive director of the Southern Education Reporting Service. That organization, with headquarters at Nashville, is covering the reaction to the school integration order in the South for American newspapers. Mr. Shoemaker said it is doing the job "with blank-faced objectivity."

He said his organization has counted about 15 active pro-segregation groups in the Southern and border States.

He said the school picture in the South has "three major dimensions: the relative slowness of actual integration; the rising tide of opposition, and the new

era of lengthy litigation." As of last month, he continued, about 134,000 Negro children were attending schools which once were a part of all-white school systems. About half of these, he said, are in the District of Columbia.

D. C. Ratio Highest

He added that the District now has the highest Negro school population ratio of any large city in the Nation—63 per cent.

Mr. Shoemaker listed the States in opposition to the Supreme Court as Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia and perhaps Alabama. He said that policy and private opinion in these States are in favor of determined resistance.

"All five of them have armed themselves with weapons which they believe will fend off the Nine Old Men," he said.

He said perhaps the largest

pro-segregation movements is the Citizens' Councils, "which claim 60,000 members in Mississippi and are busy in Alabama, Louisiana and South Carolina."

He added:

"In Georgia the States Rights Council has assumed State-wide importance. The strongest sector of opposition is centered in the Federation for Constitutional Government. White America, Inc., is active in Arkansas. Virginia has its Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties.

"North Carolina has seen the organization of Patriots of North Carolina, Inc.

"A characteristic of many of these groups, though not of all of them, is that their leadership often is top-drawer and that they repeatedly renounce violence. Some frankly say they are exerting economic and other pressure on Negroes not to petition for compliance with the Supreme Court decision; others deny it. There are many verified instances of firing of individual Negroes."

Mr. Shoemaker said the ques-

Author Jostles Editors On Intellectual 'Decay'

A well-known author came before an assembly of editorial writers last night with the complaint that there is "a decay of intellectual powers" on editorial pages of the Nation's newspapers.

The editorial writers, some of them intellectuals in their own right, didn't take kindly to the criticism. A few, in fact, said that the speaker, author Russell Kirk, didn't know what he was talking about.

They are attending the National Conference of Editorial Writers at the Hotel Statler.

Mr. Kirk, author of "The Conservative Mind," deplored the passing of the typical editor of a century ago, who, he said, had gotten wisdom and virtue.

Jonathan Daniels, also an author, and also widely known, asked Mr. Kirk to name his favorite editor of a century ago.

Mr. Kirk pondered it a moment and came up with William Cullen

Bryant. Mr. Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer, pointed out that Bryant came later. Mr. Kirk didn't take it any further, so all agreed, in a friendly exchange, that Plato, who preceded Bryant, was a very accomplished editor.

Mr. Kirk said that this "decay" of intelligence in the ivory towers "is often in reason and knowledge, and therefore, in virtue, also." Because of the "decay" among his hosts, Mr. Kirk said that "the editorial page has lost its strength and virtue in this age of technology." He declared that the best way to deal with it is to confess its existence.

But the editorial writers weren't doing any confessing.

They wanted to know why a few people reading a few serious journals a century ago resulted in a better informed citizenry than that of today, when the literacy rate is much higher.

Mr. Kirk said that the increase in "popular literacy" has not increased interest in important books and magazines. The contrary is true, he maintained, and pointed to the thriving scandal magazines on the newstands today.

Court decisions he recommended that the editorial writers not rely on the summaries in news reports.

"Try to digest the case even though it means waiting until the full text of the opinion comes before you," he advised.

He said also that it would be good to avoid statistical analysis of judges' positions in terms of conservatism and liberalism.

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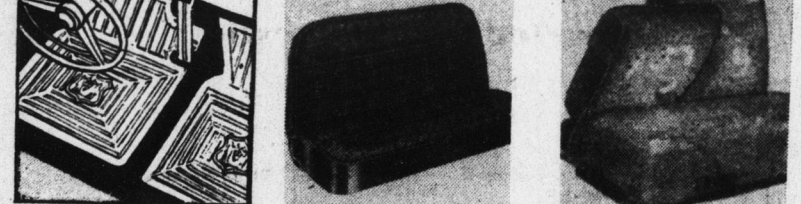
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