9-30-1962

Tuttle to City Desk, 30 September 1962

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Recommended Citation
Tuttle, (Unknown), "Tuttle to City Desk, 30 September 1962" (1962). Telegrams to Media Outlets. 64.
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/west_union_med/64

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Oxford, Miss---"The roots of the present go deep into the past."

This statement is the beginning and the end of the mississippian's segregation argument.

A full understanding of all that it means takes time; time to explain and time to understand. Mississippians generally feel they speak on deaf ears outside the south so what's the use.

But one man still wants to be heard. He is Phil Stone. Stone is a prominent mississippi lawyer. He has been a friend of governors and senators but most of all he was a life-long friend, advisor and critic of Nobel-prize winner William Faulkner.

Stone was Faulkner's model for the hero of "Intruder in the Dust" and other works. He is a rebel but not against the traditions of the old south and mississippi.

Stone supports Gov. Ross Barnett, even to the point of closing the university of mississippi before allowing Negro James Meredith to enter. But Stone does not hate the Negro. On the contrary, he and his wife, Emily, who teaches english at Ole Miss, have the classic paternal attitude toward the Negro.

"We have a saying for it," Stone said. "The white man without a Negro friend or the Negro without a white friend is best left alone. There is something wrong with that man."

Stone's office is tucked away beside Negro shops in Oxford. He has Negro clients. His home is less than two blocks from Freedman's Town, the Oxford negro section that grew up when slavery ended.

"I don't understand why the Negro can't be left the way he is, a kind and gentle and most of all happy race," Stone said. "He is making..."
progress on his own and pushing him the way the NAACP is only creates hatred and bitterness."

Stone said that until the past decade Negroes got a fair trial in Mississippi unless it involved physical attack on a white man.

"The white man had a hard time proving any other case against a Negro because white juries often felt the white man was trying to take advantage of him. That's the paternalism coming out. But now the situation is reversed," he said.

Stone does not believe that all men are created equal. He thinks Negroes have a high intelligence and ability but as a rule he feels their sociological development is far behind the white race.

"I wouldn't care too much if Meredith came to Ole Miss if I thought he was the only Negro who would be enrolled. But next year it will be 10 more. This is just the beginning and it must be stopped," he said.

Stone is convinced that integration will lead to intermarriage of the races and cites this as an aim of the NAACP.

Stone is as adamant on states rights as he is segregation.

"The 14th amendment was passed illegally in the first place by carpet baggers and illiterate Negroes," he said. "The supreme court has repeatedly refused to rule on that point. It is in clear conflict with many other amendments."

"You'll note that the supreme court's 1954 integration ruling has never been implemented. The proper way to get about that would be to let congress pass a constitutional amendment and then with ratification of three-fourths of the states it would become law."

Stone said three-fourths of the states would not approve an integration amendment so the federal government is forcing the decision on the states in violation of the constitution.

"They call it liberalism but it isn't," said Mrs. Stone. "The federal government is actually practicing the oldest form of slavery—the rule of man over man. Liberalism and democracy is the power of law over man."

"
"One trait of the southerner is he hates to be told what to do," said Stone. "You tell him one thing and he'll do just the opposite. If we were ordered to maintain segregation I'm sure we would integrate promptly."

The Stones are not still fighting the civil war but they are very conscious of the economic and social disorder that followed in its bloody wake.

"If the south had been left alone slavery would have been abolished," Stone said. "There were abolition societies all over the south. It simply was not economically feasible any longer and it was dying out."

"The white was stripped of all but the bare land after the war," Mrs. Stone said. "That's how tenant farming sprang up. The Negro had to unite with the landowner so both could survive."

Stone admires Abraham Lincoln.

"Lincoln knew the white race would have to dominate because the negro was incapable. It was a matter of necessity," Stone said.

"The negro is being hurled into equality and he just isn't ready for it," he said. "It is cruel and unjust. The north has persecuted the south for 100 years and it's getting old. It's time someone stood up and said we've had enough."

As Stone talks of the negro and Mississippi he tosses in stories of Bill Faulkner who grew up with him in Oxford.

"Bill was the greatest writer in American and one of the greatest in the world but he never wrote as well as he could have," Stone said. "And he didn't exaggerate in those stories. He toned them down if anything. That's just Mississippi. Some folks say it's not a state, it's a club and that's about right."

Bill Faulkner enjoyed riding and to hunt in the hills near Oxford, taking Highway 6 east of Oxford there is a grey fox beside the road. He is dead, too.
Bill Faulkner loved to ride and to hunt fox in the hills near Oxford. But now he is gone and only his magnificent work remains.

On Highway 6 east of Oxford, there is a gray fox lying on the small brown stones that cover the shoulder. He is dead, too.

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---Tuttle

Note Editors: I have been evicted from the Mansel Motel because it is being taken over by state troopers. Probably sleep in the car tonight but I can be reached at the Colonial Hotel thru Leon Danial of UPI or in Room 100. Judd Arnett is on the way up from Jackson and he can be reached there also.
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