

No Pardon

Governor James Hunt's decision not to pardon the Wilmington 10 stirs me, and I hope many others in the Seminary "community," to want to at least express disappointment at the decision. The fact that he felt obligated to reduce the sentence is an admittance, to me, that he really felt they innocent. He said on an NBC interview that he "thought the trial was fair." He never said that he felt they were guilty. A fair trial means nothing to those who remain convicted and imprisoned falsely. A fair trial should not be the basis for his objective look at the real evidence. A fair trial in a racist system only means that the rules of a racist society were followed in falsely convicting nine black and one white human beings.

The governor admitted that "tensions" were high during the 1960's and indicated that this might have affected the case in some way. This alone would suggest, to me, that there was no fair trial. It further suggests that those "tensions" apparently still exist in North Carolina and other parts of our country, leading to racist policies. I'm hoping and praying that this is not true of our Seminary "community" in terms of our feeling about this case.

Governor Hunt was asked in the same interview about his reasons for picking this particular case for such a decision, since there are obviously many more cases like this. He said the reason is because this particular case came across his desk or "came before him." Well, any of us could be governor if we only waited for things to come before us before we acted (the information was probably one-sided at best when it reached his desk). It shows that his months' of silence was a time of little or no concern for the lives of human beings.

Finally, he indicated that "the people of North Carolina will respect the process if not the decision." The "people", I'm sure, meant those in authority who could cause more "tension" if he had ruled otherwise. It obviously does not include the families of the convicted or the thousands of supporters in North Carolina or the millions of sympathizers around the country, or the support that the Christian Community of our country (especially the UCC) have given these 10 human beings. And I hope this list includes those of us here at Lancaster Seminary, faculty, staff, and students alike.

Ike McDonald

ACT!

**NOW!**

ACT!

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 SCC Constitution:

The proposed constitution was adopted in December and now is in effect. The copies of the proposed constitution can now be considered as copies of the SCC Constitution. Refer to them and familiarize yourself.

Reply:

I believe your assessment of Jim Hunt is quite accurate. Hunt is far from a Humanist. Hunt is a politician in the classical sense of the world's history. He wants to be governor and one of his first acts as governor was to propose a change in the N.C. Constitution. This change proposed is to allow a governor more than one term in office. Presently, a governor can only hold office one term. Hunt is motivated by politics, it seems to me, not service.

There is no question that Hunt's decision was politically based and not on the real facts. This is tragic to say the least. Only living in N.C. as I do and have for nineteen years can I say this with such surity. Hunt's entire campaign was run on issues of energy pricing, jobs, education, etc. and has done a good job of doing nothing on any of these issues. His entire attitude and emphases changed upon taking the oath of office. This is understandable to a degree, but not to the point he has taken it.

Although I dislike Hunt considerably, I must correct one notion of his "job." Hunt is governor, not a Supreme Court judge. His job is not to act as a judge. His job is only to review the cases which come across his desk.

The only reason that this case was Hunt's responsibility was because the case did come across his desk. Otherwise he should have kept hands off. Too bad he blew it though, when the case did arrive. As for other cases, he should keep his hands off until they too arrive at his desk. I am not paying Hunt to be a judge, but a governor. He's got a lot more than he can handle with that job.

This case cannot be allowed to rest at any expense. Pressure is still the word since justice seems to be a forgotten word. Letters can be addressed to: Governor James Hunt, Jr., The Governor's Mansion, Raleigh North Carolina 27610. Letters can also be sent to the Senators of North Carolina: Robert Morgan - D, or Jesse Helms - R. Letters can also be sent to the U.S. Representatives and to Jimmy himself. At this point Hunt is giving in to the people under him, to appease. Only when those 'over' him begin to make demands will Hunt ever listen. ...And Jimmy can do the job Hunt didn't.

The problem as I see it is still in the court system. Unfortunately, judges are elected and must make political decisions politically. Here lies an injustice in justice. Any judge who runs for office is elected because of peer support. Thus peer support becomes the norm for justice, not JUSTICE. Wilmington is located in one of the toughest racially hardened areas of the country and the judges from that area can only be peer minded rather than justice minded. Otherwise, they would not be elected. One of the problems of democracy which must be dealt with...

Al Mann