Dear Mama:

I reckon no one knows better than you that I spent twenty-one years in the public schools of Mississippi, having entered at the age of four and having stopped at the age of twenty-five.

But I was too . . . and I'm unhappy about it. I was the victim of "progressive education," a theory which has caused me great unrest, and is now causing me no end of unhappiness.

Well, at last the great light is shining, and I'm beginning to clear my thinking a bit. Praise God for the citizens' councils, and especially for their paper, February, 1957, in which they point the way to true happiness for a southern boy.

Their paper, Mama, carries a "Manual For Southerners," and I have long since been an advocate of such a publication. You remember last year when I got caught in that airplane with them Negroes? And I didn't know what to do, so upon returning home I suggested that the council of children put out a manual for fouled up Southerners such as me, you recall?

Well, it's here, and I'm so happy. Salvation at last! They said that "for too long Southern children have been "progressively educated" to scorn their origins and the reasons for our bi-racial society." And, Mama, the manual is to correct this blight from which we children of a dark age suffer. Praise the Lord!

The portion which appeared in the February, 1957 issue of the paper is for grades three and four. But, Mama, every adult SHOULD BE MADE TO READ IT! And especially those damnyankees ought to be made to read and understand it.

For your enlightenment I will quote a few excerpts from the Manual. Too, I will point out how much in error my "progressive" teachers were. I think the whole educational system should be investigated, and anyone disagreeing from the views stated in the manual should be fired. They are dangerous to formative minds. I know, as do all Southerners, that the best ONE way for us is not there is but ONE truth . . . there is but ONE way of life worthwhile . . . and that is ours!

From the Manual, Mama, from the Manual:

1. GOD MADE FOUR RACES

God made all of the people in the world. He made some of them white. He made some of them black. He made some of them...

The Manual then goes on to discuss the "Case of the Uncalled Quack" at Dillard University. The Manual concludes by saying that the children were approved for Aid to Dependent Children. Three reasons for such approval exceeded in number the unlisted homes reinstated by the County Boards of Public Welfare:

1. Southern children had lost income or other resources. 2. There were families with 2,281 children who had been living below the County Board's standards for long periods. 3. Some children were transferred from one county to another in order to avoid aid.

As contrasted with 3,300 cases approved for Aid to Dependent Children involving 10,346 children, the number of cases closed during the period represented 285 homes with 3,303 children. This recognition is indicated by the following figures: 3,114 children indicated above in suspensions because of expected changes in family make-up or employment are taken into consideration.

A COMMERCIAL: But let's call it —
A Note to the Reader

This is a commercial. This paper, in its fourth year now, has never designed an issue for subscription promotional purposes. This issue is so designed, and about 15,000 copies will be mailed out. You have one . . . this one.

Actually, as editor, I am not too sure as to how I should go about trying to induce you to subscribe to the paper. Perhaps you'll take time to read the editorial reprint on the other pages, as well as the full page on the back. Or, perhaps, you'd like to know something about the policy of the paper? On January 10th of this year I wrote the following for the column, East Side. Which appears on the front page of the paper each week:

At Dillard University

The Case Of The Uncalled Quack

(On Monday, March 11, the editor of this paper delivered the address that follows to an assembly of students at Dillard University, New Orleans, La. It was delivered in quiet desperation. The Editor.)

PRESIDENT DENT, DEAN GANDY, FACULTY MEMBERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT BODY:

On this day, my eight weeks ago, I received from Dean Gandy an invitation to speak here. Frankly, my first impulse was to decline as I have done on a few previous occasions.

That I did not decline is, of course, perfectly obvious. Though, the possibility does exist that we all would be better off had I declined.

The reasons I did not decline: this invitation, I feel I should tell you, as best I can, at any rate. I accepted this invitation because I have an obligation—to me it's an obligation I cannot ignore, not even if I wanted and tried to. I am obligated to one person, and perhaps, in the final analysis the view I take is a selfish one. Even so, I think you'll agree that selfishness, such as one feels toward his own child, is permissible. This invitation was accepted by me because of the realization of the fact that to my daughter, who is just four years old, I am deeply and eternally, and I might add, gratefully, obligated.

The thought process by which I reached such a conclusion is of no great importance. Perhaps, as I said, it's just plain selfishness. But I will add this in my own defense, just a few other factors were involved. . . . but the final obligation remained the same.

Going quite briefly into the thought process, provided that what was true in the fact that my grandfather died, to fulfill his obligation to his father, I don't have to fulfill the obligation to be here today. Going further, had my own father seen fit to have fulfilled his obligation to me, the chances are I'd not be writing this.

One man told the story of a small Negro boy who'd seem to come into a grocery store and ask for a ten-cent piece of salt meat. According to the narrator, the clerk in the store had said to the boy, "Well, boy, for a dime you can smell the knife cut salt meat with!"

This story brought a thunderous amount of laughter in my Mother's house . . . and I was ashamed. Most ashamed. I didn't know why. And to this very day I'm not sure that I could explain my shame. I just left the room . . . I left without saying a word. As I recall, I was about seven years old.

During this same period of my childhood, I had a friend at one of the camps in which I lived. He was my favorite playmate, and about my own age, but he had one drawback. . . . it was later before . . . became aware of the drawback from which he suffered. Because of the accident of birth which caused my friend, Tee, to be colored, it was understood that I was not able to play with him. Everyone seems to have understood it . . . except me. I am honest in saying that such an idea never once crossed my mind.

There were some things which I failed to understand. And at the age of seven or eight, my limited ability to reason was even less than it is today. I could never get into my mind why Tee couldn't charge a nickel's worth of candy at the store to his daddy if I could charge candy to my daddy. I didn't do much thinking about it. . . I could charge candy . . . so I did. I would buy a dime's worth, give half of it to Tee, which to me, seemed a fair thing to do for a friend. True, I bought the candy and shared with Tee as I would expect him to share with me, but the situation had been reversed.

C. P. Neanderthal

Neanderthal To Seek Seat In U.S. Senate

(From Jan. 10, 1957 Issue)

Corpoise P Neanderthal, above an outstanding Mississippian, has announced that in 1906 he will be a candidate for the seat in the United States Senate now held by James O. Eastland.

Corpoise said his complete platform will follow at a later date. In the meantime, he said, "I would like to point out that I was, as much as the present choice of the people of Mississippi.

Neanderthal is a seasoned politician, having served several terms as a Justice of the Peace. He is a graduate of Mississippi College, and has never ticketed basketball.

Baslard Situation Is Reported Better By Welfare Department

Figures made available from the State Department of Public Welfare are sometimes capable of being misconstrued and receive elaboration or correction.

Recent accounts in the press to the effect that an estimated 5,000 illegitimate children have been reinstated to the welfare rolls presents a case in point. From the low of 33,568 children receiving Aid to Dependent Children as of June 30, 1956, to the 36,712 children receiving such aid as of January 1, 1957, there is indicated an increase of 2,144 children receiving assistance. The deduction that this represents an increase of 1,500 illegitimate children is in error. The fact is that in the period covered only 540 children were in the 175 homes determined by the County Boards of Public Welfare to be suitable and that these figures INCLUDED ALL ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN REINSTATED.

In the period June 30, 1956, to January 1, 1957, a total of 3,303 families were transferred from one county to another in order to avoid aid.

Contrasted with 3,300 cases approved for Aid to Dependent Children involving 10,346 children, the number of cases closed during the period represented 285 homes with 3,303 children. This recognition is indicated by the following figures: 3,114 children indicated above in suspensions because of expected changes in family make-up or employment are taken into consideration.