

Because a recent front-page article of the Albany Journal gives you the feel of sitting in on a States Rights Council meeting, we are reproducing it in full. Mr. Burgamy is the solicitor general of our judicial circuit court, and is the "friend of the court" whom Judge Cleveland Rees appointed to "look into the law" concerning the injunction suit still pending against Koinonia. From his speech, we gather that the law which he recommends for Koinonia is "a buggy whip."

SOLICITOR ASKS REVIVAL OF KKK AT STATES RIGHTS MEET HERE

The Dougherty County Chapter of the States' Rights Council met at 8 o'clock Tuesday night in the Dougherty County Courthouse, to hear Solicitor General Charles Burgamy of Americus, Georgia, tell the gathering of approximately 200 persons, that he favored a return to the Ku Klux Klan.

"Not the Klan that has gotten all this publicity for beating folks who didn't deserve it, but the kind of a Klan that we had back in the old days to do the work that was needed," he said.

Mr. Burgamy talked for approximately 1 hour, strongly attacking integration and race mixing. At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Burgamy said, "Maybe that's what we need now is for the right kind of a Klan to start up again and use a buggy whip on some of these race mixers. I believe that would stop them."

The States' Righters applauded Mr. Burgamy during the evening's speech-making, particularly in reference to the Klan and also when he said, "I don't know how they feel about it down here in Dougherty County, but I had rather see my little boy dead than sit beside a Negro in the public schools."

Considerable time was allocated to a discussion of admitting Negroes to the bar for practice in Georgia. Solicitor Burgamy related an instance in Sumter County where a well-educated Negro sought admittance to the bar but was rejected even though two Sumter County attorneys recommended in writing that he be admitted for practice.

Mr. Burgamy told his audience that eventually the Negro was told, "This is white man's county here, now if you want to practice law you might find it a whole lot easier in some place like Atlanta."

Mr. Burgamy said that after this incident, there had been no more difficulty about Negro attorneys.

Solicitor Burgamy said: "I have to try Negroes in our courts and they have no morals and no character. When they get in trouble it is never a Negro who puts up the money that gets them out, it is always a white man."

Someone in the audience posed the question to Mr. Burgamy: "Don't we have a Negro practicing law in Dougherty County?"

Mr. Burgamy replied: "I've heard that there is."

Names were disclosed when a States Righter stated that C. B. King, a Negro, was currently practicing law in Dougherty County after having been duly admitted to the bar. There were cries of "Who approved him?" And somebody mentioned the fact that Representative Jim Denson who was in the audience, was qualified to take over the discussion from that point on.

Mr. Denson rose to his feet and told the group that his opponent in the current race for state senator, attorney Asa Kelley Jr., had signed a statement, now in the public records, vouching for King's character and ability as an attorney.

Mr. Denson said that he heard that Mr. Kelley denied signing such a document and that he, Mr. Denson, had at his own expense, photographed the document in the file at the Dougherty County Courthouse.

On demands from the States Righters, Mr. Denson produced several photographic copies of the document.

Another focal point of discussion was recent dynamiting of the Koinonia Egg Farm near Americus.

Solicitor Burgamy said that he did not know the identity of the persons who perpetrated the bombing, but that they were Sumter County people.

Mr. Burgamy also intimated that it was possible for the participants in the farm's cooperative and racially mixed agricultural program to have planted the bomb as a means of gaining sympathy and public attention.

The Koinonia Farm was identified as an 1100 acre tract maintaining modern farm machinery and advocating the mixing of Negro and white races in a socialistic farm enterprise. Negro and white families were reported living and working side by side and mixing socially.

The chief functionary of the farm was a man identified as a Mr. Jordan who was reportedly Georgia born and educated.

At the close of the meeting an Albany States Righter told the Journal that after the bombing he had gone to inspect the farm and interview Mr. and Mrs. Jordan. He stated that he asked Mrs. Jordan who she thought had planted the dynamite.

"Someone who doesn't share our views," she was reported as answering.

In an effort to calm the local situation by presenting a true picture of Koinonia, we recently ran another ad in the Americus Times-Recorder. A copy of it follows.

WHAT IS "KOINONIA"

Sound like Greek to you? Well, you're right. Pronounced Koin-oh-NEE-ah, it occurs frequently throughout the New Testament, which was written in the Greek language. It means "a fellowship or a community." The early church was sometimes called a "koinonia."

That's what Koinonia Farm seeks to be today. Actually, it is a church - a LOCAL church. On Sundays, as well as on nearly every week-day, we meet together for worship, Bible study, and prayer.

Before coming to Koinonia more than half the men here were ministers. Will Wittkamper put in over 30 years of service in the Disciples of Christ Church. J. B. Webster was a Methodist minister for 40 years. Harry Atkinson, a native of North Carolina, graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. Norman Long, a Virginian, is an alumnus of Colgate Rochester Seminary. Clarence Jordan, a native Georgian, graduated at the Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and was a Southern Baptist missionary for 4 years. Conrad Browne, son of a prominent Baptist executive, graduated from Chicago Divinity School, and Chris Drescher was a Pentecostal preacher.

Though they were not ministers, Howard Johnson and Gilbert Butler, both Alabamians, were very active in religious work while they were students at Auburn. One summer Howard was sent by Southern Baptists as a missionary to Hawaii. John Eustice was recreational director of a children's home.

Now we have all come together here, seeking to walk in God's ways and to worship Him according to the dictates of our conscience. It was for this reason also that our forefathers came to America. For this reason General Oglethorpe and his little band of ex-prisoners settled in Georgia.

It is true that a few of our beliefs differ from those held by some people in this section. But the right to differ is a precious American heritage. The Fathers of this nation, coming from countries where religious differences were not tolerated, sought to preserve and perpetuate their new-found liberty by writing into the Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

We pledge ourselves to respect the rights of those who differ with us. We believe the citizens of this county will give us the same consideration.

- from all of us at Koinonia

We received many favorable comments on this type of approach. Also, a day or two later, another ad appeared in the Times-Recorder, which we thought might interest you.

ABOUT KOINONIA

If the advertisement appearing in the Times-Recorder last Wednesday under the title "What is Koinonia" was an attempt to make the good people of Sumter County sway from their way of thinking or bow their heads in shame, then I am sure I speak for the masses when I say the result was not reached.

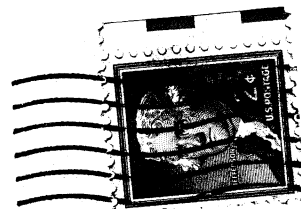
Frankly, I think all of the county citizens respect one's Christian views and the Constitution, but when the methods pose as a detriment to these very ideals, then it is certainly wrong.

In the statement by Koinonia they admit that "a few of our beliefs differ from those held by some people in this section." This is quite an understatement for it is these "few points" which make for the entire rejection of Koinonia.

I personally can never accept such teachings, just as I am sure the majority of the other Sumter County citizens cannot, and for one I would welcome Koinonia's moving to a place well above the Mason-Dixon Line. If I know that I were living in an area where the bulk of the people did not want me you can be sure I would move away.

(Signed) BILL PITTMAN

That's all for now. All of us are well and in good spirits, thanks to your many good letters of encouragement. God is moving. The victory is His.



Mr. & Mrs. O. K. Armstrong

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Spartanburg,

S. C.