

Front Royal, Va.
April 4, 1959

Hon. J. Lindsay Almond, Jr.
Governor
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Honorable Almond:

May I apologize for the letter I wrote you some months ago? It was needlessly harsh and insulting.

Since you have demonstrated quite another angle, one infinitely better, I apologize and ask you to point out to the State Legislature that the "massive resistance" attitude must be further abandoned.

The issue isn't to find a path which can technically evade the Constitution of the United States and that of Virginia and permit the maximum degree of segregation. The issue is to allow the greatest degree of desegregation without sacrificing to too abrupt change. Segregation, racial or class, is out-moded.

The pressure of present day world events is carrying on now for the inalienable rights of man where Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and others dropped the ball, to be run back by the Southern slave holders. They are carrying on the fight Lincoln fought before the assassin's bullet stopped his career.

If we cannot find that leadership in Virginia, we will have to yield to the Federal Government. Or, if it fails - which it will not - by the newly arising underprivileged races of the rest of the world. The latter will be in the form of World War III and certainly will be a stiff penalty for our failure.

But just now our greatest need is for Virginians of vision and integrity to find a way for Virginians - as well as an example for the rest of the southeastern States.

You have made a step forward - please go on from there.

Sincerely,

John G. Bowman
John G. Bowman

P. S. This is an open letter which will go to various members of the General Assembly and newspapers.

J.G.B.