

## PATTERSON WILL LEARN NEGRO IS NOT SCARED

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If it were not so fraught with danger to the United States, the extended effort of new Alabama Governor John Patterson to frighten the Negro citizens of his state would be laughable. He evidently has not heard the story about the young Negro man from his state, who after valiant service overseas in World War II, went back to Alabama to visit his mother. After the joyous welcome and exchanges between the battle-scarred war veteran and his family, the mother asked her son what was the most lasting impression which his service to his country had left upon him. The son replied: "Ma-ma, I'm not scared anymore."

It is really tragic for the South and for the nation that so many of the die-hard segregationists still believe that Negroes can be frightened by threats and forebodings, just because they come from the mouths of white segregationists. They still think of a stereotyped Negro, who existed mostly in their minds in years gone by and who has now completely vanished, never to return again.

Isn't it pathetic for a young governor, after refusing to recognize Alabama's Negro citizens in any way in his inaugural ceremonies, to appeal to those Negro citizens "to turn against the agitators of your own race whose aim is to destroy our school system." Whose school system?

The unequal, segregated school system for Negroes in Alabama and in the rest of the segregation states does not belong to Negroes. It is a system set up by segregationists like John Patterson for the express and only purpose of preventing Negroes from becoming as well or as broadly educated as white people, and thus to be more easily kept down and cheated out of the fruits of American citizenship.

Listen to some more from John Patterson: "If you do not do so, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Charles Gomillion), (that is turn against their leadership, in a short time you will have no public school system at all."

To these threats the courageous and self-reliant new Negro asks Governor Patterson, "So what?" This new Negro knows that it is better in 1959 to run the risk of losing an inferior, unequal segregated school such as Governor Patterson mistakenly believes Negroes love, in order to wage the struggle for completely equal educational opportunities in a desegregated system, such as called for by the Supreme Court of the United States.

No, Governor Patterson, you do not move the Negroes of 1959 by dangling before them the inequality and inferiority of an outdated segregated school system. And besides, the Negro of 1959 isn't scared any more.



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