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May 23, 1960

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Issac S. London, Editor
The Rockingham Post-Dispatch
Rockingham, North Carolina

Dear Mr. London:

You neither talk nor write too much. I only wish there were more editors--and good citizens--like you.

I know all four of the candidates personally, and like them. However, I genuinely resent the dishonest characterizations that have been made of Dr. Lake. All four of the Democratic candidates are gentlemen; all four of them are honest--even though I disagree with the philosophy of one or two of them.

But, for the newspapers to quote Dr. Lake out of context, to make him appear to be a demagogue, sets me afire. He has never said nor implied that he would close the schools; it must be remembered that Beverly Lake has more of an educational background than all of his opponents put together. He was a law professor for 18 years; his father was a college professor before him.

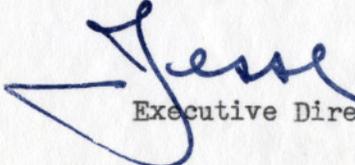
Moreover, even if Dr. Lake wanted to close the schools, he couldn't--thanks to the Pearsall Plan which he helped write. Dr. Lake wrote the pupil assignment law which all of us are bragging so mightily about.

The News and Observer and others are trying to mislead the people, just as they tried to do in the Graham-Smith race of 1950.

In connection with your comments about the preachers, I am enclosing a copy of a television broadcast I did in March on this subject. Several hundred copies of this were mailed out at the request of listeners who wrote to me or the station.

Kindest personal regards always.

Cordially,


Executive Director

Jesse Helms:am
Enclosure