

"Integration with Dignity" — subtitled "The inside story of how South Carolina kept the Peace" — is the title of an article in the March 16 issue of the Saturday Evening Post in which freelance writer George McMillan of Aiken details the events that led up to the peaceful integration of Harvey Gantt at Clemson.

Mr. McMillan describes the story as beginning July 1, 1961, when former Sen. Charles E. Daniel of Greenville, speaking at the Hampton Watermelon Festival, said, "The desegregation issue cannot continue to be hidden behind the door."

(Under his picture, it is said, Daniel "played the first card in the conspiracy for peace.")

Daniel had "joined the ranks of a handful of shrewd, influential and determined men who, in that summer of 1961, pledged themselves to see to it that Clemson stayed open and unharmed, even if it had to integrate."

"The little group," the article said, included beside him:

**LOOSE COALITION**

"Robert Edwards, Clemson's president, a hard-driving textile executive who had been brought to Clemson originally as vice president in charge of development; Edgar Brown, (erroneously identified as) chairman of Clemson's board of trustees (he is a life member, but not chairman), state senator from Barnwell County, president pro tempore of the state senate and the Daddy Rabbit of South Carolina politics; John K. Cauthen, executive vice president of the South Carolina Textile Manufacturers Association and the most skillful lobbyist in the state; Ernest F. Hollings, the handsome young governor of the state, who was making new industry the focus of his administration's effort; Wayne Freeman, editor of The Greenville News and one of the five nonlegislative members of the Gressette Committee, the state's clearinghouse for racial problems, named for State Senator Marion Gressette."

"It was a loose, informal coalition; the five men never met as a group," the article says, but there was an understanding among them that each would do what he could in "whatever way he thought best to fulfill their common intention."

Cauthen is given a lion's role in the behind-the-scenes "talking around" with and about "an important body of opinion in the state and firmly believed in law and order at all costs."

The article says Hollings briefed Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy on the plan and got a promise from him that marshals would not be sent to Clemson.

McMillan said the state's top textile executives, the state bankers and broadcasters associ-

ations, and a group of 70 businessmen issued statements calling for law and order.

"Nowhere in the South in the recent history of racial change had the business community taken such a strong stand in advance," McMillan said.

The article noted that newspapers throughout the state sounded a call for law and order.

"The opposition was caught flatfooted," the writer said. "The kind of people who might favor making a 'protest' had taken it for granted that everyone in South Carolina would agree with them when the time came. They were not organized, not prepared."

Harry Walker, legal aide to Gov. Hollings and now Greenville city recorder, and J. P. Strom, head of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, were given credit for drawing up a security plan for Clemson along "guidelines" suggested by Hollings.

The students and faculty and sheriffs were all briefed, medical and fire equipment was readied, law enforcement photographers were to be on campus to record the activity and the pre-arranged plan told law enforcement officers to "tolerate verbal abuse or similar harassment . . . but, when faced with violation of the law, to perform duties with efficiency and dispatch." Arrangements were made for a central command post to coordinate all activity on the day Gantt enrolled.

**GOVERNOR SUPPORTED**

Strategy also called for formal public announcements on the day of Gantt's enrollment by Gov. Donald Russell, State Sen. Marion Gressette, and Clemson President Edwards. Supporting the gov-

ernor's position that "we shall meet and solve this problem peaceably, without violence."

The security plan was "probably the most complete and carefully thought-out one ever drawn up in the United States to meet the threat of racial violence," the article says.

At another point it says Gantt's routine for the day "has been scheduled with the precision of an astronaut shot."

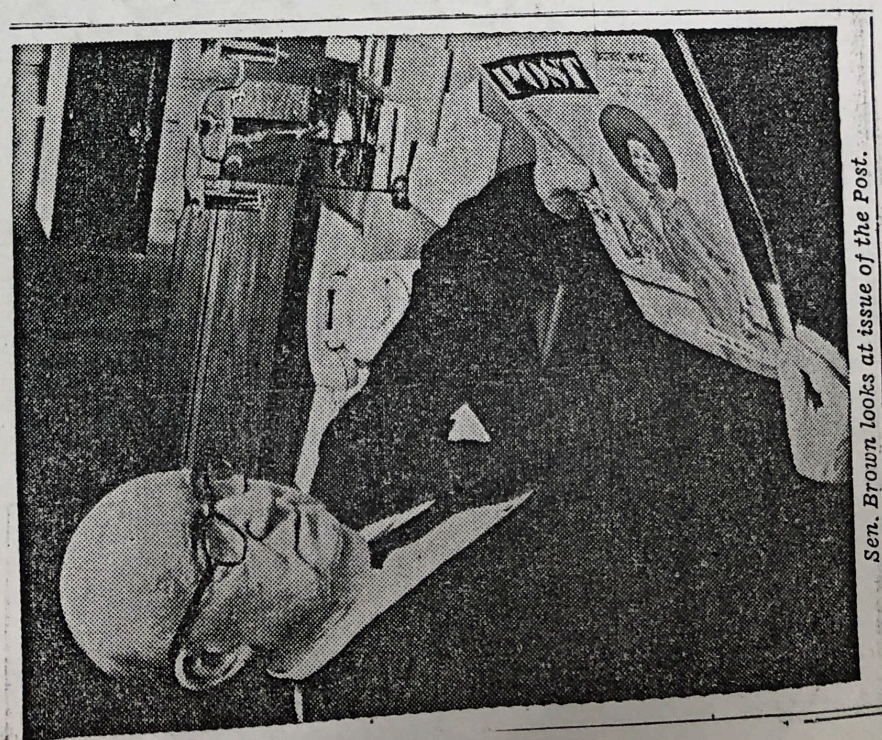
Speaking of the coverage of his arrival and first day, "it was one of those moments when the paraphernalia of coverage overwhelms the event. It was excitement without substance."

The article is an interesting account of how the state's leaders faced the desegregation crisis. And it is also one of the very few times the South, and South Carolina, have appeared in any national publication with any favorable light.

Mr. McMillan traces the entire series of events and movements accurately, even to the day the Capitol press corps was kept hurrying from press conference to press conference held with only a 30-minute leeway by the governor, the Gressette committee, and finally Dr. Edwards.

The Post tops it off with an editorial in which it notes "South Carolina's peaceful integration of Harvey Gantt at Clemson College is, we believe, worthy of the highest praise. It was possible only because responsible men in South Carolina — political leaders, officials at Clemson and the business community — had the vision to realize that resistance could only lead to violence, humiliation and loss of economic opportunity." — JW, Hos.

*In Saturday Evening Post*  
**South Carolina Praised For Way Gantt Was Enrolled At Clemson**



Sen. Brown looks at issue of the Post.