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The Showdown In Little Rock

The violence that finally drove President Eisenhower into dispatching troops to Little Rock, was obviously aided and abetted by the Arkansas governor's actions and words. The mob had his endorsement and spiritual blessings. Faubus's repeated warning that trouble would develop, had the ring not of prophecy, but of evil incantation. It was a wish borne out of a conspiratorial design well plotted in advance.

The situation had become a source of mounting embarr: sment to the Administration in Washington. Mr. Eisenhower could no longer ignore the chorus of indignant voices raised against those who were flouting the law, nor could he continue to allow the threat to his Constitutional authority to go forever unchallenged.

For better or for worse, the crisis has reached the flood-tide where not only the fate of integration will be determined, but also the right of central government to uphold the Constitution. It is a pity that the White House did not deem it proper to assert its authority a bit sooner.

Most important, however, than the assessment of responsibilities, is the return of the Negro children to the Central High school. Though they had to enter their classes under the protection of bayonets and guns, it is nevertheless a victory not only for those who believe in the constitution and in law and order, but also for those who believe in the sanctity of elementary human rights.

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