

*Pogo*'s attention to the third of the "problem" topics, Southern segregation policies, evolved in a gradual way during the late 1950s. In 1957, following the turmoil surrounding the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, Kelly decided to approach the issue within the strip. The confrontation that had unfolded between the governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, and the Federal government's court-ordered integration plan led finally to President Eisenhower's use of troops to enforce the law and to keep order. In the following year *Pogo* began to include references to the policies of some Southern states, such as Virginia and Arkansas, to frustrate any further desegregation by using the method of "massive resistance." This concept would close the schools of an area for all students if threatened with imminent enrollment of blacks (Jarvis, 1998: 87; Kelly, 1959: 259-261). Kelly, in a later observation, critiqued this tactic in Arkansas:

Governor Faubus, running as courageously as a mine sweeper through a field of explosives laid down by himself, had decided to close the schools of Little Rock. He spearheaded a series of strange actions in parts of our country and the exquisite lunacy of these made us international clowns. (Kelly, 1959: 256)

In response, the *Pogo* strip began running a series on school closings, one that suggested the need to open "speakeasy schools" "wherever public education had been "prohibited." Some Southern editors were not impressed. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in November of 1958 dropped the strip while this topic was discussed. Other papers edited the copy to avoid the subject (Jarvis, 1998: 87; Kelly, 1959: 257). In a later article Kelly commented about an unnamed editor's reaction to this issue,

A few of the ideas expressed in the following strips were padlocked and bombed by the able editor of a Southern newspaper who felt that such affronts to states rights as he saw in the balloons were more than his hot Ohio blood could stand. He did what he could to improve the strips, making them funnier by changing the wording, but being a Merrie-Andrew is not an easy task for the editorial mind. He finally decided to suspend *Pogo* and relegated him to the woodshed until