



C. P. Ellis was born in Durham and has spent his life here. For the past five years he has been employed as a nonacademic employee at Duke University in the maintenance department. He is a member of Freewell Baptist Church, a

member of the Citizen's Council of America, and president of Unit no. 9, United Klans of America. Ellis now serves as co-chairman, along with Mrs. Ann Atwater, on the Save Our Schools Charrette Committee.

C. T.: How did you begin your involvement with the Klan?

Ellis: Several years ago when there were many riots in our country, I became concerned with the situations of violence. I operated a service station at that time, and over a period of several evenings some men came by and begin talking to me about joining. I felt this was a chance to do something constructive.

C. T.: What is your personal philosophy concerning the Klan? I don't mean the Klan charter, but rather your own feelings.

Ellis: The Klan is afraternal order as is the Masons or any other of several groups in the country. I feel I have an opportunity to defeat a communists conspiracy using the blacks of our country to accomplish its plans.

C. T.: Do you really believe there is a communists conspiracy? Ellis: Yes, I do.

C. T.: What would be your ideal educational and working relationships with blacks?

Ellis: I believe in separate but equal educational facilities. As concerning working conditions, I believe in equal opportunities but no special privileges. We are moving in to a field where special opportunities are being given to blacks and I feel this is wrong. Its like discrimination in re-

C. T.: What about the stories of the old Klan? Its Lynchings, beatings, etc.?

Ellis: I don't know anything about them, Since I have been with the Durham unit we have never been ordered to particifeel that if these acts did take place, they weredue to the individuals and not to the Klan as an organized unit. I do not believe in cross-burnings or secret phone calls. I believe if you have something to say, you should say it openly. C. T.: How did you become involved with the Save Our Schools Charrette?

Ellis: Garland Keith asked me to attend the first meeting at the YMCA. I didn't know anything about it, except that it concerned our schools, until I got there.

C. T.: Have you had any reactions from working on this committee with Mrs. Atwater? Ellis: The reactions have not been pleasant from the white community. People have asked me, "Since when did you go to work for blacks and liberals?". and "Are you still working for the whites?" They can't seem to understand that as long as we back off from these types of meetings, we'll never have a voice in the community.

C. T.: What is your purpose in the S.O.S. Charrette? Ellis: I feel I have an oppor-

tunity to be a part of an overall community program. To do something constructive instead of standing back and screaming and hollering. C. T.: How do you feel about

working with "blacks and liberals" on this project? Ellis: I can't understand the blacks, their attitudes. I lived three week-ends in a public housing community. The conditions were horrible. From Friday night until Monday most of the tennants were

drunk. I don't understand it. I've been listening to some theories about the lack of a give as much as we'd like to future for blacks. Maybe this feed other people, but we hurt is the reason. If I thought I just the same. would never have any more than I do today I might do the same thing.

Since I have been on this project I have really had my eyes opened. I have worked with blacks and liberals, that before, I would not have spoken to. Now, I have seen them work their hearts out and put all they have into this project. I have to admire that.

Another point is that I was shocked to read in the paper about the sixty children near starvation in the Hayti area of Durham. I didn't know this. I have never seen starvation and can't imagine a child going hungry.

My wife and I have a blind, retarded boy in Murdock Center. It takes all we can earn to keep going. We can't

C. T.: What would you like to see come out of the Charrette?

Ellis: I would like to see the citizens, once again, have a say-so in our school system. No one is happy with our schools, black or white. I hope H.E.W. will be at the meetings to hear the talk of our citi-

I believe we can come to a

better understanding between the races. The time is here to cooperate in many fields, particularly politics. Our city is run by "cliques". We elect our representatives but we don't have much of a choice and when one of the representatives steps down from this clique of people must be

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1971

both black and white?

Ellis: If it would be constructive, I most certainly would.

THE CAROLINA TROES-74

C. T.: Do you think you would of publicity. Maybe she and I be willing to work with another committee of "blacks and working together, make it sort liberals" concerning children

We have got to make the community aware that they will never accomplish anything I don't want to be used. I if they sit back and do not feel some times that Mrs. At- take part in any community water and myself have been

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