

## EDITORIALS & COMMENT

### Parents Can Help Children Read At Home And At School

With the opening of many schools this season, it is suggested that parents can help their children in reading and in many other areas. Usually, the pre-school child chatters about many things and they ask lots of questions about things that are seen, heard or even imagined.

Mom and Dad are the children's first teachers. It is suggested then that a primary job, and it should be begun before children start to school—is to create the kind of home atmosphere that encourages a real desire to learn and a genuine pleasure in seeking new information. Try to expose them to as many areas of interest as possible.

In creating a home atmosphere for learning include the child in the family activities from his earliest days. As one shares the family chores let Mary or Johnnie assist you with them. A simple task of washing dishes can be fun if it is shared with them. What a wonderful way to teach table setting and manners at an early age as he seeks to place knives, forks, and spoons in the proper positions. Talk about the television shows that he or she likes. This builds up valuable vocabulary and assists him or her to express themselves in understandable language. Communication is important and children must be able to express themselves as they go about the task of living, whether at home, in pre school and in later school years.

It is important also to help children to do things at home that he

may later do in school. Teach them to listen attentively, even for a short while. Encourage them to follow directions; to wait for his or her turn, to share equipment and especially to pick up after himself. A teacher must help many children and by learning to listen, to wait his turn, and pick up after himself develop qualities necessary for the cooperative endeavors used in school and in later life.

Parents can also talk with the children as to what he or she can expect in school. In the language of youngsters, he must familiarize himself with what is commonly called the "ropes" and most parents can help the child or children.

A final note and this is truly important. Children most of the time model themselves after what they see in the parents. Your own attitudes will have a great deal to do with the success of the child in school. Encourage him and praise him for his accomplishments. This will develop his feeling of worth and the idea that he too, can contribute to the total family picture. As you see, his such reading help will and can develop good communication and the skill of expression, vocal as well as building of good vocabularies from the cooperative and shared efforts of parents. Further, this will greatly instill in them the ability to cope with many interests, since he can express himself.

This is what will build the needed confidence of the daily situations both now and later.

### County Commissioner Spaulding's Resignation

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONER SPAULDING'S RESIGNATION

Asa T. Spaulding, the first black elected to the Durham County Commissioner's Board, has resigned from that position and it will certainly be a loss to Durham and the community at large.

We regret that he will be leaving, however we wish him only the best as he continues his other services to people.

Spaulding took his public services seriously and gave forth great efforts in his work with the commissioners. The mere fact that he was the front runner in the primary election attests to the great feeling of service rendered by him to our community.

In taking a position with the Urban National Corporation, an investment firm that "was created

for the purpose of accelerating the growth and development of variable minority businesses," Spaulding will still be rendering valuable services. His well known business expertise with North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, as its president and other areas of business interests as well as his known community services will offer much as he seeks to still be of service. Spaulding also stands "tall" at the national levels as well for he has served as presidential appointee to the national wage and price advisory board as well as serving on numerous university boards across the country.

Again, we wish Spaulding much success as he continues to render services for the improvement of all citizens.

### The Republican Convention

NOBODY—but nobody—can justly say that the recent Republican National Convention at Miami Beach was taken over or dominated by blacks, or young people, or women. The GOP extravaganza was strictly in tune with white middle- and upper-class America.

It was a lavish television spectacular, produced in the best Madison Avenue tradition. Its schedule was followed precisely according to script; its setting—complete with banners and balloons—was most striking, especially to viewers with color television. The production, designed for prime-time video, was strictly professional and the best that money could buy. The only flaw was the rank amateurism on the part of some of those in the cast.

The star of the show—and let's make that crystal clear—was PRES-

IDENT RICHARD M. NIXON. Coming on strong in a supporting role was VICE PRESIDENT SPIRO T. AGNEW. Both gave superb performances. The rest of the performers did not seem to come through as well.

Take U. S. SENATOR EDWARD W. BROOKE, R-Mass., for instance. As

one of the three keynote speakers, he was the only black on the opening program. Obviously looking around for something nice to say about the Republican Administration, SEN. BROOKE chose safe ground in the area of foreign affairs. His speech was comparatively brief and precise. He did not seem to be happy in his role.

Unsung heroes of the convention were the 138 black delegates and alternates scattered around among the 1,348 total delegates and dignitaries in the huge convention hall.

### Things You Should Know



**Ebenezer D. BASSETT...**

...THE RECONSTRUCTION ACT OF 1867

AND THE 14th AMENDMENT, 1868, GUARANTEED

CIVIL RIGHTS TO FREEDMEN. BASSETT, A RE-

CONSTRUCTION LEADER, WHO STUDIED CLAS-

SICS, MATH & GEN. LIT. AT YALE & GRADUATED

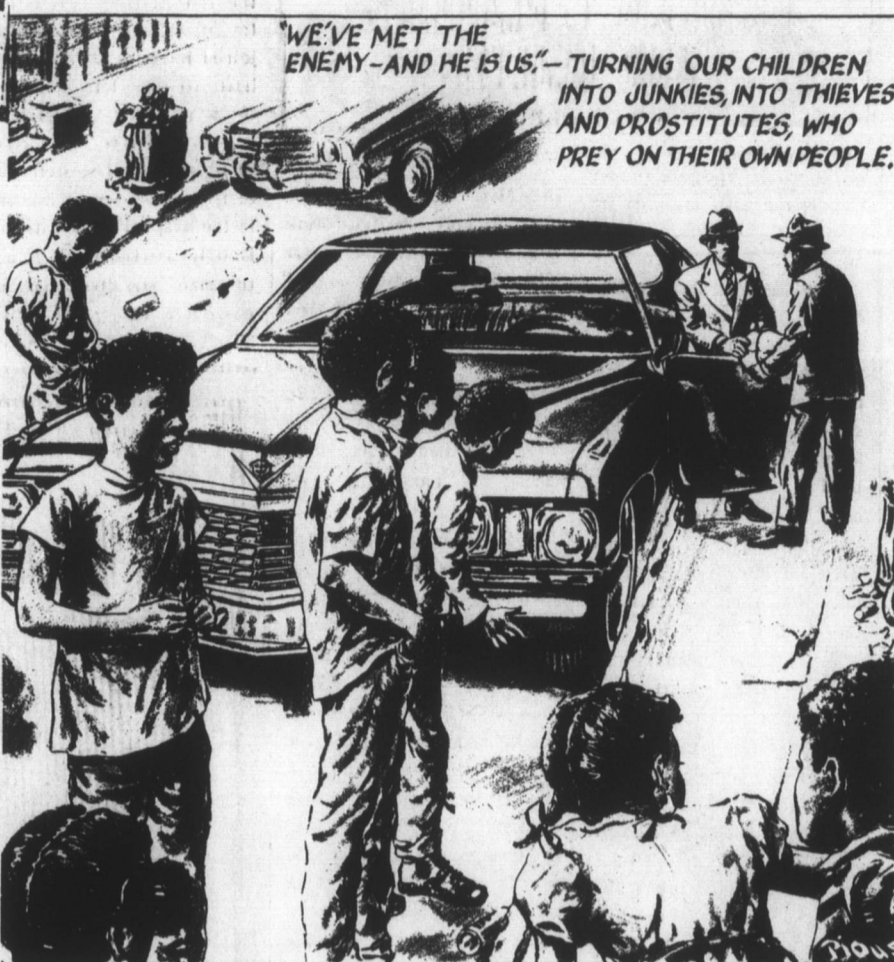
FROM BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY & CONN. STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,

WAS APPOINTED U.S. MINISTER TO HAITI / BETTER HOUSING

CAME YEARS LATER, EXAMPLE: HARLEM RIVER HOUSES, JUNE 16, 1937!

CONTINENTAL FEATURES

### THE MAJOR CAUSE OF THE CRIME PROBLEM IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY



### Exponent Of African Culture

Mr. Olatunji (of Nigeria who says that he has been in and out of the United States more than 22 years) is a graduate of Morehouse college in Atlanta where he received his BA in Business Administration, his major, and Sociology and Political Science, his minors.

Olatunji is an exponent of authentic African Black Culture in the area of music, dance, art and sculpture. He is a lecturer and writer with impressive credentials. He is the co-author of a book "The Music Instruments of Africa—Their Nature and Use" Published by John Day Publishing Company of New York.

He has recorded 6 albums on traditional African music; 5 for Columbia and 1 for Roulette. He has written and narrated 8 thirty minute documentaries on the subject of black heritage for CBS Television. He wrote most of the background music for Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in The Sun."

He opened the first order for the teaching and the promotion of African culture in 1966 in Harlem. From this Center a teaching program on black aesthetics which is now being offered as a course in many colleges and universities, was developed.

He has now followed this up with a teachers training program designed to instruct both white and black teachers on how to teach a black studies course in the nation's schools.

Olatunji feels very strongly that in order to change anything at all in the present system the curriculum in the nation's schools must be altered. The alterations must be designed to acquaint the nation's children with the blacks, who they are and where they came from.

Such a course is needed by black children, contends Olatunji to bring back pride in their past. Black youngsters need to know that our people have history and traditions of which we can justly be proud. Self-pride and identity will make them better and richer citizens of the United States.

The black study programs of today, which deal only with the black man in America and ignore his beginnings, are not only ineffective but do far more harm than good. He contends that Africa is the black man's beginning and it is there that he must start and then branch out if he is to gain an adequate understanding of himself and why he is the way he is. The black American experience is indeed, unique but it cannot be fully understood and appreciated apart from his African beginnings.

An appreciation of Africa and its role of supplier of the world's resources needs to be understood today by the black youngster so that when he picks up a Hershey Bar or a bottle of Coco Cola at the local store he can identify with it knowing that its basic ingredients came from his father land.

Olatunji is at pains to stress that he is not advocating a back to Africa movement far from it. He feels that self-pride and identity will make the black man a better and richer citizen of the United States when he can identify with the heritage of two continents.

- Congressman
- Hawkins'
- Column
- By REP. AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS

### Busing: One Method

PERHAPS one of the most important issues confronting the current Congress is the busing of school children to achieve equality of educational opportunity. The U. S. Supreme Court issued a mandate in the Brown vs. Topeka case of school segregation to the effect that equality of educational opportunity does not exist where segregated schools exist. The U. S. Congress is today debating busing as one of the techniques for desegregation of our schools. I favor busing as one of the techniques to be utilized to gain equality of educational opportunity and a true quality education.

I have recently entered some remarks into the Congressional Record relative to busing. They were entered during the debate on busing:

"Mr. Chairman, certainly in this debate busing is not the issue. I know of no one who simply advocates busing as such, and I think that the division in this House is not between those who are opposed to busing but those who oppose constitutional rights and those supporting our Constitution. Education often requires that some children be bused, and I am of the opinion that those who have been strongly opposed to busing would go along with that particular finding.

#### Most Pupils Use Buses

"Over 60 per cent of the children of this Nation are bused, and I see no prohibition in this bill that would prevent these children from being bused. It is only with respect to busing for school desegregation that the issue is raised. This constitutes less than 3 per cent of those who are being bused so that the issue boils down to that of 3 per cent.

"Busing for the purpose of achieving racial balance, despite what has been said by some of the previous speakers, is not and never has been required by the courts. I would submit that those, including the chairman of the Rules Committee, who are so concerned about the distance the children are being bused, that they are suggesting that children in the rural areas who necessarily are being bused are necessarily therefore receiving an inferior education. If so, then half the children in America are receiving an inferior education, and that kind of education should be declared unconstitutional.

"The issue really is equal rights. This question of constitutional rights cannot be brushed aside so easily by this Congress as it has been in the action by the Rules Committee and in the action by those sponsoring this legislation if their efforts were to succeed.

#### Can Demand Equal Treatment

"I think it should be remembered we are not dealing with the elite private schools but we are dealing with public tax-supported schools, and all who pay taxes can demand equal treatment, and those who do not want to give this equal treatment but to use the schools for their individual uses certainly stand against the decision of Brown in 1954.

"But quite apart from the constitutional issue, there are several issues it seems to me that are present in this bill which perhaps are just as serious.

"First. Those advocating this bill are in opposition to have respect for law and order which in my opinion is just as important in the classroom as it is on the street. By this legislation we are condoning school officials who have deliberately violated the law, and we are now not only going to condone but also to reward them. It seems strange a group pledged to uphold the respect for law and order would encourage those who would advocate lawlessness by condoning public officials who have deliberately violated the constitutional mandates.

"Second. This legislation is in direct contravention to the principle of States rights, and the concept of home rule, and even of the President's policy as he enunciated it a few months ago of returning power to the people in local communities. Yet in this proposal we intend to lodge more power at the Federal level and in effect make the Federal Government a Federal school board which is going to intervene in the policies and practices of local school boards and tell them what to do.

"Third. It creates a fiscal deadlock. Something has been said about the money which this bill allocates. It merely juggles money which was appropriated in other bills and allocates it for purposes in this bill, money which will be expended whether this bill becomes an act or not.

## To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

BUSING ISSUE A THREAT

To what extent will busing become a major issue in the 1972 election campaign? Some people suggest that since court-ordered busing for purposes of desegregation affect a very small number of people and communities, it may play a far smaller role in the campaign than the headlines indicate.

Others say that the issue touches an exposed nerve of the electorate and is bound to be a key issue once the campaign heats up. While only relatively few cities are immediately affected, they argue, the issue hits on basic racial attitudes in such a way that it is bound to increase in intensity by fall.

Basically, this comes down to a question of political strategy, but there are others who view the issue as one of morality and as a threat to racial peace and progress. They make a persuasive case for the removal of the busing issue from the political campaign scene.

This argument is founded on several key points. First, the busing issue is one that could be exploited by demagogues to heat up anti-black sentiments and thus shatter the very shaky racial peace that exists. If busing becomes an issue that splits the electorate into pro- and anti-busing camps, the result would be further fragmentation of our society and greater irrationality, all at the very moment when the country is crying for unity and thoughtfulness.

A look at who is bused and for what purpose reveals that barely three percent of the nation's twenty million children who are now bused to school are bused for reasons of desegregation. So the case against "massive busing" is really dependent on distortion of the facts and the manipulation of ill-founded fears and mythical stereotypes. These have no place in a campaign in which people should make rational choices of leadership.

Still another argument given by those who would like to see a moratorium on the busing issue is that busing is a question of constitutional rights. The courts have ruled that segregation is unconstitutional and that busing is one acceptable means of desegregating the schools.

So a political campaign is not a place in which people's constitutional rights should be argued. Debates on whether a segment of the population should or should not enjoy rights granted by the constitution to all, are legally and morally demeaning and have no place in an atmosphere so charged with emotion as an election campaign.

Further, the issue is one for the courts. An election is not the place for a referendum on constitutional rights. The Constitution reserves these issues for the courts. Making busing a political hot potato undercuts the authority of the courts and, ultimately, the whole governmental process.

The foes of busing are launching an attack on the guarantees of the Fourteenth Amendment, and insofar as they have been successful, they have undermined much of the progress achieved so far. The prospect that the busing issue is a wedge to deprive black citizens of other recently-won rights is yet another reason advanced for neutralizing it in the campaign.

The prospect is excellent that the onslaught against busing will be followed with attempts to suspend other constitutional rights of black people. If the right to equal educational opportunity is successfully attacked, how long will it be before the right to vote becomes a target? Rights related to housing, jobs, and access to public places will then be ripe for rollback and the country could well find itself in a system of institutionalized apartheid, with all the implications for internal disruption and bloodshed that implies.

So many people are coming to the conclusion that busing must be removed from the super-heated political arena this important election year. There is ample precedent for this view. During World War II and in the decade following it, both parties decided that politics stops at the "water's edge" and agreed to remove foreign policy from the campaign arena because divisive debate might weaken the country's position in a tense international situation. The same good sense seemed called for in relation to busing.

### Do's And Don'ts



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