



# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNDECEDED

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## Words of Wisdom

The strongest man on earth is he who stands most alone.  
—Henrik Ibsen

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## Dr. Brooks: Success Or Failure?

(This is the first in a series of articles which we hope will shed some light on the public school situation in Durham and evoke some serious dialogue among those concerned with the education of all of our children.)

Our daily newspapers have been filled with much information and criticism of the Durham City School Board particularly since that Board decided not to renew the contract of Superintendent Ben T. Brooks.

Various headlines used the terms "fired" and "given the ax". These terms, in the case of Dr. Brooks, seem to us to be disturbingly misleading. Dr. Brooks was neither "fired" nor "axed". Dr. Brooks was simply not rehired. The Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which is responsible for much of the phrasing in the School Law of North Carolina, in its publication *School Law: Cases and Materials*, by Robert E. Phay, clearly states the following in regard to renewal of school personnel contracts:

Courts have held "... there is no constitutional requirement of disclosure of reasons or a hearing to challenge those reasons. If the board is not required to give a reason for nonrenewal, it is not required to produce substantial evidence to support its reason." In criticizing the board for its action, numerous articles have suggested that its reasons had to be racial reasons — for the

school board, as now constituted, is four blacks and one white. If the board had resorted to racism, in its decision not to rehire Dr. Brooks, it would have been doing what black folk had learned from the functioning of all-white and majority white boards historically and would be no better than they. And we contend that this present school board knows some things it has not publicized.

Dr. Brooks has done many good things during his administration. His judgment in some others is questionable. Since the good things have been thoroughly discussed, let us consider the other side of the coin.

Let us consider, in this first installment, the item which has been publicized as Dr. Brooks' big success — the Right to Read Program.

Since the supposedly successful Right to Read Program was showcased at W.G. Pearson Elementary School, compare the results of the Prescriptive Reading Inventory (test), Spring, 1978, used to evaluate progress of Right to Read and other pupils:

1. Pearson's First Grade averaged 2.2 grade equivalent (second grade, two months) while a non-participating (in the Right to Read) school first graders averaged 2.4 (second grade, four months) grade equivalent.

2. Pearson's Second Grade averaged 2.2 grade equivalent (zero progress — same as grade one) while that same non-participating school second graders averaged 3.1

grade equivalent (third grade, one month).

3. Pearson's Third Grade averaged 2.7 (second grade, seven months) while another non-participating school third graders averaged 3.3 (third grade, three months).

These data suggest that it took two years for the average Right to Read pupil to achieve five months of success in reading.

Since reading is basic to academic achievement, what is to happen with these children who were "guinea pigs" in this reading experiment and have already fallen behind? What provisions have been made for them to catch up to grade level?

What is the legal liability of the school board and the superintendent if this experiment is allowed to

continue? Did Dr. Brooks heed, or better yet seek, the criticisms of parents, teachers and administrators who long ago assessed the program as nonproductive? Did the progress reports given to parents actually reflect the lack of reading achievement of Right to Read pupils as compared to the achievement of pupils in regular classes? What happened to those first graders who gained two years, two months in the first grade and experienced no gain in the second grade? What happened? Was there something in the Right to Read program which crushed their motivation to learn or dulled their enthusiasm?

We are talking about children who can least afford to waste time in school.

Has Right to Read really been the success it purports to be? Has Dr. Brooks really been concerned about all of the children in the Durham City Schools? You be the judge.

Next week, we will delve into another area of concern.

JOIN THE  
NAACP  
TODAY!

## Problems in Desegregation 25 Years Since Court Declared Separate Schools Unequal

(No. 1 of 3-PART SERIES)

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Institute for Southern Studies released on Wednesday a 160-page report documenting the progress and continuing problems in school desegregation in the 25 years since the U.S. Supreme Court declared separate schools "inherently unequal" in the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of May 17, 1954.

Julian Bond, the Institute's president, said the report "provides an essential foundation for any assessment of what these last 25 years have meant for bringing justice to our school system."

While noting the success of integration "in mixing bodies inside school buildings," particularly in the South, Bond said that many problems remain — including discrimination against minority teachers which cost them over \$3 billion each year in lost teachers' pay.

He said that the 11-state South now has a more integrated school system than the rest of the nation. According to the latest data (1976), the portion of minority students enrolled in schools that are 99-100% minority is 12% in the South, 17% in the nation as a whole, and 31% in six industrialized Northern states (Ill., Ind., Mich., N.Y., Ohio, Pa.). This is a change from 1968 when the figures were

75% in the 11-state South, 53% in the nation, and 36% in the six industrialized Northern states.

"The biggest failure of school integration has been in the urban centers of the North," said Bond. "Since Richard Nixon changed the courageous Warren Court that gave us *Brown* to the cautious Burger Court that gave us *Bakke*, the federal government has made a hasty and undignified withdrawal from its role

as protector of the poor and of equal educational rights."

The report, entitled *JUST SCHOOLS*, is published as an issue of the Institute's award-winning quarterly journal, *Southern Exposure*, which is based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. (Two months ago, *Southern Exposure* received the 1979 George Polk Award for its record of distinguished regional reporting.)

JUST SCHOOLS pro- Continued on page 17

## Lovett Not Sure If He Will Seek Democratic Chairmanship

By Pat Bryant  
Democratic Party Chairman Willie Lovett isn't sure if he will seek reelection to the county party's top post, but says he'll make a decision later in the week. Lovett is the third black to serve as chairman since the party's conservative wing was voted out of control in 1968.

"There is some information out there, there is still some mulling that I need to do before I make a decision," said Lovett Monday.

Conservatives, bitter over being out of power for those eleven years, have been busily organizing, attempting to take over enough precincts to "weasel" power from

blacks and progressive whites. Widespread claims that conservatives have enough power are not clear, Lovett says, indicating that all of the precinct reports are not in.

Meanwhile, conservatives have been sounding possible choices to run for the chairmanship, but published reports indicate uncertainty about who is going to run. Attorney James Hendrick and Duke University alumni affairs director Paul Vick are frequently discussed. Published reports quoted sources close to Vick this week saying the Duke staffer, reportedly a confidant to Duke President Terry Sanford, has been chosen by

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Dick Gregory  
Congratulates  
Peace Corps  
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dick Gregory (center), well-known comedian and civil and human rights activist, congratulates Richard F. Celeste (left), new director of the Peace Corps. John Lewis (right), ACTION's director of domestic operations, also congratulates Celeste, whose appointment by President Carter was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

"In all my associations with Dick Celeste, I found him to be honest and sensitive to many problems that exist in the world today," said Gregory. "I strongly urge all people to consider joining and being a part of the Peace Corps and VISTA."

## NAACP Annual Freedom Day Celebration "Mother Of The Year" Contest Slated For Memorial Aud.

CHARLOTTE — The North Carolina State Conference of Branches, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will sponsor its Annual Freedom Day Celebration and "Mother of the Year" Contest Sunday, May 20, in the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, 3:30 p.m.

The Guest Speaker will be Richard E. Barber, NAACP National Deputy Executive Director of New York City.

Barber is the son of a Trenton, N.C. farmer. His determined efforts through undergraduate school at North Carolina A&T State University with a B.S. degree in Physics and graduate school at the University of Southern California with a M.S. degree in Systems Management, with additional work at the University of Pittsburgh; has earned him numerous awards, accolades, and also the reputation of having that unusual combination of sensitivity and courage.

His concern for others and a strong personal desire to improve the liv-

ing conditions of the poor and downtrodden serve as the great motivating forces in his life. These forces prompted him to give up a promising career

with Westinghouse Electric Company in 1969 and to utilize his talents in the black community. He resigned Westinghouse Continued on page 11

## Emergency Relief Funds Going to Flood Victims

In effect to aid flood stricken victims in Mississippi, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has begun awarding NAACP Emergency Relief Fund checks to those families who were struck the hardest. The payments were announced by the organization's Executive Director, Benjamin L. Hooks, who is in the state this week to personally assess the amount of damage, and to personally supervise the processing of the relief funds.

Hooks said, "Even though the NAACP is presently in a serious financial crisis of its own," he had "instructed the Association's Comptroller to release the

money anyway. We'll worry about where to get the cash for future salaries and expenses later."

In addition to Hooks being in Jackson, Mississippi, W.C. Patton the recently retired Director of Voter Education is serving as coordinator for the project, along with the President of the Jackson branch, Fred L. Banks. Hooks told members of the area that, "even though most of the people affected by the damage are not Black, the NAACP is firmly committed to helping each and everyone of those whose property has been damaged — or whose ability to lead a normal decent life has been severely handicapped."

## NCCU Professor Reports Blacks Moving South

More black people are moving to the Southern States now than are leaving for the Northeastern and North Central areas, a North Carolina Central University sociologist reports.

Dr. Isaac Robinson of North Carolina Central University's department of sociology told scholars at the recent Annual Urban Studies Conference at the University of North Carolina system that the migration of blacks into the South is apparently a "reversal of the Great Northern Migration: which began in 1910.

The "Great Northern Migration" was at its height between 1910 and 1930, although it is considered to have continued until 1960. The number of blacks in the Northern States doubled between the 1910 census and the 1930 census, and more than 75 per cent of the increase was the result of blacks mov-

ing from the South.

Labor agents scoured the Southern countryside in that period to recruit workers for Northern industry. In February, 1917, a Pittsburgh coal company paid \$4,491.95 for a special train which carried 191 black migrants from Bessemer, Ala., to Pittsburgh.

At the same time, such black newspapers as the *Chicago Defender* (the largest such newspaper were in Northern or Middle Atlantic states) encouraged black migration from the South. The papers told of job opportunities, improved social conditions, and of individual "success" stories. Headlines equated the departure from the South with the flight from Egypt — the Exodus.

Estimates of the numbers of blacks who left the South ranged from 500,000 to one million, Robinson reported.

Until 1970, census reports and population studies reflected a continued trend out of the South for black Americans, Robinson told the other scholars at the conference. By this time the black populations of the major cities were vast.

New York had 1.5 million black residents in 1970, Chicago had 1.5 million, and Philadelphia had 700,000. Washington was 68 per cent black in 1970, Detroit 47 per cent black, Baltimore 45 per cent black, and St. Louis 46 per cent black.

During the past two decades, Robinson reported, whites began to leave the Northern industrial region. The wealth of that region began to be reduced. Between 1960 and 1975, the Northeastern region actually showed a 13.7 per cent decrease in manufacturing employment, Robinson reported.

By 1978, Business Week was

reporting that "The per capita income of Charlotte, N.C. — has exceeded that of New York City."

With the increase of wealth and industrial opportunity in the South came a gradual slowing of the black migration from the South. Between 1960 and 1968 the number of blacks moving to the North was two-thirds greater than the number moving to the South but by 1970 the movement had slowed so that the out-migrants outnumbered the in-migrants only by a 3-2 ratio.

In 1974, the Bureau of Census "Current Population Reports" showed that 241,000 blacks had moved from the South since 1970, but 276,000 had moved to the South.

"This small but historically significant net in-migration to the South represents the beginning of a reversal in a pattern of out-migration that extends back to the

pre-Civil War era," Robinson said.

The trend continued, according to "Current Population Reports," whose 1978 figures showed 270,000 blacks moving to the South between 1975 and 1978. They met 244,000 leaving the South for the North and the West.

Robinson suggested that a number of trends may have affected the reversal. "The successes of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and the ensuing legislation in the areas of voters' rights, school desegregation, and discrimination in employment have been accompanied by economic growth in the South," he said.

Robinson cited a "Black Enterprise" magazine report which indicated that in January of 1979 the proportion of minority-owned and minority-operated business and industrial firms outside the industrial North was sixty per cent.

Three-fifths of the black elected officials in the United States live in the South, Robinson reported (1,500 of 2,500).

"The population of blacks now moving into the south tends to be typical of the population that left during the period of the 'Great Northern Migration.'"

(Gary S.) Strangler and his co-workers report that these new black migrants tend to be well-educated young professionals seeking job opportunities in their areas of training. For this group of blacks, the South may become the "new promised land" of opportunity and upward mobility," Robinson said.

"On the other hand," he warned, "a heavy in-migration of unskilled and uneducated blacks to urban areas in the South could lead to a duplication of urban patterns in the North."