

EDITORIALS

'You're A Part Of The Solution, Or You're A Part Of The Problem'

THE VIEWS OF THE WRITER'S ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE PAPER'S

From THE CHARLOTTE POST

School Desegregation In Retrospect

By Gerald O. Johnson,
Post Staff Writer

In a recent Press release by the Southern Regional Council Statistics were used to refute the widely held belief that desegregation is a failure.

The report entitled, "School Desegregation: A report card from the South," examines in detail the school desegregation experience in five southern cities and looks briefly at what has happened in six others. Mr. John Egerton was the principal author of the report.

The school systems examined in detail were the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; Williamsburg County, South Carolina; Clark

County (Athens), Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Hillsborough County (Tampa), Florida; and Anniston, Alabama.

The brief reports came from reporters in Anniston, Alabama; Austin, Texas; Bogalusa, Louisiana; Nashville (Davidson County), Tennessee; Norfolk, Virginia; and Meridan, Mississippi.

The report emphasizes that the South still has problems related to school desegregation, but it has made vast progress. Moreover, since heavy opposition has risen against the implementation of school desegregation in the North, the South's progress is threatened.

Included in the report are preliminary results of opinion surveys conducted by the Institute For Social Research at Florida State University and the Southern Regional Council.

The survey was to determine school principals and superintendents' opinions on how desegregation has worked in their districts.

Following are some of the results of the survey.

When asked "How, if at all, desegregation had interrupted the educational process?" the officials answered: (1) Superintendents; 36 percent said no interruptions, 54 percent said minimum interruptions, and 10 percent said very disruptive. (2) Principals; 30 percent said no interruptions, 61 percent said minimum interruptions, and 9 percent said very disruptive.

When asked "Had desegregation affected white enrollment?" the officials answered: (1) Superintendents; 22 percent said large numbers had left the school system, 74 percent said there was no noticeable difference, and 4 percent said it resulted in white flight. (2) Principals; 13 percent said desegregation brought withdrawals of large numbers of whites 82 percent said there was no noticeable difference

and 5 percent said it resulted in white flight.

When asked "How has the quality of education been affected by school desegregation?" the officials answered: (1) Superintendents; 54 percent said the quality is better, 36 percent said it was

same, and 10 percent said it was worse, since desegregation. (2) Principals; 42 percent said it was better 34 percent said it was the same, and 24 percent said it was worse since desegregation.

Finally, when asked about the long term effects of school desegregation in the communities served by the schools, the officials answered: (1) Superintendents; 45 percent said it had had a positive effect, 45 percent said it had had no effect either way and 10 percent said it had had a negative effect. (2) Principals; 46 percent said it had had no effect either way, and 10 percent said it had had a negative effect.

Similar attitudes were concluded from a similar survey administered to more than 500 individuals in the region including teachers, students, and elected officials.

An interesting part of this survey revealed that 73 percent of those surveyed felt that busing had been a positive experience and only 19 percent felt it to be a negative experience.

In the report, Mr. Egerton, in referring to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, writes, "After years of turmoil, Charlotte today seems to be at least resigned to and at most comfortable with a state of affairs that few cities have fully experienced: STABILITY, PROGRESS, BUSING, AND RACIAL BALANCE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS."

Well, as I see it the report is a clear indication that by all people working together for a common goal school desegregation can and does work. Of course there will be problems but currently anti-busing foes are blowing the problems out of proportion.

Politicians are using this issue as a campaign item causing another conflict. It is ironic that in a world where the only thing constant is change people constantly resist change. Even when the change could be for the better.

There is no fear in my mind that the anti-desegregation movement will get enough momentum to overturn the achievements made by those communities working diligently to do what is right for all people.

There is disgust in my heart, however, that the forces of anti-desegregation will delay strides of progress that could be already taking place.

I do feel fortunate, though, that I happen to live in a rather progressive City... Charlotte.

Ten years ago the nation turned against the South's segregation policies and forced them to be where they are today. It is now time for the South to turn against the nation's segregation policies in hopes of forcing them into realization of where they could be tomorrow.

ALTHOUGH THE EDITORIALS WRITTEN IN THIS NEWSPAPER ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE THE ONLY ANSWERS TO THE PROBLEMS AND CONDITIONS EXPRESSED, SOME PERSONS MAY STILL DISAGREE WITH THESE THOUGHTS, BECAUSE OF THIS, THE NEWSPAPER EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO ANY RESPONSIBLE PERSON WHO WISHES TO REFUTE THESE EXPRESSIONS TO DO SO, AND FREE AND EQUAL SPACE WILL BE PROVIDED.

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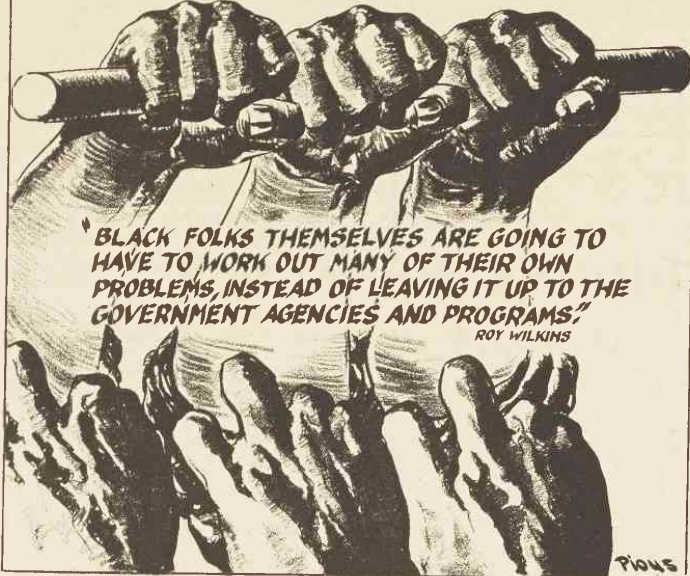
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BLACK AMERICA ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES



"BLACK FOLKS THEMSELVES ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK OUT MANY OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, INSTEAD OF LEAVING IT UP TO THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS."
ROY WILKINS

TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Executive Director of the National Urban League

Coining New Racial Code Words

Jimmy Carter's remarks about "ethnic purity" have disturbed a lot of people, including myself, but the rush of politicians to denounce the phrase isn't very encouraging since their basic positions on integrated housing are pretty much the same as Carter's.

Senator Henry Jackson leaped on the Carter statement with a strong one of his own, but he is the same candidate who threw a cloud over his historic support for civil rights measures by making busing a campaign issue.

And Representative Udall's criticism of the Carter statement didn't include a positive stance on what strategies to take to grant blacks and other minorities equal opportunities in housing.

Finally, President Ford told a press conference he didn't like the term "ethnic purity" and then proceeded to laud America's "ethnic heritage," saying that it is "a great treasure of this country and I don't think that federal action should be used to destroy that ethnic treasure."

So what else is new? The result of this flap over words is that no one has really committed himself to integrated housing and everyone has discovered a new racial code word.

Politicians can now talk about preserving ethnic heritage and voters will know that this is a veiled promise to keep neighborhoods white. It's a new addition to the vocabulary that produced "neighborhood schools" and "law and order," terms that were unmistakably understood as messages against school desegregation and as a promise to "get tough" with minorities.

Jimmy Carter apologized handsomely for what he wants understood as a slip of the tongue. Even in his original statement that got him into trouble he promised federal backing for black families to live anywhere they wished, and President Ford repeated his intention to honor open-housing laws.

So there never was an issue in the first place. Carter made a serious mistake in injecting this phony issue but he's been attacked for the words he used and not for making an issue out of whole cloth.

By promising he'd never use federal power to break up ethnic enclaves or to construct high-rise public housing in wealthy suburbs Carter merely repeated the obvious. The point is that neither policy was ever considered by the government, nor do blacks favor such policies.

If people want to live with people of their own background in a specific neighborhood they can and should do so, so long as they don't infringe upon the constitutional rights of others.

And high-rise public housing is a dead horse, no one has proposed building a Pruitt-Igoe in the suburbs. The real issues is whether blacks will be ensured the right to move anywhere they wish, and whether scattered site housing -- not high-rises -- will be permitted in all-white upper income neighborhoods.

Since the alternative is to lock black and poor people into inner city ghettos and inferior housing removed from new job opportunities in the suburbs, it would be more comforting if candidates addressed that important issue instead of getting involved in semantics.

Instead of worrying about the non-existent threat to ethnic enclaves, the candidates might do some worrying about the exclusion of black people from decent housing and by our slide into an apartheid society in which races and classes are kept rigidly apart.

Those same ethnic groups who might take comfort from politicians' support for their ethnic solidarity ought also begin to worry about this new-found respect for ethnicity. Terms like "racial purity" and "alien groups" were once used against those same ethnic groups when they came to this country, and affirming ethnicity as a national treasure may be good for ethnic pride but it says nothing about helping those ethnic groups to break out of the class barriers that keep them deprived too.

Now that the dust has settled, the apologies made, and the press releases published, what we're left with is a phony issue and new racial code word. Somehow I think all the candidates owe us more than that in this Bicentennial year.

Department Of Public Instruction

Why Go Metric?

Why, suddenly, after all these years should the United States scrap a perfectly good system of measurement to convert to metrics? The English system has served us well for 200 years! Why change to a new system now?

For one thing, the metric system is simpler than the English system of measurement, according to Robert R. Jones, director of the Department of Public Instruction's Division of Mathematics. Created in 1791 about the time our decimal system of money came into being, the metric system has the same structure as the decimal system with its place value based on ten. Hence, noted Jones, teaching metrics will reinforce the work we already do with numbers and money.

The simplicity of the system offers another advantage, said Jones, in that calculations are easier to make in metrics because decimals are easier to work with than the complicated fractions we come up with in the English system. The system will simplify the teaching of measurement in mathematics by delaying the introduction of fractions and requiring fewer units of measurement to learn, he added.

A major reason for the changeover, according to Jones, is that metric measurement is a worldwide standard use in international trade. Over 99% of the world population lives in countries either using the metric system or in the process of converting to it. United States industries have spent billions of "extra" money in past years to manufacture both metric products for export to these

countries and English products to be sold in the United States. By 1978, Jones pointed out, no country will be able to trade non-metric products on the European Common Market.

With the signing of the Metric Conversion Act in December of 1975, the United States made a commitment to the changeover. The Act established a 17-member Metric Board to coordinate voluntary conversion to the metric system. In North Carolina, the State Board of Education has adopted a resolution calling for conversion to metrics in the public schools by 1981.

Business and industry have already led the way, said Jones. Medicine, chemical, photography, science, food packaging and some automobile industries have converted to metrics. The appearance of road signs with metric distances and speed limits is an indication of the increasing visibility of the metric system. Many food package labels now carry metric information.

"We have obviously already begun to use the metric system," Jones noted. "This should help us make the changeover in schools, reinforce our knowledge of numbers and money, assist us in getting our share of international trade, and economize by producing fewer sizes of products."

NOTE: For more information on conversion to the metric system of measurement, contact Robert R. Jones, Metric Information Center, (919) 829-3602.

THE BETTER WE KNOW US

Continued from Page 1

Commerce; received Key to the City of Chattanooga, Tenn., and a Certificate, proclaiming him as "Ambassador of Good Will"; received from Mayor Bates of Columbia, S.C.; charter member of the American Academy of Actuaries; Honorary Member Iota Sigma Nu Honor Society of New York University; member Governor's Advisory Council, North Carolina Technical Services; member Advisory Council of the U.S. President's Youth Opportunity Campaign; elected to Board of Directors, Durham Chamber of Commerce; member of Trustees, National Conference of Christians and Jews; member of Eight-man trade Mission, sponsored by the United States Department of Commerce to Central American and the Republic of Panama; member, United States Trade and Investment Missions to the African Countries to Ghana, Zambia, and the unique Sesquicentennial Award, in Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary, University of Michigan; Frederick Douglass Sesquicentennial Lecturer, University of Rochester, N.Y.; chairman of Board of Trustees, Howard University; participated in the 53rd Annual Meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C., as a member of a three-man panel to discuss the economic moral and spiritual values involved in the provision of equal opportunity, at an "Equal Opportunity Luncheon"; member, Board of Directors, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc.; appointed by former U.S. President Lyndon Johnson to a nine-member Board of the Washington Technical Institute; elected, Director of Boys' Clubs of America; consultant to the Ford Foundation and the General Electric Company; toured the Republic of West Germany; as a guest of the German Government to observe the progress made in 20 years with help under the Marshall Plan; appointed to the International Board of Directors of the Insurance Hall of Fame; recipient of the Durham Chamber of Commerce Civic Award - the first and only Negro to be so honored; recipient of "Distinguished Citizen's Award," from the North Carolina Prince Hall Grand Lodge free and Accepted Masons; member, Board of Commissioners, Durham County; listed in "100 years - 100 Men" (1871-1971), by

Edwards and Broughton, as one of those "who had done the most for the State of North Carolina in the past 100 years."

And there are scores of other HONORS and affiliations of equal distinction;

Among this scholarly publications, articles and public addresses are: "Negro Insurance in the United States"; "The Impact of the Changing World on Women's Organizations - Economically", which was printed in the U.S. Congressional Record; "Discrimination and the Negro in the United States"; "Moral and Spiritual Values: America's Greatest Need" - all of which have been widely distributed.

Dr. Spaulding is listed in: The Cyclopaedia of Insurance in the United States; Who's Who in Insurance; Who's Who in Commerce and Industry; Who's Who in the South and Southeast; Who's Who in America; and the International Yearbook and Statesmen's Who's Who.

He is married to the former Miss Elna Bridgeforth of Athens, Alabama; and there are four children: Asa, Jr., Patricia Ann, Aaron, Lowery, and Kenneth Bridgeforth.

A dedicated churchman, Dr. Spaulding is a member of Durham's White Rock Baptist, where he is a devoted teacher of the James Shepard Bible Class.

Currently, this distinguished American - in addition to his varied other business, civic, educational, and governmental leadership roles - on both the state and national levels - is president of the ASA T. SPAULDING CONSULTING AND ADVISORY SERVICES, with headquarters at 104 West Parrish Street, Durham.

Most recently he was asked to serve as a personal representative of the President of the United States and head of the U.S. delegation to the inauguration of President William R. Tolbert, Jr., and Vice President James C. Greene of the Republic of Liberia, West Africa.

When one thinks of recognition, one should be acquainted with Mr. Spaulding, for the better we know him, THE BETTER WE KNOW US.