

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

Last week in Washington a great amount of interest was expressed in the long-awaited statement by President Nixon regarding his position as it relates to the public school integration. On Tuesday, March 24, a statement was received by every Member of Congress containing 19 legal-size pages, all of which were characterized by a lack of specific recommendations.

Generally, he reviewed decisions by the Supreme Court on the question of school integration, as well as areas such as bussing, which as of this date have not been passed upon by the Supreme Court. With no attempt to criticize the President, I find no great amount of relief from the current prob-

lems of the secondary schools.

Consideration of some of his statements are as follows:

---"There is a fundamental distinction between so-called "de jure" and "de facto" segregation: de jure segregation arises by law or by the deliberate act of school officials and is unconstitutional; de facto segregation results from residential housing patterns and does not violate the Constitution. (The clearest example of de jure segregation is the dual school system as existed in the South prior to the decision in Brown -- two schools, one Negro and one White comprised of the same grades and serving the same geographical area. This is the system with which most of the decisions, and the Supreme Court cases up until now, have been concerned.)"

To me, this means nothing more or less than a continuation of force integration on the South, while the North will continue practicing wholesale de facto segregation without any pressure from the Courts or the Administration.

"Where the school boards have demonstrated a good-faith effort to comply with court rulings, the courts have generally allowed substantial latitude as to method -- often making the explicit point that administrative choices should, wherever possible, be made by the local school authorities themselves."

My comment on that is apparently the President is not too familiar with many of the decisions handed down by a Federal Judge in the State of North Carolina. We have not only overruled local school boards, but in some cases, even the North Carolina Legislature.

The President further stated, "In devising particular plans, questions of cost, capacity, and convenience for pupils and parents are relevant considerations."

Here again, it is obvious that he is not familiar with Secretary Finch's recent rulings, for HEW has completely ignored this thinking.

Also, the President said, "Whatever the radical composition of student bodies, faculties and staff must be assigned in a way that does not contribute to identifying a given school as "Negro" or "White."

And this, with no mention of qualifications or experience.

Finally, in spite of the campaign promises no where did I find an insistence on a basic "freedom of choice" plan for all races. One of the encouraging statements contained, however, was the promise to

improve the quality of education with less emphasis on social reform.

Included in House action was a bill to authorize the extension of certain naval vessel loans to the following nations: Pakistan, Greece, Turkey, Vietnam and the Republic of China. These are vessels which have recently been inactivated by the United States Navy, but are still operable. They are still owned by the United States, but are merely on loan.

Another bill was the Foreign Military Sales Act Amendments, for the purpose of extending military credit sales to foreign countries and also underwrites guarantees of

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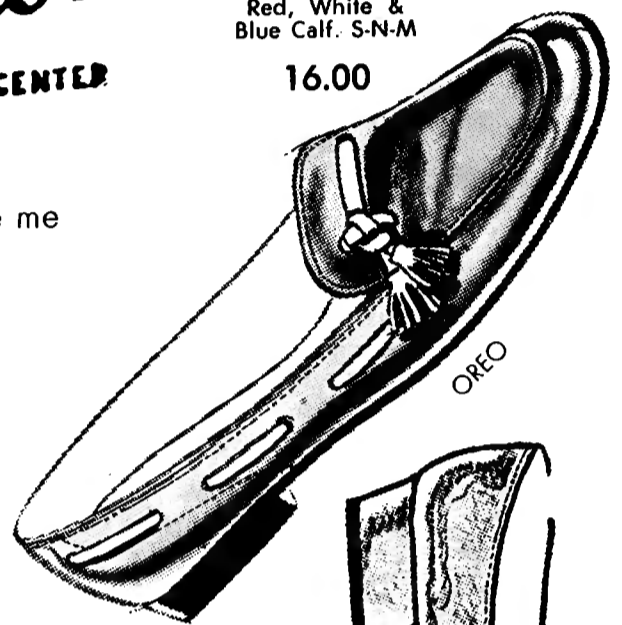
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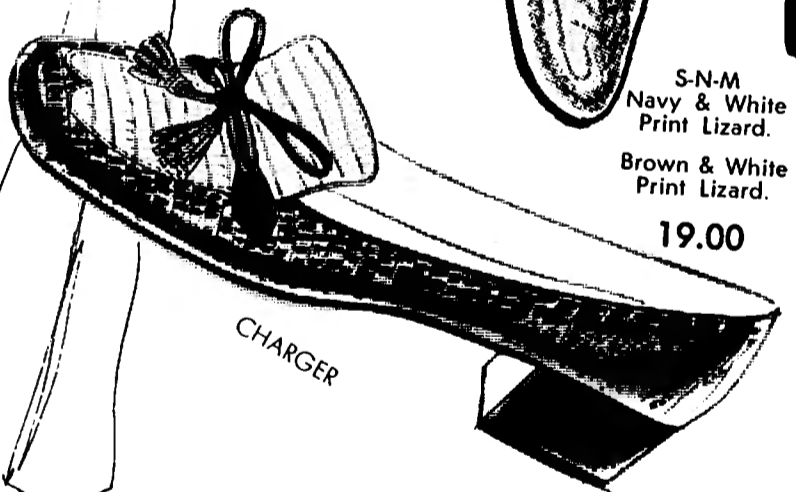
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