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SOUTH DIVIDED

Conference of Regional Education, said that desegregation should be on an "optional" basis.

The meeting was called to discuss problems raised by the U. S. Supreme Court decision outlawing school segregation.

Sims told the educators that "it must be borne in mind that the opinion of the court does not require integration of the two school systems, it merely condemns compulsory separation solely because of color."

From the standpoint of principle, there is no real difference between forced segregation and compulsory integration.

James H. Rowland, a member of the West Virginia State Board of Education and the only Negro attending the conference, said he agreed with Sims' views.

Rowland said that if the South improves its Negro schools to the point where they offer the same educational opportunities that are offered by white schools, "ninety-nine per cent of the Negroes will go to school."

He said that in the past, students were given a choice of attending either white or Negro schools and that after five years, 92 per cent are still attending Negro schools.

Rowland said the main problems in dealing with the Supreme Court decision would be caused by "hot-heads" in both races. He said that whites who attempted to maintain segregation with violence and Negroes who attempted to rush desegregation would be equally harmful.

Ervin said Florida's survey collected answers from law enforcement officers, lectured officials, parent-teacher leaders, businessmen, educators, judges and county officials.

He said the groups most opposed to ending segregation were policemen and elected officials. He cited this opposition in stating that before desegregation could successfully be carried out, "we must have a firm, clear and unequivocal policy by leaders and a willingness to enforce it."

White and Negro children began attending the same classes in some Virginia schools Tuesday as the Mississippi Legislature prepared to abolish public schools if necessary to maintain segregation.

Meanwhile, state school administrators of 11 Southern states heard a noted editor express hope that the Supreme Court will permit desegregation to be handled at local levels.

Virginia is maintaining its traditional segregation in its public schools.

Mixed classes began in two military post schools and three Catholic parochial schools in Virginia. All are in the environs of Washington.

Washington is known to have no alternative. President Eisenhower led the fight for integration and told the Commissioners that

he wanted the nation's capital to set the pattern for the rest of the nation involved. It is known that when the District schools open on Monday Negro children who have been attending over-crowded schools will be shifted to white schools in their communities.

Superintendent Corning has also put into effect a zone system that will put quite a few white children who have moved into the community and those who will attend school for their first time.

Negro and white children began attending classes together today in public schools in Baltimore, Md., at two Army post schools in Virginia and at several Catholic schools in Virginia.

An organization calls itself the "National Association for the Advancement of White People" and filed suit in Baltimore Superior Court to restore segregated schools. Judge John Tucker refused to admit the suit on grounds it was not in proper legal order.

Public schools through the rest of Maryland, on advice of state Atty. Gen. Edward D. E. Rollins, are waiting for the Supreme Court to hand down enforcement orders.

Miss Reinhardt, assistant superintendent of Women's Prison, told a Coroner's Jury Tuesday morning that it was she who advised the use of a gag on Miss Eleanor Rush, 45-year-old former inmate of the prison, who was found dead in an isolation cell on the morning of August 21.

Miss Reinhardt, who appeared to be quite nervous throughout the hearing held this week on the third floor of the Wake County Courthouse, said that she was ill at the time Eleanor Rush was taken to the prison.

She testified that Eleanor's room screams, threats, and cursing, hindered her recovery to a great extent.

She recalled that superintendent J. D. Hinton was perplexed as to what to do in order to quiet the Rush girl, who was reportedly also disturbing patients in the prison hospital.

Miss Reinhardt said she struck on the idea of the gag because she had used one before on another occasion without injury to the victim. She described to the jury how she used the gag which was really an improvised hand towel.

A pathologist, Dr. R. Hardee, who examined the Rush girl at Rex Hospital, told the Coroner's Jury that Miss Rush's neck could have been broken when she was gagged.

Dr. Hardee advanced two theories as to the possible cause of death. The first was that the dislocation of the vertebrae and the subsequent compression of the spinal cord could have occurred at the same time, causing instant death. Or, he theorized the dislocation could have occurred some time before the spinal cord was crushed. In that case death would have come later, at the time of the crushing.

The pathologist testified that he found nothing in his autopsy to sustain conjecture that the Rush girl was asphyxiated. If Miss Rush had fallen or had struck her head, he said, there would have been some bruise or mark.

The restraining cuffs and the gag were gone by the time physicians arrived at Women's Prison, according to G. C. Dickson, a medical student at the University of North Carolina, who worked at the prison this summer.

The Coroner's Jury consists of one Negro and five white men. They are David W. Andrews, Negro employee of the Great American Insurance Company; James E. Briggs, president of T. H. Briggs Hardware; P. D. Snipes, grocery and general merchandise supply firm; C. A. Dillon, president of the Dillon Supply Company; James D. Kilgore, president of Pine State Creamery; and Dwight Avery, an employee of Carolina Hardware Company here.

Shortly before the inquest began at 10 a. m. the Coroner's Jury visited the isolation cell at Women's Prison in which the woman was found dead.

Several physicians who testified yesterday, including prison's physician, Dr. Charles Flowers, testified that they were not informed that a gag had been used on the woman, but were only told of the restraining cuffs placed on her hands.

The testimony of officials of the prison was similar. Each witness described Eleanor as an unruly prisoner. She was described as the background factor in practically every disturbance.

J. Wilbur Bunn, local defense attorney for I. D. Hinton, occasionally questioned the witnesses. His cross-examination was brief and to the point.

It was also brought out in the course of the testimony that the gag had disappeared sometime between the time of Miss Rush's death and the inquest Monday. No one could advance a theory as to what could have happened to it.

When asked by Wake County Solicitor William Y. Bickett what kind of nourishment prisoners on isolation received, Miss Reinhardt replied that they received the same type of diet that non-isolation prisoners got. However, the quantity of food given prisoners on isolation was about half that received by ordinary prisoners.

Dr. Walter Neal, local physician, testified that there was a small amount of blood found on the left cheek of Miss Rush's face. It has not been determined where the blood originated from. Each of the physicians who examined the woman testified that she was a well-developed and well-nourished female.

In concluding her testimony Monday before the Coroner's Jury, Miss Helen Reinhardt said "I have never looked upon any techniques used in handling people as being inhuman or cruel. This person (Eleanor Rush) has been as incommunicable as anyone I've ever come into contact with."

The inquest is expected to consume most of this week. Of the sixty-five witnesses slated to be heard, only about 21 were called upon Tuesday.

Of the approximately 150 spectators present at the inquest, only about 50 of them were Negroes.

vention of this kind in the world among Negroes that does nothing but missionary work in Africa, China, India, and Russia.

Professor Davis, in giving the keynote address continued that "there must be an inward look at individual lives before the call to missions can be taken seriously."

"There must be a confession of one's own sin and an acknowledgment of guilt before an effective task for the cause of missions can be completed. No one is ready to teach the laws against transgressions until there has been a cleansing of oneself. The mote must be removed from one's own eye before he is able to go to foreign fields of missionary work. If Americans are to continue in the role of leadership in the world affairs then there must be a general house cleaning and a confession of our own sins before the orientals will take us seriously."

Mr. B. L. Holloman of Norfolk, President of the Laymen's League, in delivering his annual address, impressed upon the laymen

the need for cooperation. Laymen who are willing to work for the advancement of God's Kingdom through His church today are indeed very few. As we look at present day church life and see that in spite of the sin and the darkness inspite of the evidences of impending judgment on a sin-infested world, we see empty prayer rooms in our churches, classes in our Sunday Schools without any teachers, empty pews for Sunday evening service, strife and contentions among members over position and place, failures in evangelistic efforts, poverty in giving to missions, our congregations composed of a small percentage of men and they with little zeal or enthusiasm or passion for perishing souls. We must conclude that we must have more laymen to meet with this great challenge.

—30—

HOLIDAY TOLL

ers into his own hands. Dawson is alleged to have skipped bond

and North Carolina after the shooting and found his way to Ohio where he got a job making for a trucking firm. The lure of his mid-earnings brought him back to the station after having left the truck he was driving in Raleigh.

Mitchell told arresting officers that he, by chance, went to the place where the shooting occurred and Dawson drove up in a car. The story continues that Dawson came over to the car in which Mitchell was riding and started an argument. Mitchell avers that he took no chance on being shot again and proceeded to pull his gun. He is said to have shot one time and missed.

The story goes that a scuffle ensued and that during the scuffle two or three shots were fired. One of the bullets severed the artery in one of the victim's legs and he bled to death before he could reach the hospital.

Mitchell 1954, reported police and told them that he had settled the account with Dawson and would pay in five days. The officer said that Dawson had been in the county jail for a few days but had cleared \$400. A Kenneth Green was arrested at the time of the shooting and was charged with the murder of James Gray, father of the lead man, to get whiskey.

Ervin said that as many as ten applications from white students are turned down by North Carolina College each year, due to the existing custom.

Atlanta was the scene of regional meeting of state boards of education this week. Two speakers from Florida and Tennessee told the educators that it was a matter that had to be decided by each local. They pointed out that "hot-headedness" would not solve the problem and neither would too much pressure on the part of Negroes. They felt that it would come, but it would be a gradual process.

Florida Atty. Gen. Richard W. Ervin, addressing the second regional conference of state boards of education and chief state school officers from Southern States, said a survey conducted by Florida officials shows that his state is not yet ready for mixed schools.

He said that while only a small minority of those interviewed are "violently" opposed to mixing the races most agree that any move toward desegregation should be gradual and handled on the local level.

Cecil Sims of Nashville, Tenn., advisor to the Southern Governors

EASTERN STAR

given by the Order, each year, representing a dollar per member.

A bridal party was also held and three brides took the honors. Mrs. Corith Long Durham was crowned "Miss Eastern Star", while Mrs. Susie Moore, Newbern, and Mrs. Cheryl B. Artis, Goldsboro, took second and third honors, respectively. Fifteen hundred dollars was realized from the contest. This money will be used for charitable purposes.

Another feature of the convention was the report on the work which was conducted in the 17 districts of the state, by the deputies. The report showed that the work of the Order had been conducted with suitable proficiency. Mrs. Magale Strong, Asden, was reelected Grand Matron along with all the other officers. The 1955 meet will be held in Greenville.


NAACP AGENTS

Watson, Mrs. Alma Guess, Mrs. G. L. Holloway, W. W. Hurdle, J. W. Eaton, Mrs. Ernestine Arnold, and Leonidas Haywood; program, J. C. Morgan, J. W. Eaton, Mrs. S. V. Perry, M. C. Hill, W. A. Rainbow, Mrs. Hatie Mitchell, Leonidas Haywood, and Dr. W. H. Watson, constitution, Mrs. V. K. Newell, Mrs. N. E. Lockhart, Mrs. Alma Williams, C. C. Lipscombe and W. W. Hurdle.

PRISON INQUEST

I. D. Hinton, prison superintendent came in with several guards and gagged her, then Eleanor. She said these gags were forced off of their mouths and Hinton and the guards returned and placed two other towels in their mouths, this time taping her (Eleanor Wright's) cell so that she could not see what was going on.


Hinton and the guards, who were named as having gone into the cell, vigorously denied these charges and told entirely different stories regarding the Rush death.



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