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Termed "Misunderstanding"

HEW Funds Refused For Desegregation Violations

By Sharyn Bratcher Staff Reporter

A misunderstanding is the term used by school officials of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County to explain the recent refusal of the school system's application for assistance under the Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA).

In a letter to school superintendent James A. Adams, Herman R. Goldberg, Associate Commissioner of the Equal Educational Opportunity Programs of the Department of Health. Education and Welfare stated that the student racial ratio ordered by the court in 1972 is not maintained in 41 of the district's 64 schools. Goldberg further indicated that the projected number of black students listed for various schools in July 1975 differs significantly from the actual number enrolled.

School-Community Relations director Robert R. Jann stated that a Washington bureaucrat, unfamiliar with the original court order, made a cursory decision based on statistics, some of

which were incorrect. The court order, he pointed out, did not name a specific racial ratio to be met.

Douglas S. Punger, attorney for the school system, notes that the portion of the court order cited in Goldberg's letter was quoted out of context, thus altering its meaning. The phrase gave the school system permis-

sion to deviate 5% from the racial ratio. Punger explained that in June of 1971, the school system was ordered to submit a desegregation plan to the federal district court by July 1st. This gave officials 8 days to structure a plan involving the allocation of 50,000 pupils. Since they didn't have computers or

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Judge Says Inmates

Should Be Spanked

Raleigh, N.C. [CCNS] --Wake County District Judge John Parker said last week. "If students can be spanked in school, inmates should be spanked in prison." The statement was made following Parker finding a Polk Youth Center inmate, Cheyenne Burt, guilty of assaulting a correctional officer. A day before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that school officials could constitutionally use corporal punishment in disciplining

pupils. A representative of the North Carolina Prisoners Labor Union and civil rights attorney Jerry Paul have criticized the judge's comment and decision as encouraging assault on inmates by correctional guards.

On March 29 several black and white inmates at Polk Youth Center fought, resulting in one white inmate being hospitalized. Captain Coy Stephenson and several

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IT'S STORY-TELLING TIME - Storyteller Mrs. Beatrice Hamlin is so engrossed in telling a story that she isn't aware that the big kid on the right is Governor James Hunt. Library personnel from across the state told stories on the capitol lawn last week commemorating National Library Week. [CCNS]

Wagner Terms Goler 'Political Football'

"I would like very much to avoid having Goler Apartments become a political football without proper attention being focused on the benefits to be derived from this complex by the 150 tenant families living here," stated Attorney David Wagner in response to pickets who protested at the meeting announcing his candidacy for alderman.

At a press conference held Thursday at Goler Apartments, Wagner indicated his willingness to hear solutions for any problems at Goler, and asked for assistance in the formation of a tenant organization to improve living conditions at the complex.

A meaningful tenant organization, he maintained, could improve the project by reducing litter and protecting common areas from vandalism.

"The present group led by Mrs. Lee Faye Mack and Mr. Rodney Sumler will not help the situation since they are See WAGNER, Page 2

Black Suspensions: An Issue In Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, N.C. [CCNS]
-- Salvatore Degraffenreidt is one of the 221 or so black students who comprise 28% of the student population at Guy B. Phillips Junior High School in Chapel Hill. He was suspended from school after he and other students were accused of being in the school hallway when prohibited, and later was told to leave the campus.

The school's suspension policy requires that after an informal hearing in the principal's office or assistant principal's office in which suspension results, the principal will "attempt to

call the parent." If the parent cannot be reached "the student is kept at school in a status of in school suspension" for the rest of the day.

After Assistant Principal Barbara Booth attempted to call his parents to inform them of the suspension without success, Salvatore was told to leave the school. Salvatore told a reporter that he did not have money to catch a bus and waited at the edge of school property to catch a ride. Meanwhile, school officials warned him that he was trespassing and had him arrested by the

Chapel Hill police. Following his arrest, his one day suspension was made an expulsion for the rest of the school year.

Unlike those of many expelled and suspended students in the Chapel Hill schools, Salvatore's family appealed the principal's decision to a bi-racial grievance committee. An interum report of CO-ED indicates that most students have not been informed by the school administration of the existence of the committee, which is suppose to be comprised of two teachers, two ninth grade

students and two parents. At Salvatore's hearing no students participated. The decision of the Grievance Committee has not been made public, but informed sources said to a reporter that the committee will recommend to the superintendent that Salvatore be allowed to return to school.

Richard Taylor, attorney for the Orange County-Chathan County Legal Services, represented Salvatore and argued that the school's suspension and expulsion policy had not been followed and that Salvatore has been denied "due process". He also argued that Salvatore, who has been tracked in special education classes since the first grade "was a child with special needs, social maladjustments, and learning disabilities," and under state law could not be denied educational opportunities.

According to data compiled by CO-ED during the first semester of the 1975-76 school year, Salvatore and the other black students at Guy B. Phillips were more than twice as likely to be suspended as white students. During that period,

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