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FEDERAL DEMANDS ON JONES COUNTY SCHOOLS PREVIEW OF PLAN FOR ALL COUNTIES

By Jack Rider

This week in the small County of Jones where the heavy fist of federal blackmail and judicial tyranny have combined to emasculate the public school system a preview of what's in store for every public school system in the South is being offered.

The Jones County school enrollment was 3095 in the last full school year and the total population of the county at the latest estimate is 11,005, which includes 5,719 white people and 5,286 colored people, but the school enrollment of the county is slightly more colored than white; in the ratio of about 52 per cent to 48 per cent.

At present Jones County operates seven elementary schools and two high schools.

In the last school year three of these elementary schools and one of the high schools were totally colored in their enrollment although a few white teachers had been assigned to

them. They included J. E. Willie School at Pollockville, J. E. Morris School at Maysville and the Trenton Colored Elementary School, and the all-Negro Jones County High School.

The other schools had been all-white until recent years when under federal compulsion a "Freedom-of-Choice" enrollment system had seen a few Negro students ask for transfer into the four white elementary schools and the white Jones Central High School. The elementary schools are Comfort Elementary School, Trenton Elementary School, Alex H. White School in Pollockville and Maysville Elementary School.

Near the end of the 1967-68 school year the federal bureaucrats from the Health, Education and Welfare Department began tightening the blackmail screw on Jones County school officials by declaring that about \$400,000 in federal tax funds allocated to Jones County would be cut off if a greater degree of

racial mixing was not obtained immediately.

Jones County school officials decided to turn from the arbitrary contradictions of the HEW officials and seek more reasonable relief from Chief Federal District Judge Algernon Q. Butler of Clinton. Butler proved to be more arrogant and less intelligent — if possible — than the officials from Washington.

Butler ordered Jones County officials to have on his desk by August 5th (Monday of this week) a plan to totally integrate their school system. This was done, but the plan tendered by Jones County officials was summarily rejected by this Clinton Caesar.

Faced with the petulant pomposity of this judicial tyrant Jones County schools officials scurried around and came up with another plan. All conceived in cold fury, and under the continuing threat of that \$400,000 larceny of public school funds from the students of the county's

school system.

And this hastily conceived blackmail payment includes the following:

The two elementary schools in Trenton will be paired with all children in grades one, two and three forced to attend one and those in grades four, five and six forced to attend the other.

In Pollockville Alex H. White and J. E. Willie schools will be paired in the same manner.

At Maysville J. E. Morris School will be closed and all its Negro students will be forced to attend the previously all-white Maysville Elementary School.

Since Comfort School is the only school in the western end of the county there was no Negro school with which it could be paired so to solve that problem 88 Negro students have simply been assigned to attend it.

Jones County High School under this federal dictate will become a "junior high school" and all students in grades seven, eight and nine will be forced to attend it and Jones Central High School will become a "senior high school" and all students in grades 10, 11, and 12 will have to attend it.

The latest survey of classroom needs for the Jones County school system, prepared by the State Department of Public In-

\$30.

Carl Heath of Jacksonville who was charged with having an expired registration plate and driving while his license was revoked, was ordered by the court to pay \$200 and the court's cost.

Charles Audrey Tilley of Swansboro was fined \$10 and cost for failing to stop at a stop sign.

Charles Edwin Lightle of Pittsfield, Illinois was fined \$26 for reckless driving. John Dwight Garris of Deep Run who was also charged with reckless driving, had a prayer for judgement continued on the payment of cost entered.

struction, shows a need of 51 additional classrooms immediately and a long-range need of 102 classrooms. How the educational authorities can square these pressing classroom needs with the arbitrary closing of the J. E. Morris School in Maysville is a point not discussed by judge, nor HEW agent, nor member of the Jones County School Board.

This then is the pattern. It is to be applied to every school district in the South, but not for the rest of the nation.

Lenoir County presently operates 11 schools. Six of these are elementary, three are union schools including all 12 grades and two are high schools.

Four of these 11 are totally Negro in their enrollment although a few white teachers have been assigned to them.

The other seven are predominantly white although an enforced transfer of some more than 350 students in the 1967-68 school year did temporarily get the federal rats off the backs of the Lenoir County School Board.

But the ultimate plan for Lenoir County Schools, as previewed this week in Jones County is the pairing of schools whenever possible, and the arbitrary assignment of students when not possible as at Comfort.

This is the plan already being promoted by Kinston School officials. Of course in "rich" Kinston the proposal is to do it with a bit more flourish: Build a multi-million-dollar central high school for all Kinston students in grades 10, 11 and 12, expensive renovations of brand-new Adkin High and Handsome Old Grainger High into "junior high schools."

Abandonment of Harvey School, despite the fact that the most recent survey assigns a classroom shortage of 76 rooms in the Kinston system and a long range need of 126 rooms.

Where Jones County is being asked only to spend a few hundred thousand dollars to finance this total racial integration the price tag put on racial integration of the Kinston school system is \$5 million, which the voters of the county will soon be asked to meekly approve.

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Renovations to Be Made on Jail

Sheriff W. Brown Yates of Jones County has been given the go-ahead by the Board of Commissioners to bring the county jail up to state standards.

In order to meet state requirements the jail will have to be supervised when in use, fire-proof mattresses and sheets will have to be purchased, and the jail will have to be painted and other minor repairs done.

The jail has been under sharp criticism by the state health officers. The move was taken as part of a state-wide effort to upgrade jails.

In other action the Board of Commissioners accepted the res-

Three Jones Arrests

Richard Mieloux of Myrtle Beach, S. C. was arrested during the past week for driving under the influence. Thelma Dunn of Kinston was arrested for being publicly drunk. For assaulting a female and being publicly drunk, Junius Jones of Trenton was arrested.

Ignition of associate agricultural extension agent, George Parham. A school capital outlay of \$19,557.84 was appropriated also.

The hiring of "New Career" workers was approved by the Board. The new employees will work in the county agricultural extension office in cooperation with the departments of health and economic opportunity.

Speeding Charges Monopolize Court

For speeding 75 MPH in a 60 zone, Linwood Franklin Walder of Amburg, Virginia was fined \$35. Linda Susan Androne of Florence, S. C., who was charged with speeding 70 in a 60 MPH zone, was called and failed, letting bond be forfeited. Patrick Nash Dalton of Midway Park was fined \$26 for speeding 70 in a 60 MPH zone. William Lee Harvey of Dayton, Ohio was fined \$26 for speeding 70 in a 60 MPH zone. For speeding 60 MPH in a 50 MPH zone, Herbert Leurs Brickhouse of Columbia and Floyd Allen Cornwall of Banning, California were fined

KINSTON DELEGATE TO REPUBLICAN CONVENTION HIT BY PARTY'S PLATFORM STEAMROLLER

North Carolina has 26 delegates to the National Republican Convention this week in Miami Beach. Dr. Thornton Hood Jr. of Kinston is one of the two delegates from the First Congressional District. (The Republican system permits two delegates from each congressional district and four delegates at large.)

Tuesday night — or early Wednesday morning Delegate Hood got hit by the platform streamroller of the party as he walked onto the speaker's platform and tried to gain permission to speak. Permanent Chairman Gerald Ford talked briefly with Hood but refused to permit Hood to speak to the convention.

Then the television cameras zoomed in on Hood and a horde of reporters began trying to find out what he was trying to speak about, and why he was denied the right to speak. Hood refused to tell the reporters, but said he might make a statement on the matter later in the convention.

Speculation was that Hood wanted a stronger plank in the platform on the Vietnamese War. Senator Everett Dirksen, who as chairman of the platform committee, had presided over drawing up a platform that would not be too offensive to President Johnson on that point,

since Dirksen has a lot more in common with Johnson than he does with the majority of the members of the Republican Party, and certainly far more than Hood, who is one of the most constant and caustic critics of the present administration.

Each year a few more people begin to wonder about the mad, mad one-week circus that is called a National Political Convention. Until television brought this spectacle into nearly every home in the nation it was given precious little consideration by the vast majority of the citizenry.

But the National Convention is the end product of the finest political activity in the American system: The precinct meeting.

It all begins when the party chairmen in each of the nation's counties calls for precinct meetings of all the party faithful. Then on a date set by the chairman small gatherings are held in each of the nation's thousands of polling precincts.

In counties where a particular party may not be too active, or too well represented all of the precinct meetings will be held in a central spot such as the county court house.

Then when the precinct meetings are convened an election is held of precinct officials, including a chairman, vice chair-

man and secretary. Then these officials are generally named to be delegates to the county convention which is also a courthouse kind of activity.

When the county convention is convened another series of elections is held. County Party Chairman, vice chairman and secretary, and another layer of offices which includes congressional district congressional executive committees, judicial district executive committees, solicitorial district executive committees. These committees only activity is to recommend some member of their respective party to fill vacancies in these offices.

All county chairmen automatically become members of the state executive committee, which in turn elects a state party chairman.

After the precinct and county conventions are held the delegates to the state convention who were elected in the county convention then convene in the state capital for the state convention.

And it is in this state convention that delegates to the national convention are elected.

Lenoir County this year has a full delegate to the Democratic Convention in the person of County Party Chairman Oscar Waller of Woodington, and, of course, Dr. Hood is already get-

ting a "liberal" education in convention wheeling and dealing, this being his second time around, since he was a delegate to the 1964 Republican Convention in which Barry Goldwater was nominated.

When these national conventions have completed selection of Presidential and Vice Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates for their respective parties, then the voter becomes the target of a lot of oratory.

And the voter marches to the polls on general election day wrapped in the myth that he is helping to elect a president, but that is not necessarily so. Presidents are elected by members of the Electoral College.

In some states — but not North Carolina the members of this Electoral College are listed on the ballot for their respective parties and the voters actually cast their ballot for the electoral college members rather than for a specific presidential election.

The winning slate of electors is bound by law in some states and by custom in all states to vote for the nominee of their respective party. But this custom has been violated from time to time; although no frequently.

And in some states an "unpledged" slate of electors is named.

Perhaps the most unreasonable aspect of the Electoral Col-

lege is that it happens to be a winner - take - all proposition. Whichever slate of electors gets a plurality in a state gets ALL of that state's votes. For instance in 1964 Kennedy got 3,830,085 votes in New York State and Nixon got 3,446,419, but Kennedy got all of New York's huge bundle of electoral votes.

It is theoretically possible for a presidential candidate to get an overwhelming majority of the popular vote and still be defeated. He could carry the electoral vote of all 12 of the most populous states in the nation and be defeated by the other 38 less populated states which have the additional voting edge of one vote for each senator no matter how small their population.

This is one more aspect of the "one-man-one-vote" syndrome that the supreme court has not yet dared to toy with, and it is a fundamental part of the American system because the men who framed the constitution feared a direct presidential vote, as they did for the senate, but their wise decision on having senators elected by the state legislatures was junked in 1913, which was one of the two constitutional amendments ratified in 1913 that have caused the unbelievable expansion of the federal apparatus. The other, of course, was the federal income tax amendment.