

# SCHOOL DESEGREGATION CRISIS MAY NOW BE REACHING CLIMAX LARKINS PREDICTED

by Jack Rider

Five years ago when Federal Judge John Larkins signed his first highly controversial and loudly criticized school desegregation order he explained this action by saying, in substance: "This has got to get a lot worse before people really rise up and reject it, white and color alike, and the sooner that comes the better."

Larkins freely admitted that the whole basis of these orders which had been sent to him by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals for his signature, was repugnant to him as an individual, as a lawyer and as a firm believer in the United States Constitution.

But Larkins felt then, as now, that he is bound to follow the rulings of the higher echelons of the federal judiciary; much as a soldier is bound to obey the orders of a superior officer.

Now there is growing evidence that things are getting "a lot worse" and that the time of rejection is near at hand.

Last week when card-carrying 24-carat liberal Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut said: "Let us not kid ourselves, wherever we go across this land, when blacks move in, the whites move out, and if they have children, they move as far away as they can. What shall we do? Shall we chase the whites with

busses, with helicopters, or with airplanes, to try to get an equitable distribution?" he was saying nothing new, but he was saying it at a time when the issue was more nearly crystallized than at any time since the supreme court opened this Pandorean Box on May 17, 1954.

Later Ribicoff confessed that his liberal friends were confirming their hypocrisy by calling him to say: "They agree with what I've said, but that it's too avant-garde and they have to oppose me because of tactics."

Ribicoff states his belief simply: That if it's wrong to segregate in the South it is wrong to segregate in the north and it is

wrong for the federal government to first force the south to swallow this bitter pill in the hope that the forced Southern example will somehow cause Northern communities to voluntarily end their segregation.

Southern governors, educators, a few Southern editors and nearly all of the Southern delegation in congress has been saying this for a long time, but they each and all were held up as racists by northern spokesmen who had their children in segregated school, either public or private.

What a growing number of educators now belatedly are beginning to recognize is that the public will not support totally desegregated schools in any community where there is as much as 25 per cent colored school enrollment.

The educators eager to grab all the money in sight from whatever source made the mistake of assuming that the public was just as greedy and would accept federal dictation in this realm rather than burden themselves with the costs of building private schools.

## Private School Threat

The announcement this week that a well-heeled Raleigh group was opening up a \$5.8 million building program for a private school, coupled with less ambitious private school building programs in every part of the South has rudely awakened these public school administrators who underestimated their constituencies.

They see situations such as New York City where the tax-paying whites have fled to the suburbs and left the central city rotting with over 1.2 million Negroes on welfare, using up tax money rather than paying it in.

They are beginning to understand, too, that the lavish support the public schools have received in the South depends upon the white majority levying and paying the taxes, and they know that in North Carolina there are only nine counties in which there is a numerical majority of Negroes and, worse, they are now beginning to understand that even the Negroes are souring on rigidly dictated integration measures coming from Washington or their respective state capitals.

In Kinston, as an example; there is hardly a family, white or colored that views with favor a suggested plan that will force colored children on the one hand to walk by a beautiful new school building and travel nearly two miles to another school, and at the same time force white students to reverse this procedure.

This would not be acceptable to a majority of parents even if free public transportation were provided to implement this suggested plan and when there is no plan, and no money in sight, to provide such transportation the scheme falls on even more deaf ears.

## Negro Rejection

Just last week in an effort to sell this bill of goods in a group meeting in Grainger High School auditorium the most violent kind of disagreement — short of bloodshed — took place between colored students, some of whom preferred their own schools and others who insisted that mixed schools were the only solution. The arguments were not between white and colored students, but between colored students.

Negro parents who understandably fought for and believed in the "Freedom of Choice" con-

cept are now bitter to learn that this thing that they fought for and won is being ignored by federal judges and federal bureaucrats.

The fire lighted by black militants has inspired a new pride in Negroes, many of whom are now becoming more segregationist than the most rabid white segregationists. They are in the minority still in their race, but the largest numbers of those who feel this way are in the school-age groups, and they are the ones school and college administrators will have to cope with in one way or another.

## The Kent County Ruling

In 1968 the supreme court ruled in Green Versus Kent County, Virginia, that "Freedom of Choice" was all right if it brings about desegregation but not all right if it does not bring about desegregation.

The Harvard Law Review in commenting on this ruling said: "The court struck down free choice in Kent County without commenting on the genuineness of the expressed 'preferences' of most of the county's Negroes for separation. Has the court taken judicial notice that 'free choice' by Southern Negroes is a myth? Or has it merely placed the burden on school boards — at least in the South — to show that the choice was truly free? Or has the court resolved to ignore even strong preferences of black nationalists on the theory that school boards must eliminate segregated schools even if Negro parents wish them to survive? Once again 'Green' raises more questions than it answers."

And North Carolina Senator Sam Ervin put it succinctly when he declared, "Children can have freedom in a manner pleasing to a majority of the supreme court, but they cannot have Freedom of Choice if they exercise their freedom in a manner displeasing to a majority of the supreme court justices."

Whether sufficient votes can be mustered in congress to muzzle the supreme court's thin majority on this issue remains to be seen, but some other bonafide liberals are preparing recommendations to the Nixon Administration under a government grant that would bypass the issue by permitting parents to withdraw children from public schools and then issue federal vouchers that could be used by that parent to pay tuition for his child in any school of his choice even if it is a racially segregated private school.

This notion of course gives public school administrators a serious case of panic, because they fear competition that might expose the vast wastefulness of the program over which they presently preside.

But a Harvard liberal has with in the month come up with the liberal quote of the century: "Freedom also includes the freedom of parents to send their children to segregated schools!" Who would have thought that such a simple truth could escape from the lips of a Harvardian?

Perhaps John Larkins may find some small consolation in contemplating the educational scene and saying an occasional, "I told you so!" This may be a small consolation for one who has been the target of the slings and arrows of many an outraged citizen, who was unable to appreciate the foresight of Larkins in this category.

Like some other phenomenon, it had to get worse before it could get any better, and it now appears to be reaching that point.

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## Grant and Loan Totalling \$465,000 Approved for Maysville for New Sewage Disposal System for Area

First District Congressman Walter B. Jones announced this week the approval of a \$279,000 grant and a \$186,000 loan by the Economic Development Administration to the Town of Maysville.

The money is to be used to construct a sewer system to serve the town of Maysville and surrounding community including a 30 acre industrial site and which also will include a waste treatment facility.

Jones stated further that the town of Maysville in cooperation with the Maysville Development Corporation is developing the industrial site in connection with the town's long-range plans to make the community attractive to industry seeking locations for new plants.

The total cost of the project will be \$465,000 and is the result of dedicated citizens working and planning together for the future economic development of Maysville and Jones County in an effort to provide permanent new job opportunities, Jones added.

## Land Transfers

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports recording the following land transfers in his office during the past week:

From Roy M. Booth, trustee for Jarmon and Emma Fonville to Mid-State Homes, Inc. one lot in White Oak Township.

From J. L. Cheston to M. E. Cheston and wife two tracts in Chinquapin Township.

## Jones Candidates

### SHERIFF

W. Brown Yates\*  
Dan Killingsworth  
Joe Monette  
Osborne Coward

### COURT CLERK

F. Rogers Pollock\*  
Harold Hargett Jr.

### COMMISSIONER

Osborne Mallard

### SENATE

Charlie Larkins Jr.\*

### HOUSE

Guy Elliott\*  
Fitzhugh Wallace  
Red Tingen  
Dan Lilley\*

\* Denotes Incumbent  
Republicans in bold type

## Osborne Coward Becomes Fourth Man Filing for Jones County Sheriff

Osborne Coward of Pollocksville became Jones County's fourth candidate for sheriff on the Democratic ticket by paying his filing fee this week.

The 30 year-old candidate is a lifetime resident of the Pollocksville community and at present is employed at the Du



Pont plant near Kinston.

The other sheriff candidates include incumbent Brown Yates, former deputy Dan Killingsworth and Maysville grocer Joe Monette.

No official action has been taken by the County Democratic Executive Committee to fill the post of county election board chairman, which was vacated by the death recently of John C. B. Koonce, who had held the job for many years.

In the interim Koonce's daughter, Mrs. Kaye Koonce King has been authorized by State Election Board Executive Director Alex Brock to accept filing fees and keep necessary records. Mrs. Koonce was familiar with the procedure, having worked with her father during the years he held the post.

## Five Civil Suites Filed During Past Week in Jones County Court System

Jones County Court Clerk Rogers Pollock reports receiving five civil actions in his court during the past week.

In the suit involving the most money Carl Shivar has brought suit against the North Carolina Lime Company, alleging that the company owes him \$9,414.32 for lime he delivered and for which the company has not made payment.

Gatlin Brothers of Bayboro in another action seeks to collect \$120 from Viola Kornegay of Trenton route 1 and in the third suit for collection Bruce Koonce, trading as Koonce Tire Company, is seeking to collect \$222.44 from Allen Spence of Dover route 2.

Two divorce suits were included among the five suits filed. In one Lloyd Lee Penuel asks a divorce on separation grounds from Isabel Penuel, alleging their marriage September 10, 1939, and their separa-

tion on March 15, 1965 and in the other Carol Foy asks divorce from Enoch Randolph Foy, alleging their marriage on July 30, 1966 and their separation on November 1, 1968.

## Jones Veterans Get \$234,233 from VA During 1969

W. R. Phillips, Manager of the North Carolina Veterans Administration Regional Office, disclosed today that the VA spent \$234,612 in Jones County to aid veterans during Fiscal Year 1969. This includes \$194,233 in compensation and pensions.

Administrator of Veterans Affairs Donald E. Johnson revealed at the same time that the total VA funds expended in the State of North Carolina during the same period amounted to

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