

Merger Versus Integration

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9. The National Education Association passed a resolution at its meeting in Seattle in 1964 that provides for a report by 1966 of con-



RECEIVES MID-ATLANTIC MERIT AWARD — Miss Barbara McCoy (right), a sophomore at Saint Augustine's College, receives the Mid-Atlantic Regional Scholarship Merit Award for having made the highest average of any neophyte inducted into the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority during the fall ceremonies. The award is presented to her by Miss Carolyn Hearnly, who is the president of the campus chapter of the AKA Sorority, and an outstanding student at the college. A Biology major, Miss McCoy had an "A" average at the time she was initiated into the sorority. This award will remain with her until some other neophyte in the eastern region is inducted into the sorority with an "A" average. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Almo McCoy of Raleigh, and a 1963 graduate of the J. W. Ligon High School.

crete plans for the integration of the two state associations in the states where such exists. The resolution was as follows:

"An important goal of education is the elimination of prejudice and bigotry from the public mind. As educators, we are dedicated to the principle of equal rights for all.

In light of these principles, the Representative Assembly instructs the officers and directors of the National Education Association:

1. To direct all local, district and state associations affiliated with the National Education Association to take immediate steps to remove all restrictive membership requirements dealing with race, creed or ethnic groups.

2. To take immediate action to develop plans to effect the complete integration of all local and state affiliates whose memberships are now limited to educators of specifically designated racial, religious or ethnic groups.

Affiliates whose memberships reflect the above mentioned restrictions shall be given until July 1, 1966 to revise their constitutions and by-laws, where necessary, to take whatever steps are required to expedite the complete removal of all restrictive labels, and to present a plan to effect the complete integration of their associations.

SHOULD AN AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS BY JULY 1, 1966, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION."

It seems extremely significant here that emphasis was placed on the integration of two state associations and their locals, an emphasis which requires planning and cooperation rather than the abolition of either of two by absorption and disintegration. In this relation the fact that the North Carolina Teachers Association has white teachers in membership, is considered as simply secondary to a provision where two associations may become one with respect for the contributions of each and the dignity of the members of each. The latter proposed provision possesses obvious advantages over simple local option and one without the involvement of the cooperative leadership of both associations at the state level.

It is in accord with the above resolution that NCTA stands ready to join NCEA in merging the two associations at state level as well as at the district and local levels. "... to take immediate action to develop plans to effect the complete integration of all local and state affiliates," does not envision the continued existence of two separate associations. By no stretch of logic can the simple removal of racial restrictions from a state association's constitution meet the requirements of the NEA resolution. If such were so, the two associations of a southern state could still exist separately and indefinitely as affiliates of NEA irrespective of the present resolution. Further, since one state association is the ultimate goal of NEA, it appears that the North Carolina Teachers Association consisting of 12,000 members, having removed its racial restrictions more than 25 years ago, admitted white members to membership, requested merger of NCTA and is standing by to support such action, is in first rate position for recognition.

There are various advantages of merger and total integration of the two associations. Among these are:

1. Merger and total integration of the two associations would constitute another example of the vital and creative approach to the solution of educational and racial problems for which the state has been recognized.

2. The augmentation of the two-state memberships would provide a greater professional force with concomitant educational advantages to the children and adults of North Carolina.

3. The merger and integration of the two associations would foster unity among the members and serve to keep the profession of teaching "professional."

4. Merger and integration would

complement the present integration emphases in all situations where all teachers must increasingly become involved.

The people of North Carolina rightfully have a stake in the outcome of the efforts toward the unification of the two state associations irrespective of their voluntary nature. They should be concerned as to whether their children's education shall bear the fruits of united action or divisiveness when there is need for strength to make certain that a professional organization remains professional with its basic program developed near and in cooperation with the people at the local level and with due regard for the concept of a profession.

Within the framework of great traditions and common purposes of two state education associations they should not permit to rise the question of professional ethics in a proposed movement toward unification, especially where each has removed from its constitution all references to race. The unification of the two associations would indicate the respect that each has for the other and their consideration of the public's interest.

In a measure, we summarized our point of view in the North Carolina Teachers Record of January 1965 in an attempt to point up the advantage that might be de-

veloped from merger of the two state associations in a southern state and the undesirable results that might accrue from anything less. I quote from a part of the article.

"The plan adopted by NEA in its 1964 convention in Seattle, that sets the stage for the recognition of only one state association within a state follows the trend evident among many organizations and allows time for smooth transition. The eventual implementation of the plan may prove that the relations between races and between two associations in the same southern state may be as good as they have been presented with pride and profit. In this, North Carolina's position is a fortunate one in the southern region as attested to by the Nation. It is expected that leadership will be exerted in cooperation for the good of educational advancement as has been the case in the past.

Merger and then integration, rather than the reverse, form the basis of an approach for the southern states that recognizes the human and physical resources of each of the two associations.

Integration extended over many years by permissive regulations at the local level would fail to recognize the past and present contributions of each association to educational progress within the same state and would show disregard for some

of the dignity, worth and service of professionals who were affiliated with local, state and national associations. Merger would provide for such fair representation. Merger would not only be followed by integration where the entire state would be involved, but it might just become an important factor in helping North Carolina to rise above its relative position in education among the states of the Nation. Above all of this, it would provide an atmosphere for the creation of another united force in the interest of all the students who we profess to serve."

It is probable that NCEA has numerous silent members who, though silent, are either anxiously or moderately in favor of merger. They may need a great opportunity for such expression and their leadership might probe deeply to help provide such.

If there be those in NCTA who have not as yet grasped the real distinction between merger and simple integration as described, then let us go forth to explain this to them. But assuming that eventually this leads to adoption of merger, let us not also assume that we can escape the normal and everyday problems of a state association, for there will be many. On the other hand, we could scarcely afford the dis-

integrating of either association as a result of slow desegregation in addition to our normal problems.

We shall not attempt to predict the future action of NCTA as to the ends that NCTA pursues; we shall simply and straight forwardly state that NCTA stands ready to merge with NCEA and shall leave no stone unturned for its effectuation.

This we accept as our obligation to our state and our Country, to those we represent and to those we serve. Until this becomes a reality, it is within the best interest of NCTA and education in general to strengthen the existing components of its program.

Ex-Jackson Grigger To 'Chi' Game

JACKSON, Miss. — Vernon Biggs, former All-America tackle at Jackson State College, has been invited to play in the 32nd Annual All-Star football game at Soldier's Chicago, the night of August 6. Biggs, a 6' 5", 240-pound Moss

Point, Miss., product, was elected to the PITTSBURGH COURIER All-America and the NEA (Newspapers Enterprise Association) All-America squads.

During the 1964 season, he was rated by many as the outstanding player on the Jackson State College eleven. Considered the fastest lineman in the football rich SWAC, he received plenty of support for lineman of the year honors, Bill Nunn of the COURIER says of him: "Most rivals say there was no better tackle anywhere." Alphonso Dotson, 6' 3", 268-pound tackle from Grambling, and Briggs were the only players from predominantly Negro colleges selected to the NEA eleven.

Biggs will join some of the best talent from collegiate ranks over the country for the game against the Cleveland Browns, champions of the National Football League.

The All-Star squad will report to Coach Otto Graham at Northwestern University July 15, 1963. Graham is considered one of the greatest quarterbacks in football history. Biggs, who received a sizeable bonus for signing to play professionally with the New York Jets, thus will become the second Jackson State player to join the All-Star eleven. Willie Richardson of the Baltimore Colts was a member of the 1963 squad.

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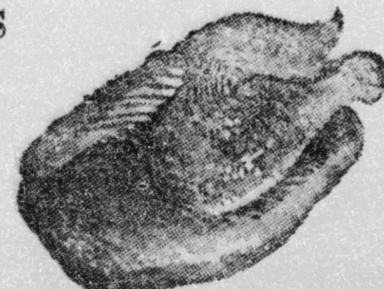
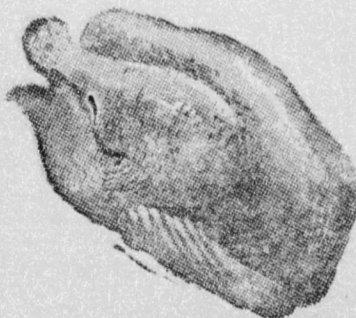
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