

Put Up Or Give Up

The delegates to the 85th Annual State Convention of the North Carolina Teachers Association will be facing some critical issues as school desegregation, merger, the Hammocks, increase in dues, teacher dismissals, resolutions and improvement in operations are aired. Decisions in each area



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will be serious and almost final in that, there will be little opportunity to change some decisions. Wrong decisions may prove to be costly. As schools have desegregated in North Carolina in 1965, one hundred and five Negro educators have been dismissed. It is startling to note, that while Negro Educators are being discriminated against, there are those who look upon this deplorable situation as "The price we must pay for integration and as an acceptable event." The Constitution of the United States provides for equal and fair treatment of all its citizens. No where in the constitution is the penalty placed on the Negro citizen to "pay a price for equal treatment" other than assuming his citizenship responsibilities.

about the dismissal problem of teachers is that too often, uninformed citizens think that only incompetent or undesirable Negro teacher is not being retained. Nothing is so far from right. The qualifications and reputations of some of the teachers, principals and supervisors released is unmatched by many of those, both white and Negro, who are retained in the field.

The distressing thing of all about the dismissal of Negro educators is that many Negro administrators and teachers think that "it won't happen in our community!" Many of the teachers, supervisors and principals already dismissed thought that it couldn't happen in their community either.

As North Carolina desegregates its schools more, a larger number of people are going to get some shocking surprises, for it is our prediction that more Negro educators will be released at the end of this school year than was true of last school year. Reports of the intent to close the Shankletown School in Concord, N. C. at the end of this year are already being received in the NCTA Executive Secretary's Office. The Shankletown School has a staff of thirty (30) or more Negro teachers.

No plan for the retention of these teachers was indicated in these reports. The new guidelines on school desegregation provide that every school shall have an integrated staff next year. That same issue which has plagued the Negro teacher this year is still present in the guidelines -- "qualification." The major question then is "Do we put up a continued effort for a fair and just implementation of the guidelines; or do we give up seeking full professional and citizenship rights?"

There is a way to desegregate professional associations and a way to merge. The two are not inter-changeable. Some are saying ok to merger, but deep down inside wanting to move ahead with desegregation



SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT APPROVES THE HAMMOCKS EXPANSION PROGRAM - This picture represents some of the members of the Southeastern District and other officials who

approved the Hammocks Expansion Program during their meeting on November 19, 1965 at Fayetteville State College.

at all cost, not truly realizing what the enormous cost is. We would win nothing by "selling our souls" for the opportunity to sit in desegregated meetings. To hold the membership united and negotiate terms of merger at the state level will achieve desegregation, the assurance of professional equality and integration.

In view of the many problems and working relationships that must be developed at the local level, it is desirable that local units instigate and participate in discussions, workshops, institutes and other joint activities that will facilitate better educational services, a more wholesome community climate and better feelings and attitudes on the part of local members of NCTA and NCEA.

The primary issue involved then, is "do we put up a strong unified effort for merger at the level or do we give up and become absorbed by the NCTA?"

AN ELDERLY and thrifty working woman looked at the picture in my color TV set and expressed disapproval, "I think it was all right before," she said.

Expansion Of Hammocks Discussed

Ownership of the Hammocks is no longer a legitimate question. The Hammocks, by deed, charter, and article of agreement, belongs to the members of the North Carolina Teachers Association to have, hold, and develop for recreation and informal educational activities. As long as any phase of this program is conducted by the

members of the North Carolina Teachers Association and other units named in the charter, the property remains as deeded to be continuously developed.

The North Carolina Teachers Association teachers, by vote in the districts, are committed to proposed expansion for the Hammocks and are on record as pledging a minimum construction contribution of \$25 to be paid over a period of three years, totaling a possible pledge of \$564,000 for the period. The initial payments on these pledges were due November 20, 1965. On that date less than \$5,000 had been pledged and less than \$500 had been paid on a possible \$130,000 due November 20, 1965.

The \$28 provides that regular teachers would pledge \$28 and pay \$10 as the initial part of the fee, with the balance being paid as follows: November 20, 1966, \$10, and the final payment of \$8 on November 20, 1967. Retired teachers were asked to pledge \$14, pay \$8 on November 20, 1965 and \$3 on November 20, 1966 and \$3 on November 20, 1967. Less than twenty retired teachers have responded to date. A second financial effort was organized in support of a memorial

to Dr. Sharpe whereby school administrators and teachers who desired to make a larger contribution could do so by supporting the Hammocks Notables Benefit Banquet. Pledged prior

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Dates To Remember

- March 31 -- April 1, 85th Annual Convention, NCTA Raleigh, N. C.
 - April 18-19 -- FTA Advisory Council Meeting Washington, D. C.
 - April 22-23 -- NCACT Executive Board Meeting Raleigh, N. C.
 - May 14 -- Committee on Research 125 E. Hargett Street, Raleigh, N. C.
 - May 21 -- Annual Pilgrimage to the Hammocks Beach Swansboro, N. C.
 - June 21-24 -- Teacher Education and Professional Standards Miami Beach, Florida
 - June 23-25 -- Coordinated NEA Staff Conference Hollywood, Florida
 - June 24-25 -- American Teachers Association, Annual Convention, Miami Beach
 - June 26-July 1 -- 104th NEA Convention Miami Beach Municipal Auditorium
 - July 28 - August 9 -- World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, Seoul, Korea
 - August 11-13 -- Thirtieth Annual Joint NEA-NCTA Leadership Conference, Hammocks Beach Swansboro, N. C.
- The NCTA Credit Union is planning a two-year \$100,000 expansion.

to the banquet \$4,360 - cash to be realized from such pledges \$2,360, total amount due from pledges including all persons invited \$22,275, with a possible one-fourth payment for the first year \$5,685, if total pledges are realized as indicated.

The Board of Directors is being asked to continue the benefit banquet for at least another year, to take the place on the restricted night, Friday.

Persons who paid the notables pledge of \$50, \$75, \$100 or more will be invited as honored guests at the banquet. Persons making payments on standing banquet pledges would be issued banquet tickets and persons who would join this group, with an initial pledge and one-fourth payment would receive banquet tickets.

W. R. Collins is Hammocks Expansion Director.

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NCTA KEYNOTER FOR THURSDAY - Dr. William J. Trent, Jr., assistant personnel director of Time, Inc., and a former head of the United Negro College Fund will deliver the keynote address on Thursday, March 31, at 8:15 p. m. in the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium at the 85th Annual Convention of the North Carolina Teachers Association.



NCTA BANQUET SPEAKER - Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, president, Educational Heritage Library, New York, will address the North Carolina Association of Classroom Teachers at the banquet Friday, April 1, at 6 p. m. in the Ligon High School Cafeteria.



ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS' ORATOR - Dr. John W. Davis, special director, Teacher Information and Security, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. will speak to the Elementary School Principals, Friday at 1:30 p. m. in the Southern Room of the Auditorium on the occasion of the 85th Annual Convention of the North Carolina Teachers Association.

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