

Live at Ft. Belvoir— Ike's Grandchildren Attend Private, Segregated School

By HOWARD SUTTLE, Journal Washington Bureau
(Third of a Series of Articles on School Integration in Washington.)
WASHINGTON—White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty was fast on his feet when asked by reporters about attendance by President Eisenhower's grandchildren at a private, segregated school, in Alexandria, Va.

The President's grandchildren, whose father is Maj. John Eisenhower, are attending Episcopal School, an all-white denominational institution for children, across the Potomac from Washington. When asked at a White House press conference about this, Hagerty replied that Major Eisenhower and his family live in Alexandria—not in the District of Columbia. The inference, of course, was that even if the Eisenhower children attended a public school in Virginia, as of now, it would also be a segregated school.

The inquiry to Hagerty was inspired by an address by Mississippi's Sen. James O. Eastland, who called attention to the fact that the President's grandchildren were attending a private, segregated school.

President Eisenhower's own grandchildren have been removed from a system that permits integrated schools, and placed in a private Episcopal school in Alexandria, Va. Eastland declared in the speech, delivered Dec. 1, before the Mississippi Association of Citizens Councils.

Although I am personally loath to embarrass the President of the United States, whenever he may be, as the result of a public statement by a member of his staff, it's obvious that if the Hagerty statement stood without amplification, the embarrassment could well be heaped upon Senator Eastland, as the result of misinformation.

kiss off the Eastland disclosure was apparently accepted by most of the reporters who attended the conference when the inquiry was submitted, it would be a hard matter for the President's press secretary—or anyone else—to sell me any major reason for attendance by the Eisenhower children at a segregated private school except that their parents desire that they attend school where their progress will not be impaired by Negro children, less capable of advancement.

And the Eisenhower are not, by any means, in an exclusive category among white parents in the District of Columbia, who are able to send their children to private schools and who have been so fortunate as to find places for such children.

Private all-white schools in and around Washington are operating at capacity, or above, according to officials of such schools with whom this reporter has talked during recent weeks.

Solons' Children on List.
Among the largest of the all-white private schools in the Washington area are the Congressional Schools of Alexandria and Arlington, operated by Prof. and Mrs. Melvin Devers.

The operators of the Congressional Schools, which send their own buses through Washington, twice daily on school days, to pick up and return home around 1,000 students, declined to reveal the names of the children of senators and congressmen whose children attend the schools.

Devers said, however, that "more than 50" children of members of Congress are enjoying the advantages of attending the Congressional Schools.

Senator Eastland is sending his son, Woods, to Friends School, which was also attended by children of Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell. Incidentally, the attorney general's office intervened before the Supreme Court in the school seg-

regation cases, asking the high tribunal to order mixing of the races in the public schools.

Friends School, operated under direction of Robert Lytle, was founded by the Quakers. It's now a private school, however, with a self-perpetuating board of trustees. The Quaker influence recently brought a proposal that the school permit entry of Negroes. It was decided, however, that if the institution integrated, it would "lose more students than it gained."

Mississippi's Rep. Jamie L. Whitte, Charleston, sends his son, Jimmy, to Friends School. Recently, when one of his colleagues, in critical manner, remarked to him "I hear you're sending your son to a private school," Whitte replied:

"I'm sending my son to a segregated school."

Parents Making Sacrifices.
I intend eventually to obtain a complete list of the children of senators and congressmen who are attending private segregated schools. Today, however, officials of the private institutions are obviously fearful that publication of the names of such children might, in a number of instances, cause their withdrawal.

These officials, most of whom told this correspondent they would "close up" before accepting Negro students, are also preparing for the possibility of lawsuits from minority groups that might demand entry of Negroes into their white institutions.

Children of senators, congressmen and other government officials are scattered through the many other private schools, such as Hol-

ton Arms and Mt. Vernon Seminary. A few of the private institutions—for instance, Cathedral School and some parochial schools—are now accepting Negro students.

I learned while studying the effect of public school integration, that parents throughout Washington are making great sacrifices in order to send their children to all-white private schools.

Schools Lose Talented Students.
The family of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Blake presents a case in point.

Blake, manager of Fairfax Village, an all-white apartment development in Southeast Washington, has two beautiful, charming and talented daughters.

Barbara, 17, went to Charlotte, N.C. to live with her grandparents and attend high school. Now in her second year at Charlotte, she is drum major of her high school band, and recently was the subject of a feature story in Newsweek Magazine as the result of her ingenuity in obtaining an interview by long distance telephone with Ernest Hemingway, in Havana.

Linda, 11, lives at home here and attends the private Congressional School. She and her parents arise at 6 a.m. each school day—one hour earlier than when she attended a D.C. school before inte-

gration. When the Congressional School has stops at her house, at 7:45, she's ready. She gets home in the afternoon more than an hour later than when she attended school in the district.

Linda Blake is also talented and popular. She was elected "queen of the homecoming" and presided over the annual "grudge" football game between the two Congressional schools.

These are examples of the manner in which D.C. school integration is taking talented students away from Washington public schools.

The Blake parents report the cost of sending their two daughters to private schools is around \$225 per month.

There are many parents in the District of Columbia who would be willing to make this sacrifice, but can't get their children any further into private schools than the waiting lists. Some senators and congressmen, because of their influence, are fortunate enough to get their children into integrated schools where there now are only a few Negro children. But if Negroes keep coming to Washington at the same rate they have entered the past few years, there won't be any such schools in a few years.

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