

Advisory Group Advances Plan For Keeping Segregation

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upon the individual facts of that case and that those facts that be completely adjudicated in the state courts as required by state statute.

4. We believe that members of each race prefer to associate with other members of their race and that they will do so naturally unless they are provoked and inflamed and controlled by outside pressure.

We think it is also true that children do best when in school with children of their own race. We think that in the course of time that will be plain to everyone. When the fires have subsided, when sanity returns, when the NAACP finds that it cannot use the federal courts as a club in a fight with the white people, and when the North Carolina Negro finds that his outside advisers are not his best or most reliable friends, then we can expect the voluntary separation which our governor and other state leaders have so wisely advocated.

Until that time arrives we urge that members of both races act and speak with restraint and avoid an open break between the races which would make it impossible to approach the solution of our problem in a spirit of reason and cooperation. An attitude of tolerance and cooperation is responsible for the harmonious relations which the races have enjoyed in North Carolina for more than 50 years and accounts for the great progress which the Negro race has made in this state during that time. Given time, we hope that same attitude can be re-established and will aid greatly in the solution of this, our greatest problem.

VII. What The Committee Advises For This Summer and Fall
At this time the people of North Carolina must think about what should be done this summer and fall to meet the needs of the present. The first thing which we advise for each local school unit is to operate the assignment machinery provided by the 1955 statute. We advise that each local school unit recognize honestly and in good faith that although there is no legal barrier to the admission of Negro children and white children to the same school, the children of one race should do better in a public school with children of the same race. There should also be recognized the fact that there is no legal compulsion on anyone to mix the races.

Specifically, we recommend that all school units:

1. Recognize that there is no law compelling the mixing of the races.
2. Recognize that since the Supreme Court decision there can be no valid law compelling the separation of the races in public schools.
3. Declare that initial assignments to schools will be made in accordance with what the assigning unit or office considers to be for the best interest of the child assigned, including in its consideration residence, school attended during the preceding year, availability of facilities, and all other local conditions bearing upon the welfare of the child and the prospective effectiveness of his school.
4. After initial assignments are made, permit transfers only upon application and hearing in due course and in accordance with the provisions of the 1955 assignment law.

VII. Insuring A Safety Valve
We think that what we are proposing is constructive; that it is affirmative. But it should be noted again that we are proposing that building of a new school system on a new foundation—a foundation of no racial segregation by law, but assentment according to natural racial preference and the administrative determination of what is best for the child. We know that this new program will present many problems, many difficulties and some controversies, but we think that it can be made to succeed to the satisfaction of the people of the state.

The original Governor's Special Advisory Committee, composed of 18 North Carolinians in its report of December, 1954, said: "The schools of our state are so intimately related to the customs and feelings of the people of each community that their effective operation is impossible except in conformity with community attitudes." The committee said that unanimously. The three Negro members of the committee said just that. They signed the report. The Legislature of North Carolina unanimously adopted a resolution which was even stronger in its terms.

POSSIBLE ESCAPES
It may well be that before the people of North Carolina will give the necessary support to an honest trial of the assignment plan they will need to be assured of escape possibilities from intolerable situations—assured first

that no child will be forced to attend a school with the children of another race in order to get an education and assured, second, that if a public school situation becomes intolerable to a community, the school or schools in that community may be closed. To achieve those objectives there must be some changes in the North Carolina constitution and some legislative enactments based thereon.

We recommend that a special session of the General Assembly of North Carolina be called this summer to consider submitting to the people the question of changes in our state constitution.

We recommend that this Legislature cause to be submitted to a vote of the people of North Carolina constitutional amendments or a single amendment to achieve these desirable and, we think, necessary results:

1. Authority for the General Assembly to provide from public funds final grants to be paid toward the education of any child assigned against the wishes of his parents to a school in which the races are mixed—such grants to be available for education only in nonsectarian schools and only when such child cannot be educated in a non-mixed public school.

2. Authority for any local unit to create pursuant to law and under conditions to be prescribed by the General Assembly, to suspend by majority vote the operation of the public schools in that unit, notwithstanding present constitutional provisions for public schools.

These proposed constitutional changes are recommended for that such changes will give to the people of North Carolina the confidence and assurance which are necessary and which are required by our school system. We do not think that these changes pose a threat to public education generally in the state. On the contrary, we believe that they will provide the necessary means to assure the support of the white people so badly needed to continue our public schools. If the white people support a public school system in North Carolina, public education will continue. If the white people do not support a public school system in North Carolina, there will be no public education. To gain that support we believe it will be necessary to provide an available escape from a possible unacceptible situation.

VIII. Conclusion
In conclusion we express the hope that our report has not been so gloomy as to cause the discouragement of our people. We have thought it necessary to speak plainly and to face the facts realistically. But we are not discouraged about the prospects. We think that the future is difficult but that a satisfactory solution will be achieved and that our state will go forward. It is true that we face dark days. But we have faced dark days in the past and have emerged from our difficulties.

As never before in this century we need courage, coolness, toler-

ance, and good will by the members of all races. We need the very best leadership which our generation can provide, unselfish, farseeing, statesmanlike leadership. Above all, we need the opportunity to solve our monumental problem with the minimum of outside, uninvited interference, pressures and compulsion.

STUDY TO CONTINUE
We do not in any sense consider the filing of this report as terminating the work of our committee. We are fully aware that what is recommended now may not be sufficient to meet all the conditions which may develop in this fast-moving and ever-changing problem. We intend to continue our constant observation and study of all development and will, as it becomes necessary, make further recommendations to deal with it.

In the meantime, we have confidence in the ultimate awakening of the people of the United States to the dangers inherent in constitutional amendments by judicial fiat and in the attempted unilateral adjustment of racial relations by force.

We have confidence in the strength, the soundness and good will of the people of North Carolina.

We think what we have proposed, if adopted, will preserve public schools and help preserve the public peace for what we stand ready to do more whenever it becomes necessary.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of April, 1956.

THOMAS J. PEARSON,
Chairman
WILLIAM T. JOYNER,
Vice-Chairman
LUNSFORD CREW
R. O. HUFFMAN
WILLIAM MEDFORD
CLYDE PHIPPS
EDWARD F. YARBOROUGH



TWO NEW MEMBERS of the Two Gallon Blood Donor Club are Howard Counts (left of 234 Bradford Dr., a grocery store owner, and Max Gantt, of 2314 Morton St., an electrician with Robinson Electric Co. Both men are members of the same Sunday School Class at Thomashboro Presbyterian Church.

the shortage is immense." The committee put the building problem this way: "If the expected enrollment of 1959-60 were enrolled now, the need would be for 375,000 classrooms."

HAS NO CHANGE
The present construction rate is about 60,000 classrooms per year. If this rate continues or decreases, simple arithmetic shows the need has no chance to be met.

The majority urged that, as much as possible of the load be financed within states. However, it added that some

states are hampered by restrictions on taxing and bonding procedures which might take years to modify and that "a few states may lack the fiscal resources to finance adequate school systems without excessive tax effort for some years to come."

To take care of the immediate emergency at least, it recommended federal building funds be made available to all. Although holding that "in general the same things that caused the shortage of school buildings caused the shortage of teachers," the committee

declared "the biggest single cause is undoubtedly low pay." "Doubling the pay (in real wages) of teachers cannot be done quickly," it said, "but in the opinion of this committee such a drastic increase eventually will be necessary to attract the most capable young men and women to the schools."

The committee estimated the accumulated teacher shortage at 80,000 and the continuing need at 125,000 new teachers each year. It estimated this year's supply at about 57,800.

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'Community' Plan Advised

(Continued From Front Page)

"Invariably involves widely different convictions."

CONTINUED STUDY
The report said "judicial decisions on church-state relations have clarified only small parts of the whole question" and called for continued study.

"The second difficult question," it continued, "concerns the issue of segregation . . . this too is an area of conflicting opinions not entirely resolved by supreme court action."

The committee said it agrees "that the intent of the majority of the American people is to abolish racial segregation as soon as possible." As for school building needs, the committee wrote: "There is a great deal of conflicting information on the size of the nation's classroom shortage . . . one common factor runs through all of it:

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