

Equal education seen near

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights today released a report which, the Commission said, "Strongly suggests that through patience, thoughtfulness, and a common sense of fairness, equal educational opportunity for all the nation's children can finally be achieved."

The report, "The Diminishing Barrier," is based on studies of school integration efforts in nine communities in different sections of the nation. Rural, urban and suburban areas are included. Some have been ordered to desegregate by courts. Others have acted in anticipation of court orders. Still others have desegregated on their own initiative.

The nine communities are Alachua County, Gainesville, Florida; Escambia County, Pensacola, Florida; Evanston, Illinois; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Hoke County, North Carolina; Jefferson Township, Ohio; Leon County, Tallahassee, Florida; Moore County, North Carolina; and Volusia County, Daytona Beach, Florida.

The Civil Rights Commission, an independent, bipartisan, factfinding agency concerned with the rights of minority groups and women, said it is convinced that "only on the basis of objective fact and experience can the nation be in a position to make sound judgments on this vital issue." The Commissioners gave that reason for presenting the report.

The Commissioners are Dr. Stephen Horn, Vice-Chairman, President of California State College, Long Beach; Mrs. Frankie M. Freeman, a St. Louis attorney; Maurice B. Mitchell, Chancellor of the University of Denver; Robert Rankin, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Duke University; and Manuel Ruiz, Jr., a Los Angeles attorney. John A. Buggs is Staff Director.

The study documents both successes and failures in inte-

gration efforts. It points out both strengths and weaknesses in each community's program. It identifies common problems and shows how in many cases problems have been solved.

The report states that although "none of these desegregation efforts can yet be labeled a total success . . . from an analysis of the kinds of problems these communities have taken in an effort to meet them . . . we all can learn and find many of our fears dissolved. This is particularly true of our fear of the unknown."

Six basic elements are critical in a smooth transition to integrated schools, the report states. They are: (1) determination by the local school board and administration to carry out desegregation plans and to do so firmly and unwaveringly; (2) support by the news media, local officials, and civic leaders; (3) action to assure that responsibility for desegregation is shared equally by the total community; (4) keeping parents informed and involved; (5) development of an impartial and firm disciplinary procedure for all students and provision for their full participation in all school activities; and (6) concerted efforts to improve the quality of education while desegregation is underway.

Student attitudes, in general, were deemed "good" by the study. In Escambia County, Florida, for example, the students established a biracial committee whose efforts to make the integration plan work often went beyond that of other local committees made up of adults involved in the desegregation process. In Hoke County, North Carolina, students felt integration was working well in both the classroom and in non-scholastic activities. However, in one case, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, students were deemed to have less positive attitudes about integration than

teachers and parents.

Most communities in the study were found to have strong leadership on the school board and cooperation from all elements of the community and media. In Evanston, Illinois, the superintendent was credited by the residents for having a strong moral commitment to integration. One administrator felt that only the superintendent could have implemented the desegregation plan and pointed out that since his departure "Evanston has not moved."

In Leon County, Tallahassee, Florida, white parents who were reluctant to place their children in formerly all-Black schools were invited by the school administration to visit the schools, talk with faculty members, and inspect school facilities. As a result many parents became and are still involved in PTA groups. The report concludes that Leon County's relative success "appears to be the result of determined efforts by administrators, teachers, and parents both Black and white."

Transportation has not been a major issue in the areas studied. In rural Moore County, North Carolina, where students have always been bused, school integration plans caused only minor problems. In Leon County, Florida, parents requested more busing rather than less. In Jefferson Township, Ohio, 2,500 children are now bused compared to 2,000 prior to integration. Incidents of misbehavior on buses in Jefferson Township have been few. Of 10 fights reported in 1971-72, none was identified as being racially motivated.

The Commission concluded that, while "the process of change from segregated to desegregated schools often creates difficulties and places great burdens and responsibilities on all concerned," school desegregation can be made to succeed.

Education report to be published

Education finance, racial integration, and aid to parochial schools are among the timely and critical issues considered at length in Volume I of THE FLEISCHMANN REPORT. To insure that the comprehensive study of elementary and secondary education prepared by the Fleischmann Commission receives the permanent form and nationwide distribution it deserves, The Viking Press will publish both hardbound (\$14.95) and Compass paperback (\$6.95) editions of Volume I on February 6. Volumes II and III of the Report will be available this summer.

When the distinguished eighteen-member New York State Commission, appointed in 1969 by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and the State Board of Regents to study the quality, cost and financing of elementary and secondary education, printed its limited supply of Volume I in March 1972, The New York Times commented:

"It is clear that the Commission's first set of recommendations, if put into effect, would radically re-order the system by which New York State finances the education of its children . . . The recommendations are, therefore, expected to set the terms for a historic debate during the months ahead, just as the report as a whole is expected to become a standard of authority to which those arguing about education will refer for years to come. The central theme of this first volume is in its plea: 'The promise of equal educational opportunity must become a reality in this decade.'"

At a time when the constitutionality of the methods used for funding public education in 49 of the 50 states of the union are facing severe constitutional challenge, the Commission argues that only bold reform will cure current defects. The Commission recommends full state funding of public education particularly through a statewide property tax in place of local property

taxes and a substantial increase of federal aid.

In controversial chapters on Racial and Ethnic Integration and on Aid to Nonpublic Schools, the Report documents increasing segregation in the North and argues that busing is necessary to reverse that trend, and that public funds should not be used to support non-public schools (a suggestion from which five Commission members dissented).

"Better education for everyone offers the best chance for major improvement in the quality of human life in the years ahead," Manly Fleischmann, Chairman of the Commission and distinguished Buffalo and New York attorney, writes in the Forward to Volume I. Three years, the assistance of many independent consultants, extensive public hearings and funds amounting to \$2 million have produced the most comprehensive and highly financed study on education in decades. The heated public discussion that the Report has already generated attests to its importance.

Acknowledging the monumental scope of the Report, The New York Times wrote that the Fleischmann Commission has "created one of the biggest, most ambitious and most sophisticated ventures in information-gathering and analysis yet undertaken in American education." In a letter to Manly Fleischmann, commenting on the work of the Commission, Dr. James Bryant Conant wrote: "You and your co-workers have set a model for other states to follow by your exhaustive and original procedure."

Volumes II and III of the Report contain extensive consideration of the following subjects: curriculum, secondary schools, children with special needs, social problems in schools, school governance, including approaches to greater fiscal as well as performance accountability, New York City, and more effective and efficient uses of human resources.

"Voice of the NAACP"

by Ellis Casson, President

Blacks lose a friend

Last week while in Washington, D.C., attending a FHWA Civil Rights Workshop, the nation was shocked at the sudden death of Lyndon B. Johnson.

Being at a Civil Rights Conference, we reflected on the life of this man who did so much for Civil Rights in this country.

Being here in Washington, I had to pay my respect to this great American, therefore, I joined Roy Wilkins, Clarence Mitchell and every major Civil Rights leader in America by attending the funeral service for the late President of the United States.

As I sat there in the National City Christian Church my mind went back to the first time I met President Johnson face to face. It was September 1963 and I was invited to attend an "EEO Conference on Equal Rights" in Los Angeles by then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson.

I was truly impressed by this man from the South who had such a strong commitment for Civil Rights. However, that day I spent visiting with him I didn't know that in two months he would be the

president of the United States.

Being active and concerned about civil rights, I watched the actions of the President to see if that commitment he expressed to us was real. I'm proud that I've lived to see the 1964 Civil Rights Act - 1965 Voting Rights Act - 1968 Fair Housing Law, plus other laws that have helped the Blacks, minorities and the poor to overcome. Lyndon Johnson took the lead and Congress acted.

This man was not a talker but a doer when it came to Civil Rights. In his last major public appearance where he had gone to Austin to attend the opening of his Civil Rights Papers at the LBJ Library, despite his doctor's orders, got up to speak and said:

"To be black - to one who is black - is to be proud, to be worthy, to be honorable. But to be black in a white society is not to stand on level ground."

"While the races may stand side by side, whites stand on history's mountain and Blacks stand in history's hollow."

Unless we overcome unequal history, we can not



Ellis H. Casson

overcome unequal opportunity. That is not - nor will it ever be - an easy goal to achieve.

"We know there is discrimination and suspicion and division among us."

"But there is a larger truth. We have proved that great progress is possible. We know that much remains to be done."

A man like Lyndon B. Johnson will be missed and we pray that God will send another to take his place as President of the United States.

Sent Up The River By You

Doing it for the kids

by Bill Jeffery, Staff Assistant



Rep. Wally Priestley

The 57th Legislative session has begun to gather steam. Representative Priestley's office has a backlog of bills to be introduced. We have tried to use legislative power to correct the problems that society is having.

There is nothing of greater impact on society than the education of children. The alarming drop-out rate is a reflection of the difficulty that children have adjusting to the strangeness of the school environment.

There is a partial remedy to this problem. It is the time-tested institution of kindergartens. In a kindergarten, the child finds out what school is all about, without being subjected to the pressures of instant achievement.

Representative Priestley believes in kindergartens. He has introduced a bill to provide kindergartens in all common school districts. The money to do this will come from the State. It is our understanding that the funds are readily available if the public chooses to get involved in

changing priorities.

An excellent example of public involvement is the activity of the Steelheaders Club in the conservation battle. Representative Priestley is a cosponsor of the sportsfishers' package of bills. It will be quite a struggle to put Oregon's fish resources on a proper footing.

Any reader of the Observer who is interested in this effort should contact Len Malmquist at 281-8426 in Portland. Len is a Director of the Steelheaders Club and a very active advocate.

Tax reform is certainly the major issue this session. We have prepared several refinements to the Governor's excellent plan to eliminate property tax for support of schools. Representative Priestley intends to discuss these issues as soon as the workload in the Revenue Committee decreases.

Largest recycling plant open

The nation's newest permanent aluminum recycling center was opened today with the prediction that aluminum recycling for 1973 would reach two billion cans for the first time.

Paul Murphy, Vice President, Packaging Division, Reynolds Metals Company, forecast the aluminum industry would recycle about 87 million pounds of aluminum cans in 1973. He said it would mark the first time that aluminum recycling programs were available in all 48 continental states. He also forecast that aluminum collection centers would grow to more than 1,500 before year end, up from 1,000 in 39 states in 1972.

Mr. Murphy said industry-wide aluminum reclamation and recycling programs are the most successful of their kind in the country, and that the growth of can collections continues. For example, he noted that in 1970, the first year of the program, about 185 million aluminum cans were recycled. The next year, the number quadrupled to 770 million, and in 1972 approximately 1.4 billion aluminum cans were recycled.

Reynolds Metals Company recycled more than 800 million aluminum cans in 1972, paying the public nearly \$3.6 million. The aluminum firm, which pioneered aluminum can recycling in 1967, expects to recycle about 1.4 billion cans in 1973, which will be worth more than \$6 million to the public.

Reynolds operates 12 permanent recycling centers and a fleet of 11 mobile units which carry recycling to many cities. In addition, beer wholesalers and breweries and soft drink companies serve as cooperating collection centers for public redemption of aluminum cans in many other areas.

Recycling programs are maintained by members of the aluminum, beer and soft drink industries. The public is paid 10 cents a pound for used aluminum cans. More than \$6 million was paid the public by the industry in 1972 for the more than 60 million pounds of reclaimed aluminum. This valuable metal was recycled and used in the manufacture of new and useful aluminum products.

Mr. Murphy noted that Reynolds, the leading producer of all-aluminum beverage cans, would recycle one in three of its 1973 can production. In 1972, one in five was reclaimed and recycled. Mr. Murphy acknowledged that aluminum's high scrap

value - about 10 times as high as most other common packaging materials - accounts for the continuing success of the recycling and environmentally.

The two billion cans to be collected and recycled in 1973 represent approximately 87 million pounds of aluminum which cannot become solid waste or litter. The value of the metal to the public is nearly \$9 million. Mr. Murphy said, "Money will have been created from what would have become litter and solid waste." He added that energy and valuable natural resources will have been conserved.

ACOA condemns American policy

The American Committee on Africa today released a statement on the assassination of Amilcar Cabral, Secretary General of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), by agents of Portuguese colonialism.

The statement said that although this brutal act removed a man of almost unparalleled ability from the African scene, it cannot stop the victory of the people of Guinea-Bissau in their struggle for independence and self-determination.

Amilcar Cabral was one of the founders of the PAIGC in 1956. He played a central role in the development of the Party, stressing the importance of the peasantry and emphasizing the needs to

engage in an extensive program of political education in the countryside before embarking on an armed struggle. Ten years after the launching of the armed revolt in January, 1963, Guinea-Bissau is virtually independent. The Portuguese controlling less than one quarter of the territory.

The A.C.O.A. statement, condemning U.S. complicity with Portugal concludes that "inspired by Amilcar Cabral's example, all those who love freedom will renew their pledge to support the struggle against Portuguese colonialism and give unstinting support to the PAIGC and other liberation movements in the Portuguese colonies until independence is won."

Black unions ask Senate rejection of Brennan

Calling the recent record of the Labor Department in enforcing equal employment opportunity laws "dismal", a leader of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists today asked the Senate Labor Committee to recall for further questioning President Nixon's nominee for Secretary of Labor.

William Lucy, a member of the Coalition's steering committee, told the Senate committee that "With the sorry record of the Department of Labor in carrying out his responsibilities in the field of equal employment opportunity - we are concerned because the nominee, Peter J. Brennan, is a man who has indicated his lack of support of these very programs the Secretary of Labor is called upon to enforce."

Lucy told the Senate Committee, which is holding hearings on Brennan's nomination, that the 3 million Black workers represented by the Coalition are concerned that the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, which is responsible for seeing that 225,000 government contractors act to eliminate racial discrimination, is "being frozen to death in a bureaucratic ice-box."

Lucy, secretary-treasurer of the 600,000-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, said the Coalition also is concerned that since 1969, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, calling for equal access to Labor Department Programs has gone unenforced.

Only a strong commitment by the Secretary of Labor will reverse this record," Lucy told the Senate Committee. "But the nominee's personal record shows him to be at odds with these guarantees. The Coalition believes that it is important for the nominee to express before this committee his personal commitment to the affirmative action needed to correct past employment discrimination against Blacks and to state his views on other issues of historic importance to the labor movement."

The Coalition, an organization concerned with unifying Black union members, asked Brennan to meet with them three weeks ago to discuss issues of concern to Black workers, but the nominee did not meet the Coalition's request. The Coalition was formed in September 1972 when 1200 Black trade unionists representing 3 million workers met in Chicago.

"We have not been permitted to ask our own questions; we certainly have received no answers," Lucy said in his testimony. "We trust that this Committee will wish to fill this void before passing on (Brennan's) nomination."

House to assert control

Introduction of a bill to reassert control by the House of Representatives over the federal budget has been announced by its sponsor, Congressman Wendell Wyatt, R-Ore.

The measure is an effort to remedy the present piecemeal method of federal appropriations. The House would be required to approve a budget specifying revenue forecasts and an expenditure ceiling prior to the spending of federal dollars.

Wyatt stated, "It is the Constitutional responsibility of the House to raise and appropriate money, and yet we do not have a budget of our own. Congress receives the President's budget and divides it among the fragmented committee system. Passage of this bill would give us more businesslike control over our budgetary responsibilities."

Provisions of the bill require a two-thirds vote for passage of any legislation which would exceed the House-authorized budget. Members voting for overruns will be forced to go on record as voting for an unbalanced budget.

Lucy presented the Committee with a list of questions crucial to Black workers Brennan should answer before Senate confirmation. The Committee, Lucy suggested, should find out if Brennan is personally committed to strong enforcement of equal employment laws concerning government contractors, including the use of numerical goals; strong enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act; and strong support of OFCC.

Brennan, Lucy said, should also be asked his views on repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act (the right to work law); expansion of the Fair Labor Standards Act to

reach workers not now protected; extension of the Emergency Employment Act; the right of striking workers to receive food stamps; and his attitudes on guaranteed collective bargaining rights for public employees, including teachers.

During his testimony, Lucy was accompanied by Charles Hayes, vice president of Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen, AFL-CIO; Richard Parrish of the Distributive Workers of America; Horace Sheffield of the United Auto Workers; and William H. Simon, president of Local 6, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

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Senior Citizen of the Month

MRS. EDWARD W. SMITH
Mrs. Marie Smith is Chairman of the Senior Adult Service Center Advisory Committee and past chairman of the planning committee that coordinated this program of citizen participation. A senior citizen who has devoted a lifetime of volunteer services to city wide enterprises as well as for the aged, she is presently a member of the City County Commission on Aging.

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