

# Educator claims Justice Department trying to undermine public school system

by Jerry Garner

Mary H. Futrell, president of the National Education Association accused the U.S. Justice Department of trying to undermine public schools. Futrell said that the Justice Department probed into the charge that some public school districts may have lowered academic standards to graduate more minorities is a ruse to undermine the public school system.

The Justice Department wants to identify public school districts where minority students are granted diplomas even if they are not ready to "compete," or where they are channeled into programs such as physical education or arts which do not stress academic fundamentals. The Justice

Department alleged that certain school districts may have lowered academic standards and avoided charges of discrimination under the 1965 Civil Rights Act.

The investigation started four years ago when William Bradford Reynolds became Associate Attorney General for Civil Rights. "Our concern is to see that minorities are not short-changed," he said.

Futrell responded by saying, "If the Justice Department is really concerned, they would also investigate this discriminatory practice in parochial and private schools." According to Futrell, the Justice Department is using the investigation to build a stronger case for granting tax-exempt status and tuition tax credits

to private and parochial schools, and to convince the country's minority population that the administration is working for their best interest.

Futrell said if the administration manages to push through these changes, some minorities may suffer because many still won't be able to afford the cost of education in private or parochial schools. Futrell said funneling federal funds into these educational institutions and out of the public school system would leave that system weak and ineffective.

"The Reagan administration cuts, so far, have adversely affected minorities. Under this administration, you have 2,000 less minorities entering colleges this year." Futrell was referring to the drop in the number of Black students who took the Scholastic Aptitude Test in the high school class of 1985.

## SOUTHERN STYLE TURKEY DRUMSTICKS

- 4 California turkey drumsticks (about 4 1/2 lbs.)
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground sage
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 tsp. Tabasco
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup hot water

Rinse turkey drumsticks; pat dry. Combine flour, salt, pepper and sage in shallow dish. Mix together milk and Tabasco in another shallow dish. Dip drumsticks in milk, then in flour mixture; repeat. Heat oil in skillet. Add butter, then immediately add drumsticks, frying 15 to 20 mins., turning to brown all sides. Add 1/2 cup hot water. Cover and simmer gently 45 to 60 mins. or until tender. Add additional water during cooking, if necessary. Uncover the last 10 mins. of cooking to crisp. Makes 4 servings.



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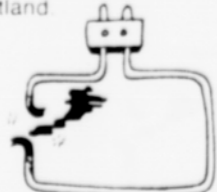
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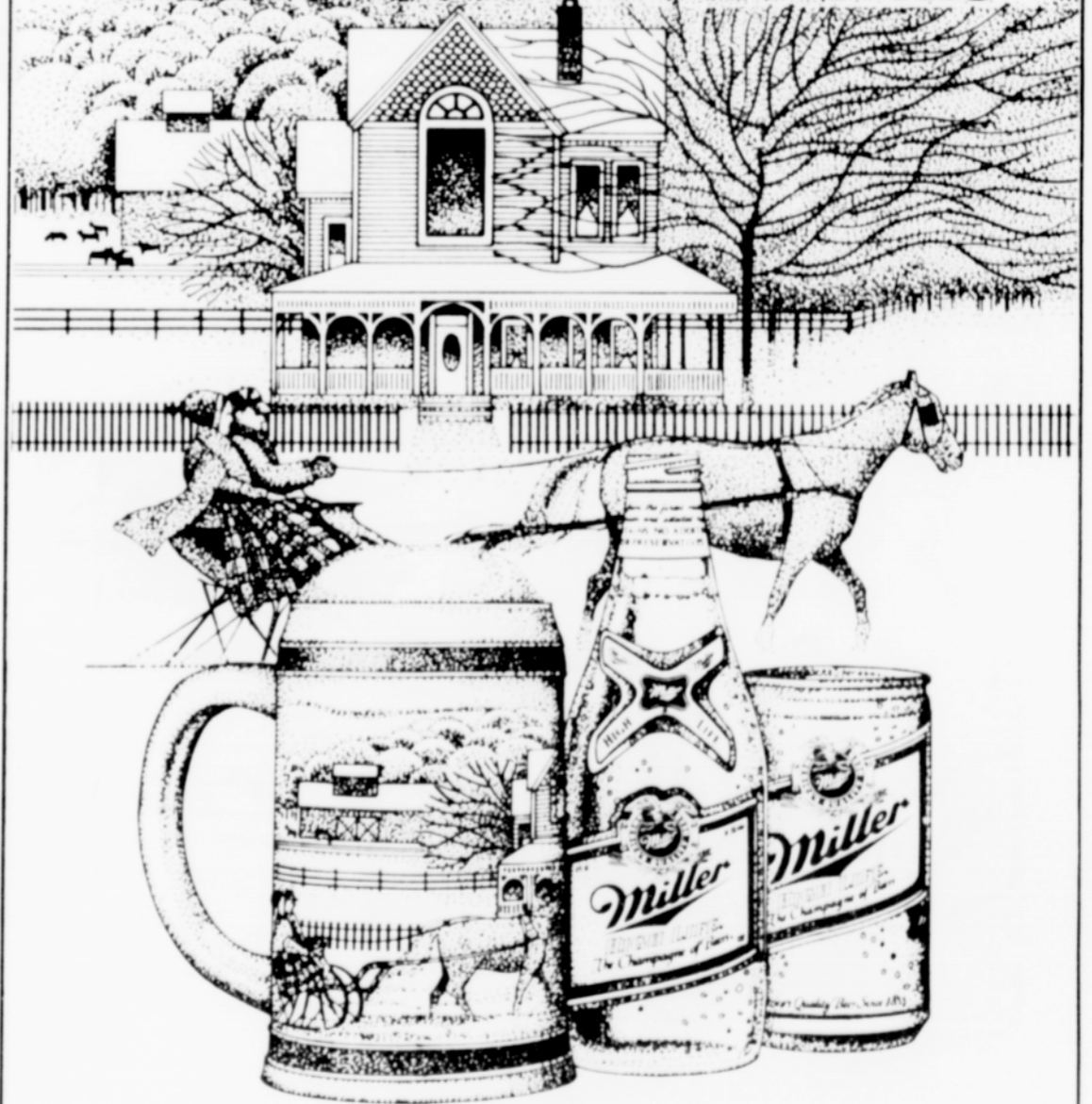
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