

# Schools Big Issue In Chicago Area Racial Showdown

By AL KUETTNER  
United Press International  
Who runs a city's schools, the superintendent or the school board?  
What is best for the children, neighborhood schools or a free-wheeling system that permits them to go anywhere there's room?  
Should crowded schools with special courses make room for top-level students from schools that don't have such programs?  
Those are questions that have plagued many a public school system, particularly in the years since pressures from integration groups have insisted on a better deal for Negro pupils.

Currently, the questions make up the big issue in a showdown battle in Chicago between Supt. Benjamin C. Willis, the school board, parents and racial groups. The end is not yet in sight.  
Willis, with a salary of \$40,500 per year, is one of the nation's highest paid public officials. After a summer and fall of mounting school troubles, the 61-year-old educator has just turned in his resignation.  
**Refused Resignation**  
The school board, by a 6-2 vote, refused to accept Willis' action. That triggered a threat from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee to sponsor a massive boycott of schools unless the resignation is accepted.  
There is some speculation in Chicago that Willis might have handed in his resignation to obtain a vote of confidence from the school board. But, for whatever reason, it has not yet been withdrawn.  
Behind the trouble lies months of pressures and demonstrations from SNCC and other racial groups which have charged Willis is helping perpetuate de facto segregation of schools in Chicago.  
Willis contends he is trying to run a good school system, not a social experiment. His policy

has been to stick with neighborhood schools, and that's where the racial trouble has started. Most neighborhoods in Chicago are either predominantly non-white or predominantly white and their schools follow the same racial lines.  
Despite the claims of racial organizations, there are those in Chicago who insist that other than racial factors cause most of the difficulty. The main one, they say, is over-crowded conditions in both white and Negro schools.  
**Brought Retirement Decision**  
It was this situation that brought Willis down to the retirement decision.

He had been instrumental in establishing a new system of schools sending their best pupils, regardless of race, to schools with "enriched" programs.  
The idea worked well until the time of designating sending and receiving schools. When parents of some schools on the receiving end balked on grounds they already were over-crowded, Willis backed out and removed them from the list. The school board put them back on.  
In his resignation, Willis said the school board had infringed on his administrative duties. His action came, however, after courts ordered him to permit

PHILADELPHIA (UPI)—The traditional Christmas colors of red and green are on display vividly the year around at Indiana, Pa., billed as the "Christmas Tree Capital of the Nation."  
four honor pupils, three of them Negroes, to transfer to other schools with "enriched" programs.  
Whatever the final outcome, the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the region's accreditation body, is watching the situation closely. It has warned that tampering with a school system's administration could lead to loss of accreditation.

# Get-Together Mood in Europe Opens New Jobs

By ELVEZIO BIANCHI  
ROME (UPI) — Most people would not doubt prefer to become a "consec" for a consec is tops in his profession, but it's much more difficult than becoming a "simult."  
Of course, the aspiration of all is to be a consec and simult at the same time, but let's face it — it takes real talent and application.  
A good consec these days can make an average of \$50 a day, plus all expenses paid, and if he or she has really got the qualifications, then work is assured for no less than 200 days per year.  
"Consecs" and "simults" are

the products of the get-together mood of most of western European countries. As Europe laboriously draws closer together the need for more and better consecs and simults is growing apace. More international congresses, meetings and parleys mean more language barriers to be broken down.  
**New Professions**  
Consecs and simults are the new professions. A simult is one of those vacant faces, all lined up with earphones, that are seen behind glass from a nifty international assembly floor, steadily pouring into mouthpieces the running, simultaneous translation in several languages of what a delegate is saying.  
A consec is the translator who gets up after someone has made a 20-minute speech, or a long-winded statement, and repeats, consecutively, the whole thing in another language. Their primary merit is that most of the time they make the meaning of a speech much clearer and grammatically better than when originally spoken.  
With European integration in mind, many Italian cities have

set up interpreters' schools. These are the factories that produce the consecs and the simults. It has become fashionable to join these schools. Girls who in the past used to take art courses or other refinements are now flocking to them by the thousands.  
Only a few really make the final grade after what is generally a gruelling three years of study of at least three languages. An additional five or six years "in the field" may finally produce a good consec or simult in more than one version, such as for example English into French or German into Italian.

**Eugene Doctor Gets Two Year Sentence**  
EUGENE (UPI) — Dr. Hjalmar Gentle of Eugene was sentenced to two years in the state penitentiary and fined \$2,500 Wednesday.  
He was convicted of manslaughter by abortion. Defense Attorney John Osborn said the conviction will be appealed to the Oregon Supreme court.



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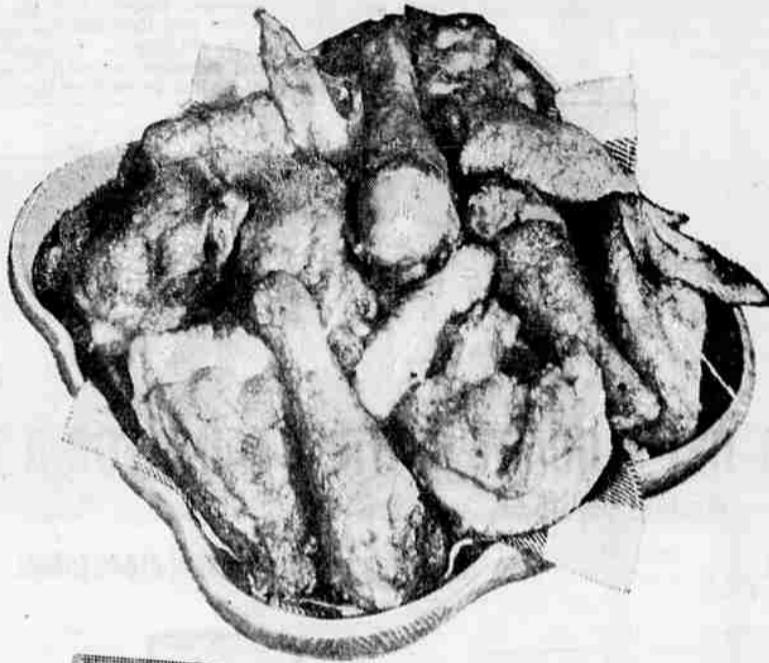
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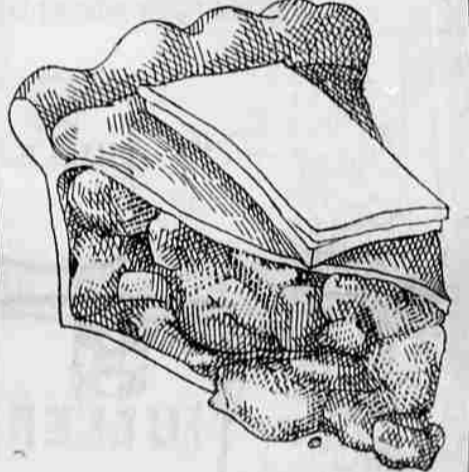
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