

(a) "Integration"

An interview with Education Commissioner Harold Howe II, carried in the December 5, 1966, issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, clearly reveals a degree of vagueness and uncertainty on the part of the Commissioner as he responds to the following questions:

Q. "Another word that's being used a lot today is 'integration.' What is integration in a school?"

A. "I don't know in any quantitative sense. This is like the racial-balance question. Obviously, the word means bringing together the races in the context of this discussion."

Q. "Is integration required by law? Or just desegregation?"

A. "The Supreme Court has said that segregated schools are discriminatory by nature. So you certainly have an implication that, in order not to be discriminatory, you have to have a degree of integration."

(b) "Segregation"

In the same interview referred to in (a) above, Commissioner Howe again contributes to the current state of indecisiveness and confusion when he responds to the question:

Q. "Even the word 'segregated' raises questions. Is a school segregated simply because it is all white or all Negro? Wouldn't it help for Congress or somebody to clarify all this and tell school boards just what is required of them?"

A. "What we have is a highly decentralized governance of education—and I think Americans want it this way."

The notion of imposing some kind of order on education, either in terms of pupil arrangement or in terms of curriculum or in terms of any other major area of policy, is not something that the Congress or the President or I or anybody else that I know of would subscribe to.

There is clearly a concern—in both the North and the South—about the problems of segregation and desegregation and integration, and the whole mix of issues that are involved in these words."

(c) "Racial imbalance"

Still further evidence of Commissioner Howe's uncertainty and/or evasiveness is evidenced in the same interview referred to in (a) and (b) above as he answers the question,

Q. "You have used the phrase 'racial imbalance,' haven't you? What is racial imbalance?"

A. "I suppose it would be racial imbalance to have a school 90 per cent Negroes and 10 per cent whites in a community where you have 90 per cent whites and 10 per cent Negroes."

But I really don't know what this concept amounts to as an exact definition. The lawyers don't seem to know. I've asked them. I think it would be useful to pin down a definition."

(d) "Discrimination"

This complaint is further substantiated by evidence found in the following exhibit:

Exhibit D: Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education, page 17, through paragraph 3, page 18.

(e) "Dual school system"

This complaint is again substantiated by evidence found in the following exhibit:

Exhibit E: Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education, page 20 through paragraph 3 on page 22.

(f) "Freedom of choice"

The complaint is still further substantiated by evidence found in the following exhibit:

Exhibit D: Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education, pages 16-19.

3. We are appalled at the arbitrary, ambiguous, and inconsistent interpretation and application of existing HEW guidelines by Commissioner Harold Howe II and his staff members.

The confusion, resentment and damage caused by these practices in many of Georgia's school systems is beyond description as well as immediate repair.