

understood what the problems of getting some kind of compliance would be.

We suggested in this letter that Federal pressure would be needed to make De Kalb County comply. Our reasons for this were our own personal experience, plus published statements by the superintendent of schools, boasting of his success as a segregationist.

For example, in an Atlanta Constitution article back in 1965, Mr. Cherry was quoted as saying:

I suppose I am the most successful segregationist in the country.

I am just taking this in order.

We didn't know about this, but on April 14, Mr. Harper, the assistant superintendent of schools in De Kalb County, who is more or less in charge of dealing with the U.S. Office of Education with respect to segregation, silenced by Mr. Cherry, superintendent of schools, went to Washington, and we were told later in a letter from Mr. Seeley that Mr. Harper was told at that time that the county was operating under a geographical zone attendance plan.

I am sure you are not basically concerned with the features of this as such. I hope you understand there is a difference between a geographic-zone plan and a freedom-of-choice plan, because around this distinction a good deal of our difficulties in dealing with the U.S. Office developed.

De Kalb County, then, according to Mr. Seeley, did not have a freedom-of-choice plan, had an attendance-zone plan, and Mr. Seeley claims that not only had De Kalb County chosen to do this a year before, but in his conference with Mr. Harper on April 14, this had been reiterated and made explicit.

In the meantime, we began to read in the newspaper, and hear discussions, and get notices and comments from the school people, that seemed to indicate to us that the county was now operating under a freedom-of-choice plan.

This was not our notion of the greatest idea in the world, but any plan was better than no plan.

We read the guidelines, and the guidelines laid out certain requirements to be followed by school systems, following a freedom-of-choice plan.

They were not being followed completely, just in part, at that time.

We wrote Mr. Seeley and asked that he explain what was going on.

On April 22, we got a reply from Mr. Seeley, saying that De Kalb had until April 30 to mail parents, giving name and location of the school to which the student had been assigned by the school leader, and information about bus service, and that they were supposed to publish map attendance zones, and so forth.

We received notices from the school system on May 2.

Now, these notices were freedom-of-choice notices. They were exactly the notices that the guidelines said should be sent under a freedom-of-choice plan.

We pointed this out to everybody we could, and in the meantime we made some complaints to various and sundry people, that the freedom-of-choice procedures were not being followed.

For example, the freedom-of-choice plan covered what choices were not offered at all high schools. This was never done, for obvious reasons.