

In fact, they did not have to. Mr. Howe's letter resolved the condition of the guidelines.

And while they answered our letters in due course, they were evasive letters, and just said, "I am sure if you take any particular child to a school, the questions will be answered for that child."

I might note that although the assignments were given at the end of June, that was not universally true. The principal of one Negro school said he did not assign seventh grade students to the school.

In De Kalb County, grade eight is the beginning of high school, so that apparently none of the children in that school were told which high school zone they lived in.

On June 10, we wrote a letter to Mr. Corrigan, asking for some specifics about what aspects of the guidelines still applied to De Kalb County, if any, such as the unlimited transfer permissible for bus service to Negro children, and asking who was in charge of compliance in De Kalb County now.

We got no answer to that letter. In fact, we never, nearly, until a few days ago, got anything further out of the U.S. Office of Education, and we made a number of attempts, but we never really did get any.

We became totally ineffective. What newspaper support we had for the notion that De Kalb could comply vanished immediately, was all a misunderstanding, and Mr. Cherry and Mr. Howe agreed that the thing that De Kalb County was doing was great.

As we note in our letter to you, Congresswoman Green, late last year, you had been told by Mr. Howe, we understand, that he would see to it that De Kalb County was investigated. As far as we know, that is not true, and has never happened.

In fact, in August, representatives of the Office of Equal Opportunity were in Atlanta doing a field investigation in Georgia, and at that time we were told that Mr. Seeley had refused to give permission for any investigation in De Kalb County.

I will call your attention to only one other thing.

On June 22, of this year, the Atlanta Constitution front page headlines had an article referring to Mr. William Page's memorandum to Secretary Gardner, in the local office, which said in part:

The ineptitude in handling the De Kalb County matter is unequaled in our experience. Local people in this Regional Office have attempted for a year to get this problem handled constructively by the Office of Education. If any of the 2,000 school superintendents can negotiate his case with Commissioner Howe, why should 10,000 hospital administrators not have access to the Surgeon General?—

and so on.

We feel rather strongly that this is a case of a bureaucracy tripping over itself; in its efforts to accomplish one thing, it is accomplishing something else.

I don't think any of us doubt the individual personal sincerity of the people in the Office of Education. We nevertheless feel that we personally have been treated shabbily, but above all, a number of children in De Kalb County could have been in some semblance of adequate schools, or still remain in the segregated schools unnecessarily, and we really had come to a dead end when we had the opportunity to be heard by you.