

Furthermore, if other press reports are true that some school districts are prepared to give up Federal funds, what information does HEW have about what this loss means in terms of termination of educational programs?

What efforts does HEW make to get schools desegregated by legal action when the use of sanctions fails to abolish the dual school system? Do HEW and the Justice Department have a coordinated strategy? In May, 1966, seventeen Negro parents in Crenshaw County, Alabama, wrote the Justice Department requesting that a suit be filed after school officials had an inadequate transfer period and had indicated that only a few Negro students would be admitted to formerly all-white schools. After numerous complaints which were received during the summer, HEW initiated action for noncompliance. Shortly before the opening of school when the school board denied most of the applications of the 200 Negro pupils who sought enrollment in desegregated schools, a Legal Defense Fund attorney filed suit and secured a good court order in a few days. There are still problems; the judge has modified his order and fewer children will have the advantage of a desegregated education. If the Justice Department had filed suit last spring, we believe that much uncertainty and suffering would have been prevented.

What does HEW feel is its role in those Louisiana districts which are not complying but where no court suits have been filed to desegregate schools?

16. *What has been the impact on the abolition of the dual school structure of the growth of private, segregated schools for white children who are boycotting desegregated schools?* What data does HEW have on these schools, their sponsors, their financing and their educational program? Has HEW determined whether public school officials have been involved in the establishment of these schools? What action has HEW taken to insure that these segregated schools are not being Federally subsidized from programs including surplus property, school lunch, etc.? Do HEW data reveal conditions under which these schools are likely to flourish and suggest a strategy for weakening this threat to public education? Negroes such as those in the Sharkey-Issaquena district in Mississippi who have suffered reprisals in order to get a nonsegregated education for their children are understandably disheartened when they finally enroll in formerly all-white schools which have been completely boycotted by white pupils and teachers.

17. *What overall information do your data provide and what general conclusions do your staff members make about compliance and the rate of progress in ending dual systems when different kinds of communities are compared: rural vs. urban; Border states vs. Deep South states; districts with high percentages of Negroes vs. those with small Negro population, etc.?* Are there significant exceptions? How do you account for them? Does the posture of the state agency seem to make a difference in comparing compliance among the states?

We know that these questions are not new to you for they have come up frequently this year as we have conferred with staff members of the Equal Educational Opportunities Program. We hope that you will agree with us that the answers to them could provide the agenda for a very profitable meeting of members of your staff with field workers from our School Desegregation Task Force. We trust that this meeting can be held as soon as possible and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

JEAN FAIRFAX.

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 1966: A CRITIQUE

(By M. Hayes Mizell)

INTRODUCTION

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States wrote, "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." This historic decision in the case of *Brown et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka et al.* involved cases coming from the states of Virginia, Delaware, Kansas, and South Carolina. The South Carolina case, *Briggs et al. v. Elliott et al.*, came to the Supreme Court from Clarendon County School District No. 22. Today, twelve years after the 1954 Supreme Court decision, there are less than 50 Negro chil-