

year, in a speech on the House floor, Rep. Rivers called Commissioner Howe a "misfit" and said he was "ignorant." Rivers accused the Johnson administration of sending "commissars" into the South to demand recruitment of Negro teachers for integration purposes. He said the law had been "raped" and warned that, "We are really bitter and somebody is going to pay for it" (*Columbia State*, August 10, 1966). On September 30, 1966, Rivers said that Howe "talks like a Communist" and accused him of destroying the school system of America "lock, stock, and barrel." Rivers suggested also that the "best way to stop him (Howe) is to quit paying him" (*Congressional Record*, September 30, 1966).

Rep. W. J. Bryan Dorn felt that arbitrary decisions by the Office of Education were causing many veteran educators to retire earlier than they expected. The Greenwood legislator said that the rules from the Office of Education were coming from people "who know little if anything about real education" (*Columbia State*, August 10, 1966). Rep. Watson charged Commissioner Howe with attempting to "sabotage" local school systems. Watson called Howe a "czar" whose office was "rapidly growing into a totalitarian regime . . . bent upon the destruction of local control of education." Watson also asked for Howe's resignation and criticized Office of Education employees for being "heavy-handed" in their treatment of school officials (*Columbia State*, September 9, 1966). Shortly before the 89th Congress adjourned, New York Representative Emanuel Celler appointed a seven man subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee to determine whether or not the Office of Education had exceeded its legal authority in enforcing the guidelines. One of those appointed to the subcommittee was Rep. Robert T. Ashmore of South Carolina. Ashmore has said that he will "hold their (Office of Education) feet to the fire" when the hearings begin. Ashmore has promised that, "I will see that the South's viewpoint is represented" (*Columbia State*, October 4, 1966).

The Educators

Soon after the guidelines appeared efforts were made to get some top state education officials to appear on a panel at the Civil Rights Commission conference. None of the individuals contacted were willing to serve on the panel, however. As early as April 12 it was reported that State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Jesse T. Anderson, would decline an invitation to meet with Harold Howe II, U.S. Commissioner of Education, to discuss the new guidelines. Dr. Anderson said that he had already discussed the guidelines with Howe and in the future he would just "read Howe's letters" (*Columbia State*, April 12, 1966). On June 7, 1966, the *Columbia State* reported that Dr. Anderson was promoting negotiations between two South Carolina school districts that did not sign 441-B and the Office of Education so that the districts would continue to receive funds. On June 11, 1966, the *Columbia State* reported that Dr. Anderson had told the State Board of Education that the government might not cut off funds to the two schools. In the same article it was also reported that a member of the Board from Lexington County District #1 (a non-complier in 1965) had said that his district had been just as well off without federal funds. In early July Dr. Anderson was in Washington, D.C., for an education meeting and took the opportunity to approach federal officials and ask that funds be restored to school districts not in compliance with Title VI (*Columbia State*, July 2, 1966).

When officials from the U.S. Office of Education came to Columbia in July, Dr. Anderson refused to allow them to utilize the facilities of the State Department of Education so they could discuss school desegregation plans with various school administrators from around the state. As a result, the Office of Education representatives had to meet in the Wade Hampton Hotel. Dr. Anderson refused to attend the meeting and insisted that no efforts had been made to arrange the meeting through the State Department of Education. It is now clear that attempts were made to work with the Department (*Columbia State*, July 12, 1966). In late July the State Department of Education in cooperation with the South Carolina Association of School Superintendents jointly sponsored a closed meeting to discuss school desegregation problems. This meeting was closed to the press and all visitors (*Columbia State*, July 29, 1966).

When a group from Florida State University held a conference in Columbia in August to help South Carolina school officials deal with administrative problems incident to school desegregation, they made an effort prior to the conference to clear it with the State Department of Education. Such clearance is important