

(1) Local school officials and state political and educational leaders have resisted change in the area of school desegregation.

(2) The majority of the white community has also resisted change and has, at times, been openly hostile to any policies which would tend to bring about greater desegregation. When school officials have taken positive steps to produce change, they have not been supported by the white community.

(3) Because of the hostility of the white community and the resistance on the part of local school officials, political, and educational leaders, the Negro community has been beset by fear and cynicism. As a result, it has been difficult to organize the Negro community for meaningful desegregation and difficult to overcome the inertia created by past years of oppression.

(4) Federal agencies have failed to provide strong leadership and effective enforcement of school desegregation regulations.

One would hope that in the years to come, when there is perhaps less political ferment in the state, school desegregation will be approached with more reason and equanimity. There is no question that genuine progress can be made in this area, but it demands leaders who are willing to recognize opportunities for progress and who do not feel obligated to defy the federal government with such enthusiasm.

Educators, to be sure, are being called upon to face the challenges of equality of educational opportunity with imagination and courage. Unfortunately, it appears that many professional educators are finding it difficult to adjust to the increased involvement of the federal government in education, and too few of them recognize that the goal of Title VI is to abolish the dual school system. South Carolina will not make genuine progress in education until our citizens recognize that integrated schools and quality education are not mutually exclusive.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
OFFICE OF EDUCATION,
Washington, D.C., December 6, 1966.

MISS JEAN FAIRFAX,
Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.,
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
New York, N.Y.

DEAR MISS FAIRFAX: Your letter of September 26 requesting operating policy and statistical data from the Equal Educational Opportunity Program on school desegregation has been carefully reviewed by my staff.

You are aware as a result of your contacts with our office and the two conferences held with you and the American Friends Service Committee staff that a considerable amount of staff time has been assigned to this project. Two task force units have diligently sifted our files, circulated questionnaires, and conducted interviews with our Area Directors and field staff for pertinent information.

After a careful analysis of the information collected we have reluctantly concluded that replies to many of your queries could be secured only if a uniform system of record-keeping was designed and placed into operation when the program began. Nevertheless, we are prepared to forward to you replies to those questions we can answer responsibly at the earliest possible time.

Our staff has never exceeded 125 full-time people serving the South, the North and the West, and it reached this size only recently. The maximum energies of the operating field staff have of necessity been put into the demands of the compliance and negotiating phases of the program.

The September 26 correspondence has a great deal of meaning for our program as well as for you. The 17 multi-phased questions raised by you have set in motion new ideas for uniform recording and data collection in our office, some of which depend on obtaining sufficient staff to permit this. If a similar request is made in another year we would very likely be equipped to produce the answers in considerably less time.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID S. SEELEY,
Assistant Commissioner,
Equal Educational Opportunities Program.