

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS 1661

to me by Mr. Stratton. Your prompt attention to this request will be appreciated.
Sincerely yours,

J. W. FULBRIGHT.

STUTTGART PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Stuttgart, Ark., April 1, 1966.

Hon. J. W. FULBRIGHT,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

SIR: School administrators and board members are disturbed over the "Revised Statement of Policies for School Desegregation Plans Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" which has just been handed to us.

1. It changes our plan of desegregation which we accepted last year and which we have kept in good faith after approval from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

2. The revised orders violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in requiring racial balance in schools and goes much further than Congress intended.

3. The changes demanded have come to us after obligations and contracts with teachers have been made and compliance with them will force the administration and school board to renege on contracts and commitments already made to teachers and pupils.

4. The policies force the use of certain language, which is not the will of the school authorities, in notices to parents and advertisement in the paper and requires that the school adopt it in toto. When official freedom of expression is denied, the time is not far away when personal freedom of expression also will be denied.

5. The time schedule for advertisement and registration of pupils cannot be met because of the late notice to the schools.

6. The severity of the changes will create antagonism among teachers, pupils, and patrons and, hence, will cause serious problems in administration of the schools.

7. It destroys all confidence on the part of those who have thus far worked to meet the law with courage and sincerity because we find that we cannot trust the authorities who approved our original plan.

8. It leaves the feeling that the Civil Rights leaders are using a club to force their will and show no respect for our rights or opinions. There can be no enthusiastic attempt on the part of administrators or board members to comply with such orders and the entire school system will suffer.

9. It places financial strain on schools to advertise, send letters, and employ additional clerical assistance to get letters to patrons.

10. It makes no provision for local traditions and opinions but assumes that all situations can be handled in the same manner. There are some 150 or more schools in Arkansas that have none or few negroes while some have as much as 60% negro.

11. It imposes a tyranny over our schools which affects the lives of all our people and destroys their faith in our government.

12. We feel that we should be allowed to continue with the three year plan which was approved by the Commissioner of Education and which the schools and its patrons have accepted. Continual and more stringent regulations will but lead to resentment and possible rebellion.

We enclose with this letter the following documents:

1. The Form 441-B we are now required to sign for participation in Federal Funds. The revised statement of policies for school desegregation plans of March, 1966. The mandatory texts of notices, letters, and choice forms prescribed by the Commissioner of Education for use with school desegregation plans of March, 1966.

2. Guide Lines for school desegregation dated March 1, 1966.

3. Photostatic copy of clipping from Gazette of April 1, 1966.

Last week a team of advisors was sent into the State by the Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This team met with the School Superintendents and School Board Members from throughout the State at Little Rock on March 23, 1966. The attitude of this team, to say the least, was arbitrary on racial balancing, without regard to academic standards