THE Diamondback

Friday, January 18, 1950

Negroes Have Powerful Indictment Against White Citizens Of State

By Louis Eisenhauer

Prior to 1935, little or no provision was made by the State of Maryland for the higher education of her Negro population. In fact, the State supported but one school, Bowie State Teachers College, which trained Negroes to be elementary school teachers.

Princess Anne College, now Maryland State, although designated as the land-grant college for Negroes, never received adequate support and before 1935 did not have the status of a degree-granting college. For that matter, Bowie State did not receive its name nor the authority to grant degrees until 1938.

Thus, seventy years after the emancipation of the Negro people in this country, the State of Maryland was still unwilling or unable to afford education for them.

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Confronted with this overwhelming neglect, the General Assembly of Maryland in 1933 created a Commission on Higher Education of Negroes and allowed it $10,000 to be used for scholarships for Negro students, the scholarships not to exceed $200 in value.

The scholarships were to be awarded "worthy Negro students", to take "professional courses or such other work as is not offered in the said Princess Anne Academy but which is offered for white students in the University of Maryland."

Incidentally, the money allocated was to be taken from appropriations for Princess Anne College, then receiving far less from the State than required by the Morrill Act.

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The grant was the beginning of the Out-of-State Scholarship program for Negroes. During the ten-year period 1937-47, the state scholarships cost the state $295,000. This sum, less the amount awarded undergraduates, is substantially the total amount the state has expended in her history for the graduate and professional education of her Negroes.

The State Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States have held that out-of-state scholarships do not meet the constitutional test of "equal protection before the laws." Hall Hammond, Maryland's Attorney General, has declared that the essence of the Gaines and Sipeul cases covering "equal but separate" facilities was "to condemn the use of out-of-state scholarship as a substitute for equal facilities within the State."

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Since the 1937 Commission on Higher Education of Negroes, there have been three more commissions established by the State to study the same problem. The latest is the State Commission on Negro Higher Education currently meeting in Baltimore with Dr. David Weglein as Chairman.

It was before this Commission that officials of the University of Maryland recommended that Negro higher education in the state be controlled by the University.

It would require a separate and very detailed study to present a fair picture of the elementary and high school situation for Negroes in Maryland. This series has dealt exclusively with the Negro's higher education.

However, some facts are available that will serve to emphasize the immense handicaps faced by Negroes who seek an education in Maryland on any level.

For example, there is but one Negro high school in the entire state accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

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Negroes constitute a much smaller population proportion of

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high school graduates than of the total population.

According to surveys conducted by the Citizens Committee on Current Educational Problems and other groups, Baltimore colored schools are inferior to white schools on the basis of school buildings, educational equipment, extent of curriculum, and number of pupils per teacher.

There is no accredited teachers college for training Negro elementary school teachers in the State of Maryland.

There are 40,000 colored children in elementary schools in Baltimore and 7,500 of them are forced to take their class in split or part-time shifts.

* * *

The indictment against the State of Maryland and her white citizens by the Negro population is a powerful one. The salient counts dealing just with education are these:

. . . While there is no legal compulsion for segregation of Negro and white students in Maryland, in practice, by custom, such segregation is maintained.

. . . Negroes cannot attend graduate or professional schools supported by the state with the single exception of the University of Maryland Law School. And that school was opened to them by Court order.

. . . The state has argued in Court that the Southern Regional Educational Program is a plan by which Negroes can be sent to a school out of state. This claim by the state has been publicly repudiated by the Director of the Program.

* * *

. . . "Separate but equal" facilities are a myth in Maryland. No Negro school in the state compares with the University of Maryland, which is for white students only.

. . . Morgan State is the only Negro college accredited beyond the state's borders. and Morgan State does not offer graduate training in any field.

There is more, far more. But

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"social pressure" and tradition are awesome barriers to overcome. Sufficient that the record be compiled, sufficient that the true facts be known; the reply to the indictment must be made by the white people in the state.

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Finally from the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

"In a democracy, each individual must have freedom to choose his friends and to control the pattern of his personal and family life. But . . . democracy also means that in going to school, working, participating in the political process, servicing in the armed forces, enjoying government services in such fields as health and recreation, making uses of transportation and other public accommodation facilities, and living in specific communities and neighborhoods, distinctions of race, color, and creed have no place."

Sources Used:

Morgan State College Bulletin, Jan., 1947.

"Civil Rights in Baltimore" . . . A Community Audit, 1949.

Marbury Report on Higher Education in Maryland, 1947.

Baltimore Morning Sun, July 29, 1949.

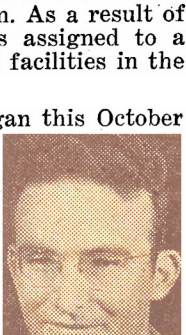
"To Secure These Rights", President's Committee on Civil Rights, 1947.

January 17, 1950

Survey—*By Louis Eisenhauer*

LATE LAST SPRING the newly appointed editor of the Diamondback, George Cheely, and I, discussed Negro education in the state of Maryland. We were particularly discouraged by the total lack of information available to students at the University concerning the problem. As a result of these conversations, I was assigned to a study of Negro educational facilities in the state.

The actual research began this October and continued through December. Carol Lee Towbes, working with me, handled the voluminous correspondence and contributed a good deal of research. I visited both Morgan State College and Maryland State at Princess Anne and talked with administrative, faculty and student leaders.



Eisenhauer

FURTHER, I interviewed Negro educators in Washington and Baltimore, and studied carefully the numerous law cases dealing with the segregation of Negroes in educational institutions. Mrs. Clarence

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Mitchell of the NAACP in Baltimore arranged many of the interviews and otherwise was responsible for a considerable portion of the factual material. During this phase of the work, Mr. D. V. Bennett and Dr. Ambrose Caliver of the Office of Education at the Federal Security Agency were of great help.

THE tentative schedule called for the first article to run in the December 1 issue with four more to follow in successive issues. However, the editor felt that the problems raised were of such import that the entire editorial staff of the Diamondback and the Publications Board should be consulted. Meetings were held and it was decided to run the articles.

The articles were definitely "slanted," in the sense that the mere arrangement of the overwhelming facts about Maryland's shameful treatment of her Negro population made the series one-sided. Nevertheless, I made a conscientious, though perhaps not always successful effort, to remain objective. My personal opinion, which is that there is no room in a democracy for segregation, did not enter into the series.

I appreciate the confidence and courage of the Diamondback editor and the staff for their support and encouragement. And, especially, I want to thank Carol Lee for her splendid help, without which the series could never have been published as quickly as it was.

THE Diamondback

*April 21, 1950 * p. 1*

Will Abide By Court Negro Rule

Regents To Discuss Admittance Decision At Meeting April 27

By PHIL GERACI

The University will abide by the decision of the State Court of Appeals in admitting Esther McCready, Negro, to the School of Nursing in Baltimore.

* * *

THIS STATEMENT made Wednesday by Dr. Byrd came on the heels of a ruling by Maryland's highest court that the state must provide equal educational facilities within its boundaries for Negroes who want to attend its schools.

"There's nothing the University can do but abide by any decision the court may make," he said, "but just how the situation will be handled is a matter for future determination by the Board of Regents and by officials of the state."

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Regents

The President declined to say just what the University will do about admitting other Negroes who are asking for admittance into the Baltimore schools of Dentistry and Pharmacy and the College of Engineering and Home Economics here.

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WHEN ASKED if it was true that a negro applicant must also be admitted to the College of Engineering, President Byrd stated he knew "of no other case" except Miss McCready.

Dr. Byrd was noncommital about future steps to be taken by the University until a meeting of the Board of Regents convenes April 28 to look into the matter.

Asked if the University would appeal the case, presumably to the Supreme Court, President Byrd said, "I don't know."

* * *

THE CONTROVERSY arose when Miss McCready appealed to the State Court of Appeals after being denied entrance to the Baltimore School of Nursing. The state had offered to send her, instead, to the Meharry Medical College at Nashville, Tennessee, under a 10-state Southern Regional Educational compact.

It had been the policy of the state to pay travel expenses of Negroes to out-of-state universities for Negroes when courses, for which they were applying, were not offered at Maryland's Negro college, Princess Anne. Miss McCready, however, refused to leave the state, and appealed her case, instead, to the Court of Appeals.

THE Diamondback

*April 25, 1950 * p. 1*

McCready Judgment To Be Aired By Regents

Board Will Meet Friday To Decide Course Of Action On Negro Case

By EDDIE HERBERT

The University Board of Regents will convene Friday to decide whether or not to contest the decision handed down by the Maryland State Court of Appeals to admit Esther McCready, Baltimore Negro, into the University's School of Nursing.

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Regents

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PRESIDENT HARRY C. BYRD said the administration will be unable to say definitely what future steps will be taken until the Board decides upon a course of action.

If the Board decides to appeal the court's decision and their appeal is denied or if they should lose the case, the State's policy of paying Negro students' expenses to out-of-state universities will undoubtedly be abandoned. This would mean that Negro students would be admitted to the Baltimore School of Nursing, and perhaps to all other University schools, both in Baltimore and College Park.

If the State's case is voted down, a precedent will have been broken, because no Negro student has ever been admitted to the College Park campus.

* * *

SEVERAL high-ranking University officials have emphatically declined to comment on the present status of several cases involving Negro students who have reportedly made application to the Colleges of Engineering and Home Economies in College Park, and Dentistry and Pharmacy in Baltimore.

Dr. Edgar F. Long, director of admissions, refused to say whether or not he has such applications on file in his office.

Dr. Byrd stated last week he knew "of no case" where Negro students had made application.

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