



TIP FROM ABOVE--John McCluskey, Harvard quarterback, receives telephone tip on bench from Crimson scout in press box during recent game at Cambridge. McCluskey is latest Negro star for Ivy League school's football squads.

Virginia Teachers Lower Bars

RICHMOND, Va.--Another important step forward in the desegregation of teachers' organizations in Southern states took place here recently when the Virginia Education Association voted to admit Negroes to membership for the first time.

Although limited in scope and opposed by some members of an all-Negro teachers' organization, the VEA move was regarded by most Negro leaders in Virginia as "encouraging."

The action was taken by 1500 delegates from local education organizations who attended the 80th annual convention of the association here. The delegates adopted a recommendation of the VEA board to permit Negro members of affiliated local groups to join the VEA.

However, the resolution added that "the VEA board of Directors emphatically rejects any plan or merger of the VEA with the VTA (Virginia Teachers Association)." The VTA is an all-Negro teacher group with about 8000 members. The VEA has 31,000 members.

Both the VEA and the VTA are members of the National Education Association, which adopted a resolution last summer directing all member organizations to "take immediate steps to remove all restrictive membership requirements dealing with race, creed or ethnic groups."

The effect of the resolution will be to open the VEA to a comparatively small number of Negro members, since most local units of the Association are segregated at present.

The only desegregated units are in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax and Harrisonburg. These units have a total of about 325 Negro members.

(EDITORIAL, from page 2)

of leadership and they resent those who are capable. . ."

And if you want additional proof that we are still on the same track we started out upon, please consider the following statements from an editorial of last winter and recall what happened in the recent electoral campaigns:

"Unless there is a great awakening in this community the 1964 election could well turn into the greatest auction sale of all time, for there are some who feel they can buy political power with your votes. . . To buy political power is immoral and it's time we opened our eyes to the corrupting immorality of vote-buying. . ."

We still believe all these things to be true. For myself, I ask little more than the chance to go fishing as often as possible. But I cannot enjoy this diversion while I feel that false prophets are leading my friends and neighbors astray. As soon as you, the people, awaken to this dangerous situation and take the necessary steps to correct it, I will love you all madly for permitting me to head for the lake with peace of mind, secure in the knowledge that the people of this community are again guiding their own destiny.

I intend to pursue this subject in future issues of the VOICE.

C.I.W.

In another development, a surprise amendment offered by James McBlair of Falls Church to put the convention on record as opposing State tuition grants to pupils who prefer to attend private schools rather than integrated schools carried by a vote of 516 to 327.

Northern Virginia teachers, who had traditionally led the fight for integration of the teachers' organization, said they were pleased with the step toward desegregation. In 1962 the delegate assembly permitted local associations to admit Negroes into membership but ruled against allowing these Negro members to join the VEA.

The VTA, which also held its annual convention here, opposed the VEA desegregation move. J. Ruppert Picott, VTA executive secretary, contends that the VEA action will "whittle" away at VTA membership and ultimately destroy the VTA as an effective educational force.

Picott called for joint action by the VEA and the VTA which will lead to merger of the two bodies.

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