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School Board Position

Clark County Board of School Trustees has unanimously adopted an interim position on integration in the public schools of southern Nevada. The stand, aimed at elimination of de facto segregation in all public schools, was cited by Board President Dr. C. W. Woodbury of Las Vegas as a "constructive step in the right direction."

Dr. Woodbury lauded Superintendent James Mason for his 23-page report which was compiled after a careful study of the issue. The report was based on a preliminary survey conducted by members of the District's advisory Planning Council, meetings with members of Las Vegas' Negro community, and discussions with public school officials.

"THIS IS BY NO MEANS to be considered final action on segregation," Dr. Mason said, "but this position does enable the school district to make a positive stand at this time and lays the ground work for additional study during the next three months." Dr. Mason reported that a more formalized statement should be readied for Board consideration about December 1.

Dr. Woodbury said the Board's position on eliminating de facto segregation should be "much more clear" after last Thursday night's action, which was designed as a basic effort to provide equal educational opportunities for every student attending public school in Clark County.

Dr. Mason pointed out that the Board supports the neighborhood school concept but that bussing students out of and back into the Westside was not necessarily in the best interests of these children.

"WE WELCOME critical comment on this report," Dr. Mason said, "since I believe Las Vegas is one of the few cities in the country today which has not reached a 'point of no return' in meeting the challenge of de facto school segregation. There are many things we can and are doing to meet this situation head-on. I doubt whether there is any single program in the United States which could be put into effect in Clark County successfully, nor has there been any one solution worked out successfully in the United States."

Dr. Woodbury said that one possible solution will involve close contact and work by all interested parties. "When you have people working together, discussing mutual problems and there is an exchange of communications, then you have a chance to arrive at some solutions. This is most important in this case," he added.

The official statement of position:

The Clark County Board of School Trustees is opposed to the segregation of children by reasons of race, religion, economic handicap, or any other difference, and is willing to assume shared responsibility to help alleviate such segregation. The Board recognizes that de facto segregation is a situation that the schools inherit but do not create. The Board has initiated a great number of activities and programs to implement and encourage desegregation. The Board's stated policy has been, and always will be, to provide the best educational services to all children of all citizens brought together in schools and in classrooms for the optimum fulfillment of each individual child. Every reasonable and constructive measure that can be afforded will be taken towards the ultimate elimination of de facto segregation in our schools.

Dr. Woodbury later appointed Board members Walter McCall, Las Vegas, and Mrs. Eloise Blue, of Boulder City, to work with Dr. Mason in the final phase study.

Copies of the interim position will be made available for all interested citizens in the near future.

New Orleans - A Negro Mecca?

NEW ORLEANS - (NPI)--New Orleans, often referred to as "America's Most Interesting City," may soon become the mecca for Negro conventions. This is said to hinge upon what happens at the Biennial Movable Conference of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, scheduled to be held in the Crescent City Aug. 6-12.

THIS CONVENTION, with about 400 Odd Fellows and Household of Ruth members in attendance, will be headquartered and housed in the Sheraton-Charles hotel, formerly the St. Charles hotel, and located in the heart of downtown New Orleans, one block from famed Canal street. Practically all of the events of the six-day meeting will be held in this quaint old southern hotel, once the rendezvous of southern white aristocracy. These events will include business sessions, committee meetings, public meeting, grand ball, and formal banquet.

In addition, a patio party has been arranged for in Al Hirt's famous night club and many other Vieux Carre or French Quarter clubs and restaurants have been chartered for various entertainments.

New Orleans has always been in interesting and intriguing spot for conventions due to its lake, fishing, swimming, Mardi Gras, fine and exotic foods, etc., but racial discrimination has made it impossible for Negro conventions of any size. Letters from the mayor, the governor and the various civic organizations, however, assure all that all conventions may come to the Crescent City with knowledge of warm welcome and fine treatment.

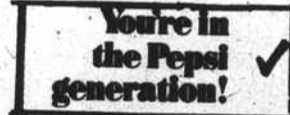
One member of another organization said that the eyes of the Negro world will be upon New Orleans Aug. 6-12 and Elks, Prince Hall Shriners, Baptist conventions and other large organizations may soon be planning their conventions in New Orleans where they may enjoy the city and spend some of their money.

SERVICE

The Visiting Nurse Service of the Clark County District Health Department has been funded through a federal grant for the fiscal year July 1, 1966 through June 30, 1967, Dr. Otto Revenholt, Chief Health Officer, reported today. This is an extension of the grant under which the service was established in April of this year. By June 30, 1967, the program will be partially self-supporting through its fees for service, supplemented by local health funds, according to Dr. Revenholt.

Developed by the health department, in consultation with Clark County Medical Society, the program offers nursing care in the home to patients who need such specialized service. Care is provided under orders of private physicians. There is a fee for the services paid by the patient, by insurance company, or by Medicare funds.

VNS operates as an integral part of the public health nursing program of the health department with the assistance of a special advisory board. The board is chaired by Kirk V. Cammack, M. D.; Mrs. Rosemary Clarke is secretary. Other members are Mrs. Vivian Christoffersen, R.N., Fae T. Ahlstrom, D.D.S., Walter Bigford, M.D., and Gawinn B. Gardner, M.D.



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