

THE COLLEGE STUDENT SPEAKS

By DORIS BROWN
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Should local people control the schools in their own neighborhoods? The issue at Harlem's Intermediate School 201 is providing two answers to that question--one positive and the other negative.

On the positive side, giving area residents control over the schools would help them channel their "frustrations" constructively. Rather than venting their anger over substandard teachers and educational facilities, they would be occupied in making the school a neighborhood force that could provide new hope for slum children.

At P.S. 201, parents wanted to "screen" teachers, but school officials turned them down.

Letting area residents select those who instruct their children could eliminate racist teachers and involve parents in the educational process. Furthermore, it would give slum-area residents a new sense of control over their destiny. Lack of this control has been blamed for many of the inadequacies and weaknesses of inner-city life.

LETTING AREA residents control public schools in their neighborhoods also has its drawbacks. Among them is the possibility that such schools would become bastions of racial segregation and nationalism at a time when the courts and public opinion are calling for integration.

Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, noted psychologist, obliquely indicated his feelings on Negro self-segregation when he declared: "The fact that the black groups are shouting for the most rigid form of segregation does not make segregation any better."

As much of the feeling among P.S. 201 parents is directed against white teachers, the result of parent control over Negro-area schools could be all-black institutions that would hardly prepare youngsters for life in an integrated society.

COMPETENT teachers and school administrators--both black and white--could be removed from their positions, regardless of their educational qualifications, by non-professional people.

Instead of working with teachers to improve their children's school work, parents might spend their time harassing teachers with whom they do not agree and impeding the educational process.

Many teachers might quit under these conditions or ask for transfers to other areas, leaving slum-area schools understaffed.

The only teachers who might be left at such schools--or allowed by parents to teach in them--would be disgruntled, nationalistic radicals whose racist preachments would only promote despair, rather than inspiring self-improvement.

Will neighborhood control of area schools work? It may behoove both school officials and neighborhood parents to give in a little--for the sake of the squabble's innocent victims, the students.

Prof. Paul W. McCracken of the University of Michigan's Graduate School of Business Administration, is expected to visit Tuskegee Institute in early November to help enrich the school's economics program.

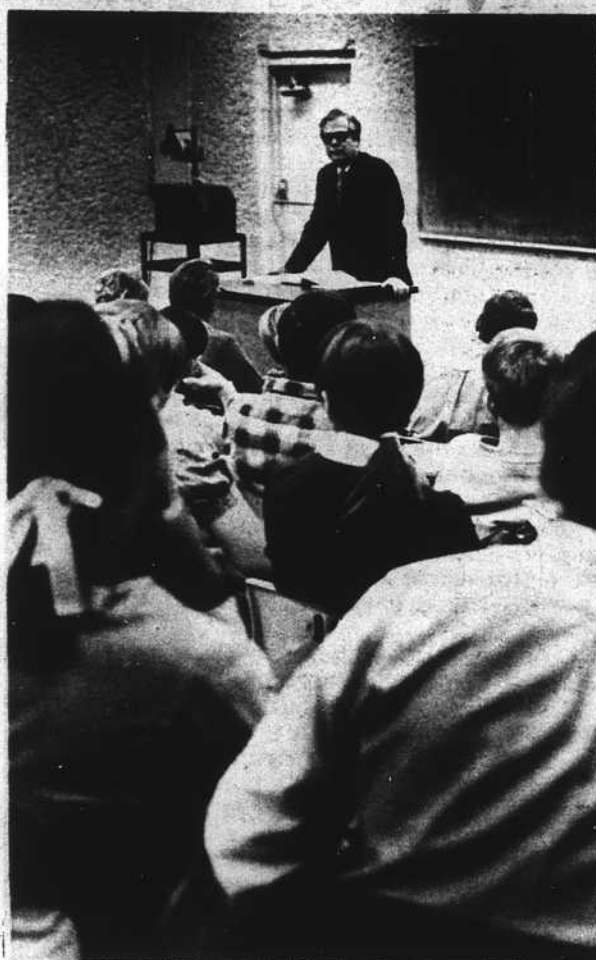
HE SPENT a week at Talladega (Ala.) College, completing the first phase of a program on behalf of the economics curricula of colleges and universities affiliated with United Negro College Fund.

Prof. McCracken and five other professors will also visit the five institutions affiliated with Atlanta University Center; Dillard and Xavier Universities, New Orleans; Bishop College, Dallas; Houston-Tillotson College, Austin, Tex.; Fisk University, Nashville; Hampton (Va.) Institute; Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N.C.; and St. Augustine's College and Shaw University, Raleigh, N.C.

The program is supported by a \$35,000 grant from the Chase Manhattan Bank Foundation.

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NEWSMAN-LECTURER ADDRESSES STUDENT GROUP



Southern Nevada Human Relations Commissioner Bryn R. Armstrong delivers a lecture on "Dissent" to a special human relations class at Valley High School.

Speaking on the topic of "Dissent", Southern Nevada Human Relations Commissioner Bryn R. Armstrong addressed a class of 74 students at Valley High School Tuesday, Oct. 17th. The class in Human Relations is the first of its kind in the Clark County School District. Taught by Charles Silvestri, M.A., the class uses a textbook written jointly by him and Kathleen Harrell, English teacher at the school.

TRACING THE history of dissent in the United States, Armstrong, who is Executive Editor of the Las Vegas SUN, pointed out that segments of the population have traditionally dissented with the established policy of the government. Going back to the Magna Carta, he noted that the aristocracy of the time demanded and received the right of dissent and protest, and that remnants of the document are contained in our own constitution as set forth in the First Amendment.

"From the Tories of the Revolution through the War of 1812; the Mexican War, up to the present Viet Nam conflict, none of the dissenting groups are new", said Armstrong, "there is parallel and precedent in the history of the United States. Americans have always maintained the right to dissent".

In the discussion following the lecture Armstrong pointed out that Henry David Thoreau was one of the first classic dissenters on the issues of taxes and slavery. He noted that there is a fine line drawn between dissent and treason and that the U.S. Government has difficulty defining the line. Citing the incident of 3 American educators who went to Hanoi and spoke on the radio against U.S. policy in Viet Nam, Armstrong noted that the Justice Dept. still cannot decide if the incident was treason, since no formal declaration of war has been made against Viet Nam.

ON HAND to greet Armstrong was Valley High principal Dorence L. Bundren, M.A. whose interest in the Human Relations Course made it possible for the class to be formed.

A number of students in the class are also members of the Valley High Junior Human Relations Commission, formed during the Fall semester of 1965, and whose efforts are directed toward better everyday relations among all members of the student body.

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JOB OPENING Las Vegas Air Station

The Interagency Board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners has announced an examination for immediate employment at the Las Vegas Air Station for Power Generating Equipment Mechanic, \$3.71 per hour. This station is located forty miles from Las Vegas in the Mount Charleston mountain range. Housing and public transportation is not available.

Those who wish to be considered for this position must apply on or before November 3, 1967.

Further information and applications may be obtained from the Interagency Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Room 1-614 Federal Building, 300 Las Vegas Blvd., South, Las Vegas, Nevada, telephone number 385-6345.

Interested persons should ask to see announcement FN-7-25.

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