

EDITORIAL

By Paul C. Smith

SHOW CAUSE??

The name of the game or was it a play?, unfolded in the City Hall Chamber in the matter of show cause why the license of the Cosmopolitan Bar, 900 West Bonanza Rd., should not be lifted.

After sitting thru the day long hearing, we were impressed by the SHOW but found the CAUSE missing.

Nor could we follow the opening remarks of the Commissioner who disqualified himself. His remarks that he felt anyone who had business dealing with criminals should not have a privileged license, was a real shocker.

Everyone knows that all licenses are privileged, the way things are run in the County and Townships of Clark County.

If licensed were to be denied to all persons who did business with law breakers, we would have to close down the entire community. No attorneys who represent law breakers, would be eligible for anything, not even practicing law and surely not to hold high office.

We would indeed be naive not to believe that many public officials have interest in many licensed businesses. But we don't hear of Show Cause hearings on those licenses. We wonder why?

The big why still remaining to be answered is why did the Commissioners set a Show Cause hearing in the first place. No arrests were made. Seemly the only complaint was made by officers who gave the Commissioners the impression that they would arrest anyone, who in THEIR OPINION were breaking the law.

The public respect for law enforcement and its officers could take a step backward 10 years, if personal feeling and prejudices the effect opinions and judgement of the sworn minions of the law.

This is the 1st step in making a police state. Respect is a two way street, to get it you must give it.

A well known Columnist across the tracks did write at least one true statement in his column several days ago, and I quote, "By the time the charges are filed and re-filed, a few names are called, some lies are told and hysteria loads the air. You may not be able to tell who did what to whom and what's in trouble." However, he attempts to make a ruling on what happened, as if he had been elected to the Commission.

Maybe the real reason for this cart before the horse hearing will never be known.

No testimony given so far could possibly show reason enough to hold a hearing unless the reason is because Lyles is a Black businessman respected in the Black community, whose accumulation of worldly goods is the envy of some.

Lyles attorney let the officers prove that they were biased and resentful of him by their own statements and manner of speaking. Mostly allowing one officers to character assassinate Mr. Lyles publicity in front of his family and members of the Black community.

This officer gave the impression in his testimony that only Black women were prostitutes. A real racist attitude that was disrespectful and an insult to the entire Black community.

We have not, nor are we attempting to judge what the Commissioners should rule.

We will wait until all of the testimony has been given, before passing judgement.

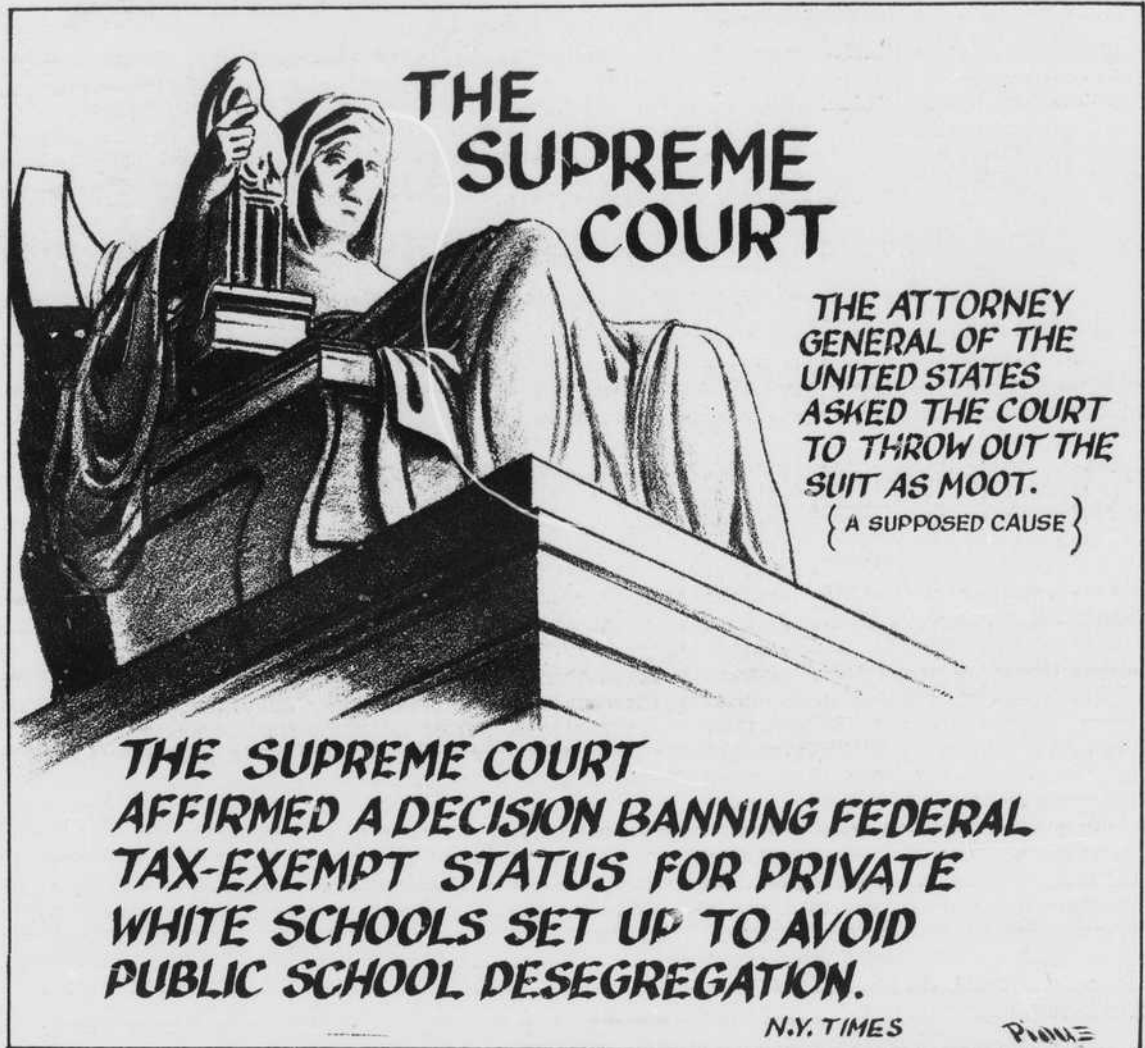
Since the officers report of what took place was not in the press book, we only had one side of the story. Now that we have heard the officers stories WE still ask why the Show Cause Hearing.

THE SOCIAL DISEASE OF SEGREGATION

BY BAYARD RUSTIN

Residential segregation is the most firmly rooted, and perhaps the most socially destructive pattern of racial bias in our culture. Upper class white segregate themselves in their enclaves of affluence, working class whites cling tenaciously to their working class neighborhoods and blacks discriminated against by the economic system and socially ostracized, have been consigned to the ghetto.

This sordid pattern has been worked out through

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the written covenant and unwritten "gentlemen's agreement." It is as common to the north as to the south; in 1969 the two leading Republican candidates for governor in New Jersey were discovered to have once owned homes whose deeds contained racially restrictive clauses. Of all the significant civil rights laws enacted in the 1960s, open housing met with the least enthusiasm, even from liberals, and would likely not have passed had not Congress been shamed by the assassination on Dr. Martin Luther King.

We now see another chapter in the history of society's resistance to open housing acted out on the streets of Forest Hills, a middle class community in Queens, New York.

There residents have marched, picketed and demonstrated because of their opposition to a low income housing project now under construction. Their spokesmen assert that the overwhelmingly white community is not concerned with the possible influx of black tenants; they insist that the issues are the size of the projects, its supposedly detrimental effects on the neighborhood's aesthetics, its impacts on schools, transit, and other municipal services, or the fact that the community "wasn't consulted" when the project was being planned.

But one must ask himself whether these issues alone are sufficient to have provoke the intense passions which the protestors have daily displayed at the project site. Indeed, would the structure's aesthetics and size have brought about nightly picketing in sub freezing temperatures had the project been slated for occupancy by upper income families.

Ironically, the Forest Hills project has also drawn the fire of a black economic self-help organization called NEGRO. Among other objections, NEGRO asserted that the concept of scattering low income housing in middle and upper income areas constituted "genocide" by removing families of ghetto communities. Instead of erecting scatter site housing, NEGRO urged that the money slated for the project be spent to rehabilitate abandoned apartments in Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

There is an essential contradiction in NEGRO's proposal which more than anything in this tragic controversy dramatizes the need for integration. Those abandoned apartments did not become abandoned by chance; they were abandoned because the owners and tenants could no longer subject themselves and their families to the pitiless oppression of America's ghettos. Far from islands of hope, our black slums are iso-

lated enclaves of despair, the breeding ground for drug addiction, disease, infant mortality and crime.

The challenge is not to rebuild the ghetto, but to eliminate it. Separateness, we must remember, has never worked to the advantage of the black man; it has only benefited the whites.

And yet, as Roy Wilkins has pointed out, segregation ultimately imprisons the white in his own uneasy cell of fear and mistrust.

There are those who, while supporting integration, declare that it is wrong for the government to impose integration on a community. Integration, they contend, will come without bitterness as soon as Negroes are economically sufficient.

To this I have two responses. First, we continue to suffer discrimination; in many communities, it is next to impossible for a middle class Negro to move into a white neighborhood unless he is prepared to pay a substantially higher price than the home's market value. Second, by placing a limited number of housing projects in middle class neighborhoods and the suburbs, the government is only making a small gesture towards correcting those social mistakes which are directly due to past government policy.

We must have racial integrated neighborhoods, both economically and racially diverse, if we are to keep from permanently becoming two nations, separate and unequal. Only through true integration can we end the torment which the nation is enduring in order to racially balance its public schools. Only through integration can blacks escape the ghetto and its miseries. Only through integration can we narrow the gulf across which uneasy blacks and frightened whites view each other.

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