

EDITORIAL

BY PAUL C. SMITH

"Law & Order" Step Back

The District Court Judge Christensen ruling that kept K-6 students out of school can be likened to George Wallace barring the door to classrooms - down in BAM.

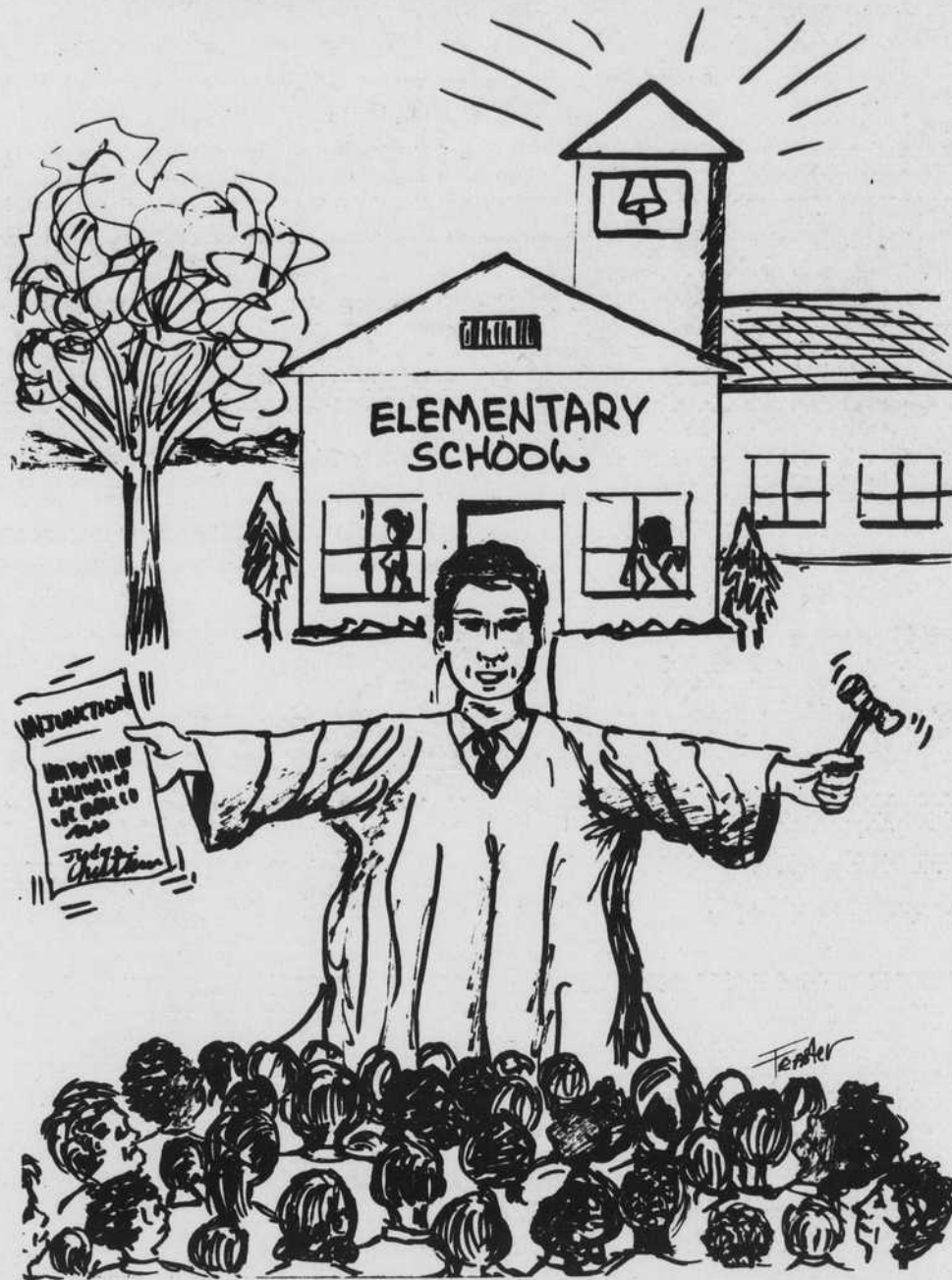
According to news reports, he was not sure of his jurisdiction when he made the ruling. If this be true - then why didn't he take the matter under advisement until he was sure. Whether his decision to continue the stay order he had given on election day was based on law or not certainly leaves a lot of room for doubt.

Attorneys and judges have a very close-knit society. They hate to overrule another judges rulings. He made the statement that rulings under pressure makes for bad laws. After taking some time to think he still came up with a wrong decision. His granting an injunction only inflamed those bigots to have hope they could halt the school district's court ordered plan forever.

Many bigots will be proud that he defied the federal judge's ruling in a Faubus - Wallace type of stand, and kept the children out of school. We could think his ruling was politically motivated, if he had opposition in seeking a job that he was appointed to. We would like to think of him as a judge dedicated to LAW and ORDER WITH JUSTICE.

We must watch his statements and legal rulings in the future, to see if he has political ambitions beyond serving as a judge.

D JUDGE - BARS - D - DOOR



The Buses Are Rolling

The Clark County School District's Sixth Grade Plan is showing a daily increase in the number of students. Monday's total was 2,987 or 62% of the projected enrollment. Tuesday's figure of 3,498 brought the percentage up to 72%. There is a possibility that the projected enrollment figure is high, because many students may have gone to private schools or registered in schools outside of the district's Sixth Grade Center Plan.

While Black enrollment in the other 39 schools is normal, there are still some black students not registered. Another statistic shows that of the 190 buses in use by the School District, only 40 are used to implement the integration plan. These same buses are used to transport other students to Junior and Senior High Schools.

The 150 other buses were used last year for other reasons beside integration, because 10 buses were used for the volunteer plan. Only 30 more buses were necessary to carry out the courts approved Sixth Grade Center Plan. These figures show the term "forced busing" is a catch phrase without true meaning.

Those students whose parents are keeping them from attending school will impede the progress of the students now in school. It will be most revealing to see how long it will take the School Administration to follow state laws that puts the burden on parents to have their children in school. The lack of enforcement of this law will give comfort to die hard bigots who seem to be concerned more about their own prejudices and not the welfare and education of their children.

THE CHANGING ROLE OF BLACK YOUTH

By Bayard Rustin

The present generation of young blacks is approaching maturity in the midst of an era troubled by persisting and deep-felt social wrongs, injustices which are deepened by our expanded personal expectations for self-fulfillment.

The most burdensome affliction of the young is unemployment. The scarcity of jobs has spread like an epidemic through our cities, exacting a destructive toll from ghetto youth, drawing out their resentment and anguish. The jobless rate among returning Vietnam veterans is scandalous; nearly one to five cannot find work. The factory where they planned to work

may have relocated to the suburbs or pursued the profit margin to Taiwan or South America, where its owners can capitalize on a cheap labor supply.

However, the outlook for black youth is not entirely as somber as the picture I have described. Despite a relentless unemployment problem we have moved ahead; despite our impoverishment the successes of our young are not only notable but numerous.

Partially, we can attribute this to the increasing educational opportunities which were opened up by the programs of the Johnson Administration. Black college enrollment, which lagged so far behind the rest of the population, now nearly equals that of whites, with nearly one half of the most recent black high school graduates attending college.

This is a remarkable achievement; the thought of attending college was almost inconceivable before the past decade--we lacked the money and, it was assumed, the learning background to be accomplished students.

But those young students whose commitment and determination overcame backgrounds of poverty have matured into successful, and oftentimes brilliant professionals engaged in scientific and medical research, education, scholarly pursuit, government service and politics.

The accomplishments of the young are not limited to the college educated and professional. Thousands of young blacks, for example, have entered the building trades, doing skilled and sometimes dangerous work, and often earning \$10 an hour or more.

In so doing, they not only surmounted ingrained prejudices and suspicions of white workers, but turned these attitudes around, advancing interracial relations, dispelling adverse stereotypes and bringing together societal forces that could easily have become antagonists.

The fledgling carpenters, electricians and sheet metal workers were often raised in an atmosphere of deprivation and came from broken homes. The streets where they played were ridden with violent crime and infested with

drug addiction; perhaps they themselves at one time suffered from a narcotic habit.

The young have always marched in the front ranks of the civil rights movement. When our cause was lonely, when popular sentiment opposed our aspirations, it was the indomitable spirit of youth which kept our movement alive. Young blacks risking jail, beatings, or death fearlessly served in the vanguard of those campaigns so crucial to our movement: the freedom rides, sit-ins, voter registration campaigns.

Now the course of the struggle for black progress is changing. Our goal is to seek a regular, normalized place in society and to do this in a firmly interracial framework. Black youth--students, young workers, professionals, scholars--are now accomplishing this, not simply by filling a slot in an organization, but by excelling in their chosen occupation. Generations to come will find that the commitment and perseverance of these young people has done a great deal to remove discrimination from the institutions of American society and to erase prejudice from the hearts and minds of American people.

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