



## Education Is Power

By Thomas E. Wilson,  
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Our trust for the next several weeks will be in the nature of a viable educational program for the pre-school child both at home and in a day nursery or day-care center.

Certain conditions and assumptions are inherent in good programs for all pre-school children. The heart of good education is a good program and a teacher who can adapt the program to meet the particular needs of the children in her class. The teacher must be able to perceive the needs of the group and individuals, and to utilize, adapt, or improvise to meet these needs. In order to do her best job in meeting the needs of our children, the teacher will need the support and continued cooperation of the parents.

Parents may ask, "What can we do to help?" Some of the things that we as parents can do are: 1) - Talk to children. Make sure that the children have the opportunity to participate actively in the conversation and that they participate in complete sentences. Don't talk down to the child, even if you have to explain what you mean. Be careful about the use of "baby talk." The child may grow up thinking that that is the proper way to talk and be embarrassed later. Even the pre-school child enjoys the attention when one or more of his parents are talking to him. 2) - Read to him or her. Make sure that they have an opportunity to sit quietly and listen while Mom or Dad reads to them. Make use of nursery rhymes and stories. Ask questions about what has been read. Develop the listening for detail habit within the child. 3) - Take the child on outings. Talk to him while on these outings. Make sure to point out points of interest, including why you find the things you have pointed out to be interesting. 4) - Play with the child. Let him know that he is important enough for you to take up time to make him happy. Enjoy your child. It is a proven fact that he will most likely be a happy child in school if he is happy at home. 5) - Let the child help you with chores around the house whenever possible. It may slow you down a bit, but both you and the child are sure to reap important benefits when he grows older. 6) - Teach the child to speak in "Standard English." Provide a model for him to imitate. Children are great imitators. This will help in preparing him to better cope with "School English" as he grows older. This does not mean that the "Black dialect is in any way inferior as a communication system to the "Standard American English Dialect," however, it simply means that the school expects children to be able to communicate in the "Standard English Dialect," and many teachers are "turned off" to a child who does not speak thusly. Children need not be hampered by this if we as parents are careful to use the "Standard English Dialect" in their presence. Remember, the employer expects the prospective employee to be conversant in the so-called "Standard English Dialect." 7) - Provide a place of quietness where the child may go for quiet play and/or reflections. This may start as early as three or four years of age. Insist that he observes this time. This will help prepare him for quiet time at school. 8) - Make sure to comment favorably on any thing that the child brings home from pre-school. This will help him gain the confidence he needs for a steady progression on the "road to learning."

It is hoped that some of the above will be observed by parents with pre-school children in order that the children will have an equal start with other children on the long road to a positive experience in the educational world.

**LIFE IS A JOURNEY  
NOT A DESTINATION**



## Benjamin L. Hooks

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### With All Deliberate Speed

Last month, CBS held a preview showing of a dramatic documentary — With All Deliberate Speed. The title was taken from the Supreme Court ruling a year after the historic school desegregation decision of 1954. The film stirred poignant memories and vividly underlined why the struggle for equal educational opportunity, through busing, or whatever means, must not be deterred by bigots who would turn back the clock or the "Sunshine soldiers" who duck for cover at the slightest hint of an opposing rain.

It was, indeed, a painful recounting of two men, one black — Rev. Albert J. DeLaine, played brilliantly by Paul Winfield, and the other white — Federal District Judge J. Waring, staunchly portrayed by John Randolph — who struggled and plotted to end segregation in Clarendon County (S.C.) schools in the 1940's.

The case was lost, with Judge Waring issuing the lone dissent in a three-Judge court decision. Nevertheless, the case, *Briggs vs. Elliott*, became one of five consolidated in the famous landmark *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, decision which ripped forever from the American fabric like a gangrenous sore, the separate but equal dictum that had been cannon law since 1895.

To many of us it was a slice of real life racing across the silver screen. The story was told in the sensitive faces of those black, saintly children as they stood forlornly while white kids boarding the familiar (now embattled) yellow school bus stuck out their tongues, cruelly as children will, and taunted, "You can't ride this bus." It was a blatant statement of fact.

Black children could ride no school buses. They had none. They trudged miles to school, past comfortable white well-equipped schools to ill-equipped one-room shacks that barely masqueraded as school rooms. There, huddled together in freezing ill-heated rooms, or sweating in torrid temperatures, they scratched for the dribs and drabs of a wretched and woefully inadequate education they managed during a shortened school term.

Is there any wonder that many see the truth

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

By Kenyon C. Burke

### The Abortion Decision

In the midst of the fanfare and Happy Birthday U.S.A. festivities surrounding the Bicentennial, it was heartwarming to see the U.S. Supreme Court clarify and strengthen the rights of women to decide for themselves whether or not they want to terminate a pregnancy.

Although the Supreme Court's landmark 1973 abortion decision indicated that termination of a pregnancy was basically a decision for a woman to make herself, there were hold-outs among us who wanted to limit and restrict that right by insisting that husbands or parents of a minor give their consent.

In the abortion cases recently decided, the elimination of a requirement for a husband's consent to his wife's abortion and the limitation of parental participation in decisions where minors are involved are not logical extensions of the original opinion.

The soundness of the principle is indicated by Justice Blackmun's commonsense argument that when a husband and wife disagree, only one can prevail and that since the wife "is more directly and immediately affected" her views should bear more weight.

Also, the court's extension of the right of decision to "mature minors" is not simply dic-

in what that wry old black observer once said, "White folks sho' know that us black folks is superior. 'Cause it takes 10 times as much money to educate them as it do us."

We who lived in the south saw much of this. Not so much in the larger urban areas, but in the rural and the poorer backwoods areas of the south, where those of us who worked with Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the NAACP confronted it head on.

How many Clarendon County, South Carolinas were there? Too many. They stretched like an infinity of mirrors in a mad house of unending reflections. Although one would have been too many, they were everywhere in the south, the midwest, the far west, indeed in many areas in the north.

Judge Waring died in the '60's in New York, an exile from his home where he was born to privilege and comfort. The Rev. DeLaine died in the 1970's in North Carolina also an exile, driven like Waring, by the cretinous white bigots of that day.

After desegregation, Clarendon County schools today have become all black. Nevertheless, these schools are a far greater improvement over those wretched wrecks black children earlier attended.

And, it seems to me, there are three hopeful lessons to be learned from the devastating experience: (1) that there are whites who are ready even now to lay their all on the line for decency, justice, equality, humanity, and indeed, are doing it; (2) young blacks, so impatient for change, who see the revolution as having begun sometime in the early 1970's, must see from this film how much enduring time, effort, and suffering went into just this week yignette of human struggle for school desegregation, and denouement of which is still out there somewhere in a distant time warp; and (3) the long, historic leadership role of the black minister and the black church in the struggle for human dignity, freedom, and the keeping alive of a sense of community, personhood, and spirituality among our people.

A curious twist to this, also, is the fact that hundreds of thousands of black victims of this shamefully inadequate education system made their way north to the auto plants of Detroit, the tractor works of Moline, Ill., etc., and with their third-grade learning, worked to make a better life for their children.

These are the present-day generation, many of whom look with distain at historic black sacrifice and scorn all past civil rights struggles as "irrelevant." What will life be like for their children?

tated by the logic of the 1973 decision, but also by the common experience that where safe abortions are forbidden by law or by parental fiat, back alley butchers flourish.

The price of illegal abortion in the days preceding the Supreme Court's abortion decision was paid in the currency of women's dignity, women's health and women's lives.

Though many paid the price, none paid it more often and more cruelly than minority groups and the poor. More than nine out of 10 of those who died at the hands of incompetent practitioners in the days before abortion was legal were black and Spanish-speaking.

While abortion and its physical and psychological ramifications are not to be taken lightly, access to medically supervised abortion does bright about significant health advantages to individuals and their families.

Since the 1973 Supreme Court decision gave legal sanction to abortion, the maternal death rate and infant mortality rates have materially declined. Any attempt to interfere with a woman's right to personally make a choice on this crucial matter would reverse that trend and be a step back into our dark and ignorant past.

One would hope that the court's reaffirmation of this most intimate of privacy right might serve to defuse much of the heat out of the abortion issue and free up activists to deal with improving the quality of life of all people alike and respond positively to the real gut survival issues we face in the Bicentennial year.