

NEW DAY BEGUN

by

Benjamin L. Hooks



On this eve of the 24th anniversary of the decision of the United States Supreme Court to outlaw segregated education in the public schools of this land there hangs a deadly threat over the heads of Black Americans.

When the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People won the monumental decision, Brown vs. Board of Education little did we suspect that 20 or more years later some of our allies would join another cause which is dramatically opposed to the letter and spirit of that decision and strikes at the heart of the yield of that decision. Bakke is the deadly threat. Reverse discrimination and quotas are the hate words his champions are fostering upon a confused public.

Nathaniel Jones, General Counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said in a recent address to the NAACP Summit meeting in Chicago.

"The continuing dilemma facing America can be summed up in three words that begin with the letter 'B'. They are 'Brown', 'Busing,' and 'Bakke.'" Brown represents a promise. Busing its hypocrisy and Bakke its threat. The challenge thus confronting the NAACP is to work to translate the promise of Brown into meaningful reality for blacks and other minorities. For this to be done, we must effectively deal with remedies for the pervasive and systematic discrimination that infects our society. What we have learned from hard and bitter experience is that resistance strategies of the majority group come into play in a fierce and tenacious degree when efforts are mounted to translate the

promise of Brown into things tangible and substantial in education, in employment, in housing and in the way we are treated by governing institutions. This explains the busing furor and the Bakke claims of "reverse discrimination." Recognizing that educational deprivation accompanies the racial segregation in our schools and that Bakke would deny the adaptation of admission policies which take that past deprivation into account, we have no choice but to press forward to both desegregate schools and protect college admission policies that take society's treatment of race into account.

In addition to Bakke we see the insidious campaign to destroy public education by schemes to transfer most of the resources to private education. The Jarvis-Gann initiative would have that effect. Patrick Moniyham, the advocate of benign neglect, along with Bob Packwood of Oregon have introduced legislation to give tuition tax credits for private education. It appears they are saying since the children of the rich and the powerful are being educated elsewhere and public schools are occupied by the poor, the black, the brown, let's abandon public education. Public schools like county hospitals are for the poor, they seem to be saying.

The mission of this historic civil rights organization, NAACP, is more difficult today for we must fight racism which is engrained in institutions, public and private. We must fight despite the confusion and fraudulent representations of those who pose as friends. Our fight to end segregation in education shifts to the North and the West. It is close to home for many who willingly battled with us against Southern type segregation and this makes a difference. Today, NAACP is in the forefront of school desegregation cases in at least seven Western Cities: Tucson, Arizona; San Bernardino, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, East Palo Alto and Palo Alto, California; Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. Our battles are in the courts, the legislature and with State Departments of

Education which drag their feet and turn away from positive leadership. Allies such as the California Task Force for Integrated Education, the Mid-Peninsula Task Force on Integration, The American Civil Liberties Union, the Los Angeles Black Leadership Forum, Coalitions in Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon and the school boards associations give us reason to be hopeful. They have not abandoned the fight and together we shall win and overcome.

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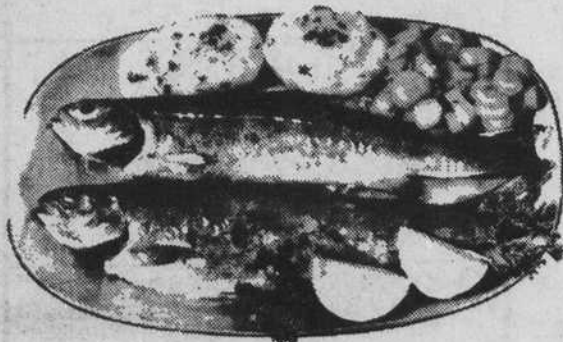
Solar Energy Course

"The Science of Solar Energy" will be offered in the evening at Clark County Community College during the first five-week summer session beginning May 30, 1978. Solar energy training for technicians will be the main thrust of this course to be offered this summer.

According to instructor David Comarow "this technician-level course is specifically designed for the person who would like to work in the solar energy field." He added, "It is also designed to help prepare the student to take the new state Solar Contractors License examination."

Registration for the first five-week summer session will take place May 25th and 26th at Clark County Community College, 3200 East Cheyenne Avenue, North Las Vegas. For more information call Comarow at 643-6060, ext. 358.

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