

# Big Delegation Goes to Annapolis

## Counties And City Ask For Equal Salaries For Colored Teachers

**RITCHIE CORDIAL**

### Favors Plea And Promises Personal Aid. Senator Metzerott Plain- spoken

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 25.—Representatives of parent, civic, and teachers' organizations from ten counties and from Baltimore city went before a joint education committee of the State Legislature here at ten-thirty Tuesday morning to urge amendment of the Education Bill now before the Senate so as to give colored teachers in the county schools the same salaries that are proposed for whites. After a hearing of an hour and a half, the delegation numbering some thirty-five persons was given an audience by Governor Ritchie, who declared himself in favor of equal salaries, and promised to take the matter up with the Education Committee.

Discussing the bill before the Committee, presided over by Senator Disharoon of Wicomico County, Carl Murphy showed that the measure proposed to raise the salaries of white teachers 50, 55 and 60 per cent for third, second and first grade teachers, respectively, while for colored teachers the proposed increase is 33, 45 and 55 per cent respectively for the same grades. He made it plain how under the bill a white elementary school teacher will get \$800 dollars per year and a colored elementary school teacher only \$520 for doing the same work. The proposed discrimination obtains also in the case of high school teachers where the maximum for colored is \$750 and for white \$1100. He declared that Assistant Superintendent Reavis' statement before the committee on Tuesday of last week that the bill would give colored teachers a 45 per cent increase and white teachers 33 per cent was absolutely false. Questions from the Committee members on this point, and recourse to the statements of the bill showed that Mr. Murphy was correct.

J. W. Payne, a teacher in Cecil County, said that teachers were compelled to pay \$20 a month for board alone, and found it impossible to live on the small salaries now paid. George W. Overton, Supervisor of Schools in Anne Arundel County, stated that four fifths of the colored teachers under him had finished high school, normal and college courses and a large number of these teachers would resign rather than continue to work at such small pay as the bill proposed. The State Colored Teachers' Association voted unanimously for equal salaries, he averred.

**PAYS AS MUCH TO BE CHAUFFEUR**

W. Jefferson Moore, of Baltimore County declared that while Baltimore County was fairer in the matter of salaries than some other counties, his salary was just 50 cents more a week than that of a chauffeur who lives next door to him, and that school teaching did not offer a career to capable men and women. J. C. Parks, supervisor of Charles County, made a ringing speech for equal salaries and told of some of the teachers in his county working for as little as \$30 a month. He added that giving white teachers more salaries than colored was a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Rev. J. R. L. Diggs, of Baltimore, contended that colored people of the State paid one-tenth of the taxes and were entitled to one tenth of the school fund. He said that colored schools should get \$200,000 of the

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two million appropriation for education.

Senator Metzerott, of Prince Georges County, who was invited to say a word asserted that it was not a matter of colored people getting a certain percentage of the school funds, but that it was the duty of the Legislature to give the colored teachers equal salaries with white, and in general the very best school facilities the State could afford. He reminded the Committee, that while they were elected by a political party, they represented all the people, colored as well as white. His remarks brought suppressed applause from the delegation.

Other speakers included Rev. W. J. Winston, Rev. John Offer Custis, Rev. Ernest Lyon, of Baltimore; T. J. Calloway, of Baltimore; Rev. Dr. Scott, of Prince Georges County.

## RITCHIE FAVORS EQUAL SALARIES

Led by Thos. J. Calloway, the same delegation appeared before Governor Ritchie and urged the appointment of Mrs. M. Phillips, white, to the School Board of Prince Georges County.

It also took up the matter of teachers' salaries and asked the Governor was there a possibility of an additional appropriation of \$25,000 in order to bring colored teachers salaries up to the standard of whites. Mr. Ritchie replied that already two million dollars was in the budget for education, and no additional sum was needed. He added that the Legislature should pare down some of the other items in the bill and put this amount in for colored teachers. The delegation took away with them his promise to take the question up with the Committees personally.

Members of the Senate and House complimented the delegation on their presentation of the facts in the case, and told them openly that their cause had made many friends. The Senate is expected to report the bill to the Finance Committee this week, and from there will go to the floor of the Senate.

Some of those noted in the delegation were Dr. A. J. Mitchell, head of the Parents' League; Rev. G. J. Garnett, Rev. J. H. Green, Rev. J. H. Taylor, Rev. Simon Williamson, Md. Association for Social Service; Rev. W. C. Thompson, Benjamin Price, W. H. Butler, W. H. Howard, Home and School Association, Anne Arundel County; Rev. Ernest Lyon, M. E. Ministers of Maryland; Rev. J. H. Jenkins, J. W. Key and J. C. Parks, Charles County; James F. Armstrong, George D. Brown, Prince Georges; J. W. Payne, Cecil County; J. Franklin Johnson, Caroline County; David Earle, Calvert County; Henry J. Lowers, W. Jefferson Moore, Baltimore County; W. H. Tyler, Harford County, Rev. T. P. Thomas and B. Price, Anne Arundel County, Dr. James Winward and Rev. J. G. Garnett of Baltimore. H. M. Sinclair, City Councilman of Cambridge and Leonidas James, School Supervisor of Talbot County arrived too late for the Committee meeting but attended the Governor's audience. The delegation spent several hours around the State House meeting senators and representatives and lobbying for the bill.

## SENT LETTERS

Herbert S. Wilson, of Somerset County; Andrew J. Bailey, Caroline County, D. W. Noble, of Harford; Miss L. T. Kennard, of Queen Anne, and J. W. Bruner of Frederick, sent letters endorsing an equal salary scale only.