EDITORIAL COMMENT

Weaknesses of Education Report Cited

(Editor's Note: The Governor's Commission on Higher Education submitted to Gov. William P. Lane this week the following six recommendations:

1. That courses leading to the master's degree be instituted at Morgan State College.

2. That qualified colored students be admitted to graduate and professional schools of the University of Maryland, until separate facilities are provided for them in Maryland.

3. That a State scholarship be continued for the present on the undergraduate level only for courses which are not available for student at Morgan or Maryland State College at Princess Anne.

4. That the training of teachers for the elementary schools of Baltimore (Coppin Teachers College) be transferred to Morgan under the supervision and administration of the State Department of Education.

5. That Maryland State College be continued under administration of the University of Maryland, without further additions, pending decisions of a duly constituted commission.

6. That an advisory commission of nine members be appointed to make a continuous study of higher education in Maryland.

Dr. J. O. W. Holmes, president-emeritus of Morgan State College and a member of the commission, filed a minority report dissenting from three of these recommendations. He expressed follows:)

By DR. DWIGHT O. W. HOLMES

The Commission appointed to study the problems of the higher education of Negroes in Maryland, in submitting its report, has made six specific recommendations.

As a member of that Commission, I regret to say that I dissent from three of these.

I consider it my duty, therefore, to submit this minority report because my long experience in dealing with problems involving race adjustments, and particularly during the past 23 years in Maryland, warns me that the recommendations to which I object, if carried out, will hinder rather than promote the progress of colored higher education in the State of Maryland. My objections with justifications follow.

ON OUT-OF-STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The majority recommendation is that the out-of-State scholarships be discontinued except for undergraduate study, provisions being made, however, to continue aid for those students who have already matriculated at some college outside of Maryland.

I agree that these scholarships should be discontinued but the discrimination in favor of undergraduates is not supported by educational logic but by the desire to exclude undergraduates from the campus of the University of Maryland at College Park.

The so-called Gaines decision of the Supreme Court of the United States rendered in 1938 outlawed the substitution of these scholarships for the right to equal accommodation in educational facilities provided by the State.

This decision, in effect, interpreted such scholarships as bribes, which of course they are.

Hence, I am of the opinion that the exception made in favor of undergraduates should be excluded from the recommendation dealing with these scholarships. Either an undergraduate student should be accommodated at the University of Maryland or the courses desired should be offered at Morgan State College.

ON MARYLAND STATE COLLEGE AT PRINCESS ANNE

The fifth recommendation of the majority of the Commission makes three provisions:

1. That Maryland State College at Princess Anne be continued as before under the administration of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland;

2. That no further buildings be constructed at that institution; and

3. That the question of its final disposition be placed in the hands of an "Advisory Committee" establishment of which is provided for in the final recommendation of the majority of the Commission.

First Suggestion Is Inconsistent

I find myself unable to concur in this recommendation for the following reasons:

1. The recommendation is inconsistent with the findings.

The Commission has set forth its findings in the body of the report under Section 7 entitled, "Maryland State College at Princess Anne."

There it makes a scathing criticism of that unfortunate institution which agrees with the findings of all former surveys which included this college. Note these quotations taken from the comments of this Commission itself:

"The Commission deplores the expenditure of public funds for an institution which has not and cannot effectively serve the best interests of the colored students of Maryland. It seems unfortunate that such a school was expanded for the relative handful of students at the expense of Morgan State College which could have used the money to far better advantage and benefited a far greater number of students."

Thinking of the extravagance of such an enterprise with little or no justification, the report continues:

"With the highest cost per student in the State, Princess Anne has the highest percentage of out-of-State students, a situation that can hardly be called practical or economical."

Money Spent, School Still Inadequate

The figures shown in one of the tables given in this report shows for 1950 the amount appropriated from General Funds (funds derived from taxes) for the education of each student at Princess Anne was $1,051 and for each student at Morgan $397. The Commission deplores what the State is getting for this extravagant expenditure in these words:

"Even with the expenditures of such vast sums of money, the facilities at Princess Anne are wholly inadequate for the needs of a land-grant college.

As the Commission saw and pondered the situation it questioned the need for such a college at all, a doubt expressed as follows:

"It must be noted here that there is some doubt on the part of the Commission as to whether there exists a real need of a colored land-grant college in Maryland. Too few people, it seems, realize that there is a steady trend away from agricultural pursuits on the part of Negro students. Is it not significant that of the 409 students at Princess Anne, only 28 are taking courses evenly remotely concerned with agriculture?"

These quotations taken from the body of the report indicate what the Commission actually thinks of Princess Anne after a visit, a first-hand study, and lengthy discussions of its possibilities.

But Still Won't Close Down College

But, in spite of these findings the Commission actually recommends the continuance of the school under the same auspices, as though fearful of making the obviously proper recommendation, namely, that it be discontinued and its students be transferred to Morgan State College.

It should certainly be clear to the Commission that to leave Maryland State College under the administration of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland will furnish to the administration of that institution just the springboard needed to validate the expenditure of over two million dollars already planned despite the Commission's recommendation that no further capital expenditures be made at Princess Anne for the construction of new buildings or additions to old ones.

Since the Commision's real opinion is as the above quotations indicate, the logical recommendation should have been that the work of Maryland State College be transferred to Morgan State College.

But for some mysterious reason it refused to do so but avoided its responsibility completely and recommended that the future disposition of that college be passed on to still another "Commission" yet to be appointed.

The refusal of the Commission to give a definite recommendation is even more deplorable when it is realized that the main reason for its appointment was to obtain from it a decision on this very point.

No Reason for State to Support 2 Colleges

There is no need for both Morgan and Princess Anne.

My second reason for dissenting from this work and indefinitive recommendation is that there is no need for the State of Maryland to attempt to build and maintain two colleges for colored students.

If the State is to meet its legal requirements in providing educational facilities for it colored citizens at the higher levels, it should spend all the money available on the development of one college of the first class, a duty in which it falls far short at the present time.

In education, two colleges of substandard efficiency can never make one good college.

According to decisions of the courts, a State's offerings to its colored citizens must be genuinely equal to those available to white citizens, must be available now, and must be available within the State.

Morgan Only Being Retarded

The attempt to develop Princess Anne does nothing but retard the development of Morgan. For surely nobody expects to see the State of Maryland appropriate enough money to develop two colored colleges of the first class.

The implications of this problem are of such a serious nature that neither personal ambitions nor local pride should be allowed to affect the final decision.

There is no reason to believe that another commission can escape whatever spell it is that has prevented this commission from completing its assignment.

In this connection it should be noted that with its wider range of activities and its large enrollment, there is no demand for two State universities, one on the Eastern Shore and one on the Western.

Why then is there justification for such a plea in the case of Princess Anne?

ON ANOTHER ADVISORY COMMISSION

The sixth recommendation of the Commission provides for the creation of a new commission, to be advisory in nature, to make a continuous study of higher education in Maryland.

It contains this proviso: This Commission "Shall not encroach upon the full administrative powers of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland or of the Board of Trustees of Morgan State College."

The sinister and dangerous feature of this recommendation, however, is found in the last sentence which reads as follows:

"This advisory commission shall be instituted with the understanding that it will ultimately lead to an overall board for all State-supported higher education, with full administrative authority."

A later amendment, I believe, excluded the State Teachers Colleges.

Aimed at Taking Over Morgan

My objection to this recommendation is that it seems designed to accomplish in a roundabout way what the administration of the University of Maryland has been trying unsuccessfully to do ever since Morgan became a State institution.

That is, to take over the management of Morgan State College; a procedure that would be an undeserved insult to Morgan's board and one that would be deeply resented by the colored people.

Morgan's Board Doing Good Job

Nothing whatever has developed in the discussion of the Commission to suggest that the board of trustees of Morgan State College has failed, in any manner, in performing its duty.

From a weak independent institution in 1938 the board of trustees with limited funds has transformed it in 12 years into a college with real academic standing in spite of the distractions accompanying the dislocations and hinderances of six years of war.

That board has been making a continuous study of the problems of the higher education of colored persons in Maryland and has been rather successfully solving them so far as possible with limited appropriations.

"Why then," the Commission has been asked, "should this board of trustees be dismissed and the management of Morgan State College turned over, to another board whose main responsibility must of necessity be the University of Maryland whose management alone should take the energies of any Board?"

Since it is obvious that the proposed board would necessarily be under the domination of the president of the University of Maryland whose main interests would be absorbed there, "Why should the Morgan Board be liquidated?"

To this question, asked frequently to members of this Commission, the reply has always been vaguely stated that it would be in the best interests of Morgan State College without giving any specific reasons why that should be so.

Princess Anne Record No Good

The sad record, on the other hand, of the administration of Princess Anne under the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland, until stung by the scathing criticisms of the report of the Marbury Commission, is fresh in the minds of every person in Maryland interested in the education of the colored man.

The colored people especially deplore any attempt to see the destinies of Morgan entrusted to that same care.

The Commission asked the opinion of outside, and hence neutral experts about the advisability of placing Morgan under the same board as the University.

Both Dr. John Dale Russell of the U. S. Office of Education, Chief of the Division of Higher Education, and also Dr. Ambrose Caliver, who heads the Division of Negro Education in the same organization, emphatically condemned such a proposal.

Has No Basic Interest in Problem

The Marbury report makes this significant statement on this point:

"This experience (referring to the administration of Princess Anne by the board of regents of the University) with the present arrangement leads to the conclusion that the control of a colored land-grant college by a board of regents whose main interest lies in a State university for white students, is not likely to result in satisfactory facilities for colored students."

When Morgan State College was first incorporated in the educational system of the State, Gov. Herbert R. O'Conor intended that it should be governed by an independent board and continued to implement that intention during his term of office.

"Lane Wants It Independent"

The present chief executive of the State, Governor Lane, has also expressed his desire that Morgan should remain independent of the University of Maryland, the latest occasion being on June 5, at which time he said:

"Since Morgan College has been a part of the State's educational system, it has been managed and operated for the most part by colored people.

"Under this management and operation its progress has been eminently satisfactory. As Governor, I have endeavored to co-operate in this progress.

"I would like, briefly, to review the more recent record of this progress, and to say, since the college is devoted solely to the interests of the colored population, it is only reasonable that its control should remain in their hands, and that they also retain the right to present the needs of the institution directly to the Governor of the State."

Rarely, if at all, through the South or where the dual system prevails do we find the State college for colored persons governed by the Board of the State University.

Yet, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary this Commission recommends a two-step scheme to place Morgan State College, with all its good record of accomplishment, under the same board as the University with its poor record as concerns the education of colored persons.

The only person who made this original recommendation before the Commission was the President of the University of Maryland.

He, of course, was perfectly consistent in that he has been advocating the same thing ever since Morgan has been a state college, in fact he opposed its purchase in the first place.

SUMMARY

On these three recommendations mentioned, therefore, I strongly differ from my colleagues on the Commission. My opinions are:

1. That no new State scholarships should be granted to anybody. (Recommendation 3)

2. That the work of Maryland State College at Princess Anne should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees of Morgan State College. (Recommendation 5)

3. That no advisory board of any kind is needed and hence none should be appointed. And, even should such a board be appointed it should not be instructed to recommend that organ and the University be placed under the same board. (Recommendation 6)

State Commission Which Recommended Controversial Educational Policies

These are members of the Commission on Higher Education which submitted to Gov. W. Preston Lane this week six recommendations concerning educational facilities for Maryland's colored students. Left to right are E. Asbury Davis, city advisor on financial matters and official of the U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company; John S. Lalley, who served as recording secretary for the commission; Dr. David E. Weglein, former city superintendent of schools, chairman; Dr. D. O. W. Holmes, president-emeritus of Morgan State College; James C. L. Anderson, Towson attorney, and Joseph P. Healy, chairman of the Governor's Commission on Race Relations. Not shown are Mrs. John W. Andrews of Crisfield, Md., a member of the Somerset County School Board, and Walter N. Kirkman, director of the Medical and Chirugical Faculty.

Courts, Not Commissions, the True Answer

Citizens of Maryland owe a profound debt to Dr. Dwight O. W. Holmes, who defied majority opinion on the "Commission to Study the Question of Negro Higher Education" to point out something that we have contended all the time: that segregation in education is a farce.

In writing his minority opinion to the report of the commission, Dr. Holmes singled out for opposition only three of the group's six recommendations: those involving out-of-State scholarships, Maryland State College at Princess Anne and the appointment of another advisory commission.

Our sole criticism of Dr. Holmes's report is that he did not dissent from all six recommendations and point out still further just how ridiculous this whole evasion of the basic problem is.

This was by no means the first study made of the thing which the State's officials have elected to call "Negro Higher Education." And this was by no means the strongest of the reports which have been made to date.

Just three years ago, a similar, but infinitely more thorough, majority report was made by the Marbury Commission, which recommended, among other things, the discarding of Princess Anne College.

This 1949-50 commission, however, apparently decided that the Marbury Commission did not know what it was talking about and willy-nilly proceeded to call for the continued use of Princess Anne for a while longer, since so much money has been spent on it in the past three years in an effort to make it a separate but equal institution—as "good as the University of Maryland."

That one bone of contention should indicate one thing: that as long as the members of advisory education commissions refuse to think intelligently, nothing really good can come of their studies, surveys and recommendations, whatever they do.

All around the various commissions have been evidences that the war for "separate-but-equal" facilities is a losing battle. The United States Supreme Court and various State courts have stated most emphatically that there is no such thing; that there is not enough money in a given State to bring a so-called colored institution up to the level of the so-called white institution which the State supports.

When ordered by the Supreme Court to stop the dilly-dallying, Oklahoma and Texas both decided that there was no point in further circumvention and therewith opened their State institutions to all persons alike.

Other Southern States, seeing the handwriting on the wall, decided not to waste more money and time on evasion, and did likewise.

But the Southern State of Maryland prefers to spend more time and money on a lost cause. It prefers to waste the taxpayers' money in its stubborn effort to keep the races apart. If it does in this case as it has in the past, it will prefer to spend still more money on another advisory commission to continue studying the problem of segregation that the State itself creates.

Our money is being spent—along with that of all other citizens of the State—to perpetuate a system that is as outmoded as World War II airplanes are proving to be in this current war.

Commissions, we feel, are not the answer. They have wasted time, money and energy without hitting on what we know is the only solution—to do away with a dual system.

It seems to us that Maryland will have to learn the hard way; that she must be taken into court as often as necessary to be made to comply with the Supreme Court decisions.

The Big Spiel

Flags, Drums, Pageantry, Things of Past
Hard-Boiled Reporters Have Hearts
"Missing" Is Awful Word in War Vocabulary

By Biddy Wood

Modern wars are different from their predecessors. Gone are the flags, the trumpets, the hard-smashing cavalry charges and the fanfare that prevailed in the days of the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

The wars of today, though stripped of color and pageantry, have become highlighted in a fast-moving world, through another medium—unequaled horror.

Some children of Europe will always wear scars and marks of deformity — constant reminders of the days of a man named Adolph and barbed wire concentration camps.

A Bomb Diabolical

Two atomic bombs were dropped, one on Nagasaki, the other on Hiroshima. 180,000 persons were killed and half that number were maimed, always to be remembered as victims of "the greatest scientific gamble in history."

Though the dropping of the bombs was like the signature on the dotted line—final disposition of a world conflict—they, too, must be classified in the category of "modern war horrors."

After the bombings, skeptics throughout the world blandly stated that it last a weapon had been found deadly enough to ensure world peace.

H-Bomb Work Progresses

Meanwhile, the Communist-Nationalist struggle raged in China. A few months later there was talk of another "scientific gamble"—the hydrogen bomb.

What was termed five weeks ago as a "skirmish" near a 38th parallel in Korea now has all the appearances of war as it was known back in the early 1940's.

Correspondents at the front in Korea report that American soldiers are being hound and shot through the head. Sources say much like the days following Bataan and Guadacanal.

Horror Strikes Home

Early Thursday morning, a New York news agency released a dispatch reporting that four war correspondents en route to the battle area had gone down in an airplane crash. One of them was colored.

The first two colored correspondents sent to report the war, were both reporting for the AFRO. One was a staff writer. The other a Norfolk writer for a pool of newspapers, including the AFRO.

When the news of the fatal crash came, tears were in the eyes of hard boiled reporters, who in their journalistic careers had covered such tragic incidents in their stride.

Here the death of their colleague struck home. Many stared at their typewriters—Others just stared.

"Missing" An Awful Word

A look of disbelief was on the faces of all. One woman reporter who was trying to hold back tears said, "war just seems so useless."

Some may dispute her opinion but this is fact.

Two weeks ago, the missing writer was living a normal American life. He went to Korea armed only with a lot of pencils and paper and a desire to let the people at home know what is going on over there.

Today, he is reported "MISSING."

This appeared in a book years ago:

"And while not all Americans may serve in actual uniform, under an actual flag, winning actual medals, all must be prepared to serve ...to advance a world in which peace and freedom may live together forever."

The missing correspondents and their fellow workers are doing just that!

Scratch Pad

Fighting Men, Rattlesnakes
Got To Live on Guts Alone
Rifles, Education and Kids

By Mae Morris Medders

On and on it goes—the struggle to live in a white man's world.

Candidates for public office say they "can't afford" to issue statements about civil rights, but "I can tell you personally how I feel about it."

A commission set up to study higher education releases a bulky report that simply uses more pages than usual to conclude that races must be kept separate as far and as long as possible.

Must Shift Schedules

A golf tournament is set, and the Park Board has to take the time and trouble to shift about its "colored and white" golf course schedules, so there'll be no "conflict."

A kid wants to play in a public park, but he must bring his own ball, because the ones there are reserved for white youngsters with whom he winds up playing anyhow;

A woman buys a home, and must sit poised and ready with a rifle, because hoodlums don't want any colored neighbors;

One of the city's largest cab companies advertises in radio for drivers, but neglects to add "white only."

Battle News Gets One

And then comes the news that colored troops have won the first major victory in somebody else's war that suddenly becomes their own.

Darn it (and that's not what I mean), this business of living and being colored at the same time can be as stifling as a snake that chokes as it wraps!

It takes a lot of guts to kill a snake!

Speak Your Piece

School Head Writes

Dear AFRO: A question has been asked whether or not the Department of Education encourages or sponsors the sale of encyclopedias, dictionaries, or other educational materials.

The answer is NO.

It is without authorization of the Department of Education and contrary to its policies for any agent to state or to give the impression that the Department of Education recommends certain books or materials; that the Department of Education feels them to be essential to a child's progress; or otherwise influence a parent, through pressure from the educational point of view, to make a purchase.

DR. WILLIAM H. LEMMEL
Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Home-Front War Begun on Hoarders

By AUDREY WEAVER

A Birmingham housewife has formed an organization to help stop the hoarding of foodstuffs; a Detroit grocer puts the purchases of these fanatics in a brightly lettered bag labeled "HOARDER'S BAG"; some ministers are preaching against the practice, and the Secretary of Agriculture says there is no need for hoarding because "this is the land of plenty."

But these efforts and admonitions are falling on deaf ears here, a survey of several Northwest area stores over the week end showed.

Merchants' shelves are bare of everything that was put under rationing during World War II. Legislating the list of foods being tucked away in cellars, tin cans, attics, garages and elsewhere is sugar, with coffee a close second.

Rejects Authoritative Statements

One woman in a Food Fair, with a 10-pound bag of sugar neatly tucked under her arm, declared:

"Any poor sucker that wants to can believe President Truman's talk about there being plenty. The first thing you know, the stuff will be rationed without warning. Well, when that happens, it won't catch me without a good supply on hand."

Another customer explained that she had just stored away 30 pounds of sugar, several pounds of coffee and then asked me what else, other than meat, had been short during World War II. Since she did not have a deep freeze, the only meat she could "stash" away was a few hams, so she had taken care of that little detail.

One salewoman disgustedly told me:

"Not only are they raiding the sugar supply, but they are doing the same thing in regard to saccharine and other sugar substitutes such as jellies, syrup. It is all so stupid and unfair to people who can only buy a week's supply of food at a time."

And They Have No Shame

At a small neighborhood store, the owner woefully asserted,

"All of my customers who for the past three years or more have been buying only a pound of sugar at a time, suddenly came in and demanded 10-pound cartons—I haven't a grain left in the store. But what could I do? Now those who don't have the money to hard will have to go without."

Each hoarder has a beautiful alibi—"Oh, I am just getting mine before the hoarders begin buying." There is no way of shaming these "patriots."

On the luxury side, the hoarding of tires has caused the price of them to skyrocket and the run resulted in some prospective owners' paying 'under the cover fees' to salesmen in order to get new cars. (A repeat of the lush early post-war days.)

While these people are selfishly looking after their own needs, their actions result in undue hardships for others.

Low-Income People the Sufferers

As one welfare worker so aptly stated,

"Hoarding results in high prices for the real necessities of life. High-salaried people can still afford them, but those who live on small, non-fluctuating incomes such as pensions or money from charity agencies, really suffer. They just can't buy the things they need."

Gov. Chester Bowles has set an example for the 47 Governors in the nation to follow. July 22 was Connecticut Day at the Sesquicentennial in Washington.

Prior to the citizens, leaving, Governor Bowles issued a statement in which he asked all of them to take time out while enjoying the festivities and to investigate first hand the aspects of racial discrimination and segregation as practiced in the "Capital of Democracy."

Blot Can Be Wiped Out

He told them that if "each of us agrees that this situation calls for action, action will result and this blot on American democracy will be wiped out once and for all.

He pointed out the indignities suffered by the persons who are segregated and discriminated against. He added that the State of Connecticut had made progress in this field and was trying to do even more.

In this State, Governor Lane still flies the Confederate flag.

Hodge-Podge

By BOB MATTHEWS

There are a great number of men who seem to derive a great deal of satisfaction from hitting a little gutta-percha ball around an oversize lawn, then walking half a mile so they can hit it again.

This in essence is the venerable game of golf, and its addicts are legion—me included.

Of course, I shoot in the low 60's (nine holes, that is) so I usually get my hard-gambling golf-playing crew (nickel a hole) together early on Sunday mornings before the golfers arrive.

Have found this to be a great help in how to catch a cold in 12 easy lessons. It's amazing how wet the grass can be at 6 o'clock on the morning.

Regular Pattern in Reverse

Didn't enjoy the game last Sunday. Not because of the brand of golf I played—it was up to its usual lousy—but because of a peculiar state of James Crow in reverse.

When one travels throughout the Deep South, he becomes conditioned to the many signs designating racial segregation.

Though he may seethe inwardly, he shrugs an indifferent shoulder when ordered to the rear of the bus and take comfort in the fact that no chains are holding him in that section of the country.

As expeditiously as possible, he makes tracks for Northern climes and liberal attitudes.

Baltimore Proves Somewhat Better

He may even come to Baltimore seeking relief. Of course, he can't go into certain stores downtown, or play on certain tennis courts, but anything is better than nothing.

If he had been on the golf course last Sunday, (please don't ask which one—this is Baltimore) he would have been confronted with two signs bordering the entrance to the clubhouse and both proclaiming:

"This course closed to WHITE players
Tuesday, August 15."

Ex necessitate rei. (Translation: Latin—Is this mess necessary?

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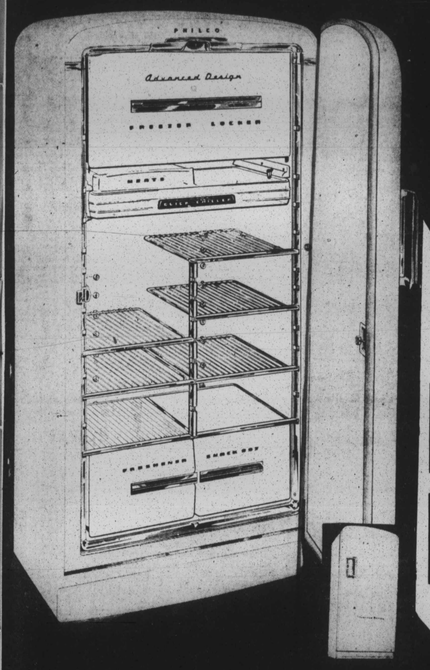

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