

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Governor Nice's Proclamation Negro Handicapped Week May 17, 1936, to May 23, 1936

WHEREAS, There are many Negro citizens in the State of Maryland suffering from various types of mental and physical handicaps who attempt to avail themselves of the limited opportunities afforded them to improve their condition and thereby relieve the State of the burden of their care; and

WHEREAS, The Association for the Handicapped has endeavored unceasingly for twenty-five years to help those suffering from any type of handicap, to adjust themselves in life and to seek aid in securing for them whatever appliances science has found most suited and best fitted to their condition; and

WHEREAS, The said Association for the Handicapped is celebrating, May 17th, to May 23, 1936, the twenty-fifth anniversary of its labors, in an effort to more fully acquaint the public with its achievements and the fine contributions which it has made to the social welfare of the State and the Negro Race.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY W. NICE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do proclaim the week beginning May 17th, 1936, and ending May 23rd, 1936, as Negro Handicapped Week, during which we hope a conscientious effort shall be made to awaken in the minds of the citizens of this State an appreciation for the thoughts, feelings, accomplishments and needs of those less fortunate than themselves, who in spite of serious handicaps are in many instances doing more for themselves, their families and their communities than their more fortunate brethren.

[THE GREAT SEAL OF THE  
STATE OF MARYLAND]

GIVEN under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, at the City of Annapolis, this 9th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-six.

HARRY W. NICE,

By the Governor, THOMAS L. DAWSON, Secretary of State.

Attorney W. A. C. Hughes drew up the Proclamation for the Governor's approval.

Arguments for Colored Representatives on the Board of School Commissions  
of Baltimore City

1. The colored population of Baltimore constitutes approximately one-sixth of the total population. This group of citizens pays its share of the taxes, receives a portion of the benefits through various City agencies, but has nothing to do or say in the administration of these departments. It is fair, therefore, for those interested in the public schools of the City, where Civics and other subjects have as their ultimate purpose the building of citizenship, should be interested in such a large percentage of citizens and children in the public school.
2. It amounts to taxation without representation in shaping the policies and ideals of a great educational system.
3. There are approximately 25,000 colored children in the schools of Baltimore. No one knows the family life, family background, the home environments of these 25,000 children better than colored people themselves. Because of the racial differences and barriers it is impossible for white people, however fair they may be, to accurately evaluate all of the conditions entering into such a large racial group.
4. For these reasons and others not mentioned, a colored representative on the School Board could speak with authority in the interest of one-sixth of the citizens of our great city.

W. A. C. HUGHES, JR.,  
Attorney at Law  
4 E. Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

May 5, 1936.

Mr. Forrest Bramble, President,  
3901 Juniper Road,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Re: Schools 109, 127, 131

Dear Sir:

I wrote you on the 22nd of January, requesting permission for a committee from the Association For The Handicapped to meet with the Board of School Commissioners to discuss conditions in the above-named schools. Said request was at first referred to the Committee on Health Education and Physical Education but later transferred to the Committee on Buildings, according to Miss M. O'Hara, Secretary to your Board. We were advised that we would be notified of the next meeting of the Committee on Buildings and have an opportunity to be heard.

Since the school year will soon close and it is problematical whether or not we shall have an opportunity to meet with the Board of Commissioners, we have decided to send our findings instead of waiting for a conference.

Perhaps you are not fully aware of the deplorable conditions prevalent at Schools numbered 109, 127 and 131. Enclosed herein, you will find a copy of the report made upon these buildings in 1920-1921 by the "Strayer Survey," and the report of a committee from the Association for the Handicapped, which investigated those schools in December, 1935. These schools were found to be so dangerous and out of date that immediate abandonment was considered necessary more than fifteen years ago; yet, though they are in far worse condition today, mentally handicapped children are instructed there. Surely, the mentally handicapped child needs far more pleasant surroundings than the normal child if his condition is to improve. It is for these reasons that the Association for the Handicapped urges the Board of School Commissioners to abandon or rebuild the aforementioned Schools before the fall term of 1936-1937, or place these children in more suitable buildings.

Thanking you for your immediate attention to this matter, we are

Very truly yours,

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED.  
By W. A. C. Hughes, Attorney

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