

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION

BY LOU EMMA SHIPP

IN MISSISSIPPI THIS YEAR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAYS ALL PREVIOUSLY WHITE AND ALL PREVIOUSLY NEGRO SCHOOLS MUST BE DESEGREGATED, OR ELSE THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

WE HAVE NOT HAD ALL OF THE SCHOOLS TO COMPLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S ORDERS, BUT SOME ARE DOING IT UNDER COURT ORDER, AND SOME ARE VOLUNTEERING TO COMPLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPLIANCE BILL. BEFORE THESE SCHOOLS THAT IS VOLUNTEERING TO COMPLY CAN RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS, THEY MUST SUBMIT A PLAN TO THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND THEN IN ORDER FOR HIM TO ACCEPT IT, IT MUST BE A PLAN TO INTEGRATE FOUR GRADES A YEAR.

SOME SCHOOLS ARE ONLY DESEGREGATING TWO GRADES, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS THEY MUST INTEGRATE FOUR GRADES UNDER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ORDER. IN MANY COUNTIES PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HARRASSED AND INTIMIDATED IN MANY WAYS, WHICH YOU WILL READ ABOUT FURTHER IN THE STORY, BECAUSE OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION.

OUT-OF-STATE LOWYERS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH US IN ORDER TO MAKE IT BETTER FOR THE NEGROES TO RECEIVE A BETTER EDUCATION. WHEN THESE SCHOOL ARE INTEGRATED WE MUST ATTEND THEM IN ORDER TO SHOW THE PEOPLE THAT THE NEGRO CHILD WANT AN EDUCATION AS WELL AS THE WHITE CHILD.

MOST PEOPLE THINK THAT WE WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH THE WHITES IN ORDER TO SAY THAT I CAN GO TO SCHOOL WITH A WHITE CHILD. THAT IS NOT TRUE, FOR AS GOING TO SCHOOL TO BE WITH A WHITE CHILD IS A LOT'S OF CRABS, BUT WE ARE ONLY GOING TO BENEFIT OURSELVES SO WE CAN GET TOP POSITION IN THIS SOCIETY. WE WANT A NEGRO PRESIDENT, NEGRO CONGRESSMAN, A NEGRO ANYBODY LIKE THE WHITE FOLKS HAVE. WE ONLY WANT WHAT BELONG TO US. WE WANT DESEGREGATION ONLY BECAUSE WE KNOW WE HAVE A RIGHT TO GET AN EDUCATION LIKE THE WHITE CHILD.

DESEGREGATION SHOULD ONLY BE A COMMON THING TO BOTH BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH. IT IS NOTHING TO SEE A WHITE MAN AND BLACK WOMAN TOGETHER IN MISSISSIPPI, WHY SHOULD IT BE SOMETHING TO SEE A NEGRO CHILD AND A WHITE CHILD SITTING IN THE SAME CLASSROOM.

WE HAVE LOT'S OF PARENT WHO WILL NOT SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOLS, WHEN THIS HAPPEN PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO THEM, BECAUSE THEY ARE HARRASSED AND INTIMIDATED IN SO MANY WAYS, AND THEY FEAR THIS KIND OF TROUBLE. THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE PARENTS DON'T WANT THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR THEIR CHILDREN, SURE THEY WANT THE BEST OPPORTUNITY, BUT THEY ARE AFRAID.

TO GO FURTHER INTO DETAILS, LET ME GIVE YOU A LIST OF COUNTIES AND HOW MANY CHILDRENS HAVE ENROLL IN THE PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOL. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWED:

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| 1) CALHOUN - 19 | 11) MOSS POINT - 87 |
| 2) VICKSBURG - 53 | 12) ALCORN - 20 |
| 3) BILOXI - 114 | 13) CARTHAGE AND LEAKE - 44 |
| 4) TUPELO - 17 | 14) McCOMB - 10 |
| 5) PANOLA - 55 | 15) MERIDIAN - 7 |
| 6) NESHOMA - 10 | 16) PONTOTOC - 19 |
| 7) ENTERPRISE - 25 | 17) WINSTON - 28 |
| 8) STARKVILLE - 2 | 18) JACKSON - 144 |
| 9) HOLMES - 189 | 19) CLARKE - 25 |
| 10) CARROLL - 24 | |

SO YOU CAN SEE BY THESE FIGURES THAT PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO THE SHITE SCHOOLS, BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO THEM. AND YOU CAN'T BLAME A PERSON FOR WANTING TO PROTECT HIMSELF.

WE DO HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE WHAT EVER COME, BECAUSE THEY REALLY WANT THEIR CHILDRENS TO HAVE A GOOD EDUCATION, THEY DON'T WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO COME UP THE WAY THAT THEY HAD TO COME UP, THEY WANT THINGS BETTER FOR THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF TOMORROW.

THINGS HAS BEEN PRETTY TOUGH FOR THE PEOPLE THAT WANT THAT WHAT IS THEIRS, AND THEY ARE WILLING TO SUFFER AND DIE FOR WHAT IS RIGHT. SCHOOL DESEGREGATION WILL NOW BECOME A COMMON THING HERE IN MISSISSIPPI, WE DON'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH WHITE, BUT WE JUST WANT A GOOD EDUCATION BECAUSE WE ARE TIRED OF GOING TO NO-GOOD SCHOOLS (FOR EXAMPLE) VAIDEN NEGRO HIGH DOESN'T HAVE A LIBRARY, AND WHAT GOOD IS THAT TYPE OF SCHOOL, NO BUSINESS EDUCATION, NO MUSIC, NO CHEMISTRY, ONLY THE COMMON BOOKS, LEARNING SUCH AS ALGEBRA, PHYSICS, EDUCATION, ENGLISH, AND BIOLOGY. WE HAVE NO EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES LIKE THE SHITE SCHOOL, IF WE HAD EQUAL SCHOOLS, WE WOULDN'T CARE TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH WHITES.

I WILL NOW GO FURTHER INTO DETAILS. I WILL GIVE YOU SOME OF THE EVICTIONS THAT HAS HAPPEN TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN THE WHITE SCHOOL. ON AUGUST 31, 1965 EVER ALINE MORGANFIELD FAMILY WAS PUT OFF THE DAN HOGAN PLANTATION IN ROLLING FORK. AFTER ENROLLING HER TWO SONS IN THE PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOL WHICH IS CALLED THE FIELD WRIGHT SCHOOL, HER SONS NAMES ARE LESTER AND JOE MORGANFIELD. MR. HOGAN FOUND THIS OUT AND COME TO THE MORGANFIELDS HOME AND CALLED MR. MORGANFIELD OUT AND TOLD HIM HE HAD TO MOVE OUT OF HIS HOUSE BEFORE THE NEXT NIGHT, AND THAT HE WANTED HIS \$70 DOLLARS THAT HE OWED HIM, AND THEN TOLD HIM IF HE DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY IT WILL BE OK.

SO YOU CAN SEE WHAT I MEAN, WHEN I SAY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO THE WHITE SCHOOLS.

A LADY DOWN IN FILTER WAS TOLD IF SHE TOOK HER CHILDREN DOWN TO REGISTER, SHE WOULD HAVE TO MOVE OFF A PLANTATION. A GIRL WAS REFUSED REGISTRATION IN THE PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOL BECAUSE HER PARENTS WEREN'T WITH HER. THEY TOLD HER PARENT HAD TO BE THERE TO PROVE THAT THEY WERE HER PARENTS. SHE HAD HER

BIRTH CERTIFICATE WITH HER, SHE TRIED TO REGISTER IN THE 12th GRADE, HER NAME IS MISS. THELMA HARRIS. A WHITE LADY WENT BY THE SCHOOL AND TALKED TO THE PARENTS LIKE DOGS, POLICE WERE THERE BUT DID NOTHING.

THE PARENTS HAD TO GO TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO GET IMMUNIZATION PAPERS BEFORE GOING TO SCHOOL, THE WOMAN IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT USED DEROGATORY LANGUAGE, USING TERMS LIKE NIGGERS, SAYING THAT THE NIGGERS WON'T LAST VERY LONG ANYWAY. MR. HURMS, A MAN FROM ISSAQUENA COUNTY WAS PUT OFF A PLANTATION BELONGING TO THE SHERIFF OF ISSAQUENA COUNTY BECAUSE HE REGISTERED HIS CHILDREN IN THE PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOL.

A WOMAN WAS SENT WORD BY THE SHERIFF BROTHER, THAT HER CHILDREN BETTER NOT GO TO GLEN ALLEN SCHOOL WHICH IS A WHITE SCHOOL. HER NAME IS MRS. HARRIS, THE PLANTATION OWNERS ARE BEING TOLD WHOSE CHILDRENS ARE REGISTERING IN THE WHITE SCHOOL.

AFTER PEOPLE ARE BEEN PUT OFF PLANTATIONS THE OWNERS ARE BURNING THE HOUSES DOWN, THIS HAPPEN TO ALL THE PEOPLE FROM BAYOUS WHO REGISTERED THEIR CHILDREN IN THE PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOLS. WHEN THEY REGISTER THEY ARE ASKED THESE QUESTIONS, WHERE THEY LIVE, AND THE CLOSEST WHITE PERSON NEAR BY. WHY WOULD ANY SO-CALLED DECENT HUMAN BEING DO A PERSON LIKE THIS.

THE PEOPLE OF HOLLY SPRINGS HAVE BEEN GETTING NOTES IN THEIR MAIL BOX, THE NOTES SAYS FROM THE 19. COMMITTEE. ABOUT TWELVE KIDS ENROLL IN THE HOLLY SPRING HIGH SCHOOL. THE NEGRO KIDS WAS TOLD THAT IF THEY WANTED TO GO TO THE WHITE SCHOOL, THEY WOULD HAVE TO RIDE THE BUS WITH THE WHITE KIDS, BUT THERE ARE NO WHITES SCHOOLS BUSES IN THE NEGRO DISTRICTS.

ON SEPT. 1, MRS. FLORENCE PAINE WAS KICKED OFF A PLANTATION BY HER PLANTATION OWNER WHEN SHE REGISTERED HER CHILD IN THE PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOL. THE PLANTATION OWNER TOLD HER SHE HAD TO MOVE, SHE THEN GOT AFRAID AND WENT BACK TO THE NEGRO SCHOOL AND REGISTERED HER CHILD THERE. HE THEN TOLD HER SHE HAD TO BE OUT OF THE HOUSE BEFORE SATURDAY. THE NAME OF THE OWNER OF THE PLANTATION IS MR. A.E. SCOTT OF MAYERSVILLE AND SUPERVISOR OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF ISSAQUENA.

THE CARROLL COUNTY F.D.P. OFFICE WAS BURNED DOWN AUGUST 23RD DUE TO THE FACT OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION. ALSO AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO BURN A CHURCH IN HOLMES COUNTY DUE TO THE SAME FACTS, AND A STORE BELONGING TO A MAYOR, THE MAYOR OF DURANT (IN HOLMES CO.) WAS DESTROYED. THE MAYOR HAD SUPPORTED DESEGREGATION. WE CANNOT TOLERATE WITH SUCH DOINGS AND WE MUST FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHT.

AUGUST 31ST THE INELL ERWIN FAMILY WAS PUT OFF THE HOGAN PLANTATION BECAUSE THEY ENROLL THEIR KIDS IN PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOLS.

INFORMATION OF HOW OUR LAWYERS HAVE BEEN HARRASSED AND INTIMIDATED: LAWYER CARSIE HALL HAS BEEN INTIMIDATED IN MANY WAYS : WHEN HE WAS WORKING IN GREENWOOD HIS LIFE WAS THREATENED BY LOCAL WHITES AND OFFICIALS: HE HAS RECEIVED MANY THREATENING PHONE CALLS FROM LOCAL WHITES.

LAWYER'S MELL LOWENTHAL'S LIFE WAS THREATENED IN GOODMAN, MISS. HE WAS SURROUNDED IN HIS CAR BY OTHER CARS WHEN HE TRIED TO HELP A NEGRO OUT OF TROUBLE. THE WHITES SURROUNDED HIM AND BURST HIS CAR LIGHTS OUT. HE WORKED ON SCHOOL DESEGREGATION IN BOTH HOLMES AND CARROLL COUNTIES. HE WAS ASKED TO LEAVE HOLMES COUNTY, AND HE REFUSED BUT HE GOT THE KIDS REGISTERED IN THE PREVIOUSLY WHITE SCHOOL WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.

I ALSO CHECK WITH THE LAWYERS IN THE PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE AND THEY SAID THEM HADN'T BEEN HARRASSED OR INTIMIDATED IN ANY WAY. ONE OF THEM TOLD ME THEY HAD HARRASSED THE OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE, AND THAT IS A FLABBERGASTING STATEMENT TO HAVE COME FROM A LAWYER WORKING ON SCHOOL DESEGREGATION.

SO NOW MOST OF ALL OUR LAWYERS ARE LEAVING FOR VACATION OR TO GO BACK TO THEIR JOBS, BUT IF THINGS GET ROUGH THEY WILL COME RIGHT BACK TO MISSISSIPPI AND HELP THINKS TURN OUT FOR THE BEST.

IN MY CONCLUSION I HAVE ONLY ONE STATEMENT TO MAKE. WE ARE NOT FIGHTING TO BE WITH THE WHITE MAN, WE ARE FIGHTING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT.

This report was made by Lou Enna Shipp, 18, secretary of the Carroll County F.D.P. - Sept. 1965.