

Richmond Times-Dispatch, *Best for Both Races*, September 21, 1935

The rejection by the University of Virginia board of visitors of the application of ALICE JACKSON for admittance to that institution is expected to precipitate a long-drawn-out contest in the courts. What the ultimate outcome of that contest will be no one can say. But there appears to be little room for doubt that the issue ultimately will be decided by the highest tribunal in the land.

Although THE TIMES-DISPATCH has the utmost sympathy with the desire of the Negro race for improvement of its educational, political and financial status, and has, we believe, given evidence of that sympathy on many occasions, it reiterates its belief that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is making a mistake in attempting to force a Negro into the University of Virginia.

Aside from the fact that the effort of the N.A.A.C.P. probably will stir up a great deal of ill feeling which does not now exist, especially if the association wins its case, we believe it is necessary for other reasons to maintain separate educational systems for the Negroes and the whites. When the University of Virginia board declared that "the education of white and colored persons in the same schools is contrary to the long-established and fixed policy of the Commonwealth," it not only pointed to a long-established custom, but it indicated its belief that this state of affairs should be maintained.

And we agree. It is essential for the well-being of the white race, and also for that of the colored race, that the two be educated separately. There is sufficient danger of ultimate racial amalgamation now, without increasing that danger through the mingling of the races in schools, colleges and universities.

The question of racial "superiority" and "inferiority" is not involved here, but the question

of race pride is. We cannot believe that either the thinking whites or the thinking blacks desire amalgamation, for we are confident that both take pride in their own achievements. Hence we wonder if the N.A.A.C.P. will not live to regret its action, in the event that it wins its case in the courts, and the Negro students are admitted to the State-supported institutions of higher learning in Virginia and the other Southern states. If that happens, a long step in the direction of ultimate fusion of the races will have been taken.

It is our conviction that the Negro should work out his destiny as a Negro and not as a pseudo-white man. The highest potentialities of the Negro race may best be promoted and developed through the preservation of his racial identity. We believe that, in so far as the present controversy is concerned, those potentialities can be realized through the maintenance by Virginia and the other States of separate institutions furnishing to the Negroes adequate facilities for graduate and professional training.

At present, the demand for such training is so small that the part of wisdom would appear to be for the Commonwealth to finance the sending of qualified Negroes to Northern institutions.

This arrangement would be frankly temporary, and designed to take care of only a dozen or two students, pending the development of a sufficient demand in Virginia for advanced and professional instruction. It would mean the addition of only a very small number of Negroes to the student bodies of institutions which already are admitting them.

When a sufficient number of Virginia Negroes signify a desire to pursue graduate and professional studies, we are strongly of the opinion that these should be provided for them at the State College for Negroes at Petersburg. As citizens and taxpayers, the Negroes are entitled to these facilities.

Transcription

But while we cannot agree that it would be wise for whites and blacks to mingle together indiscriminately in the Virginia schools, colleges and universities, we do feel that the Negro public schools should be greatly improved, that they should have Negro principals, and that their teachers should be better paid. We also are of the opinion that the State College for Negroes should have larger appropriations than it has

enjoyed in the past, and that when there is sufficient demand, it should be expanded into a university with graduate and professional instruction of the best grade.

But we are convinced that the salvation of both the whites and the Negroes lies in a parallel development, with co-operation and cordiality between the two groups, rather than in such belligerent efforts, as that of the N.A.A.C.P. to force Negroes into institutions hitherto used by the whites, at the cost of much interracial good will, and with the very real danger that ultimately both races will lose their identities through amalgamation.