

**Richmond Times-Dispatch, *The Racial Problem*,
September 28, 1935**

Response to the editorial *Best for Both Races*

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,— I desire to comment on an editorial headed "Best for Both Races," appearing September 21. Referring to the application of Miss Alice Jackson for admittance to the University of Virginia, and its rejection by the board of visitors, it is obvious that whatever one may say is almost sure to displease some white people, or some colored people, and perhaps both. No one can frankly discuss the incident and please everybody.

Colored people are not open to censure and adverse criticism, by fair-minded white people, because they desire to better their political or economic or educational standing. Such an ambition is commendable in any underprivileged group. However, in this connection, it may be mentioned that the Negro has none too many friends today and he can ill afford to offend any of them if he can help it.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which contemplates court action against the University of Virginia in the interest of the application, should seriously weigh the matter from every view point. While no one believes the friendly relations existing between the two races will be disrupted by this incident, yet there is need for calm, dispassionate thinking in the interest of both races.

"Respectful refusal" of the application on the part of the institution was the only answer the university could make in view of the policy in Virginia to educate the races separately. Yet it has developed that there is no tax-supported school for graduate study for Negroes, the same as for whites maintained in Virginia. This is so obviously unfair and unreasonable that a common understanding, no doubt could have been reached by local educational leaders of both races and the local public press without intervention by a national organization, with its threatened appeal to courts of law, its order to obtain a small measure of social justice.

Not only is there need for some arrangement whereby the State must provide free facilities for Negro graduates who wish to pursue their studies in institutions of higher learning, but the whole policy for Negro public schools and Negro education in Virginia needs to be reviewed and revised.

For example, there is an urgent demand for more and better primary schools for Negro children; hundreds having no seats. Negro teachers should receive the same pay as white teachers for doing the same work. Manifestly, a white principal is out of

his place in a segregated Negro school. Here he must come in close association with his Negro clerk; must come in close conference with his Negro teachers, male and female: must mingle and commingle with his Negro pupils.

If to deny a capable young colored girl admittance to a white institution of learning is "Best for Both Races," then to remove white principals from Negro public schools at once is what is also "Best for Both Races." Let local white newspaper editors help to put this over.

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