

Staff Writer

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"Open Our School" Pleas Sounded By Students Fall On Deaf Ears Of Governors

By STAFF WRITER

As "massive resistance" to school desegregation orders moves into its second week, it becomes more and more obvious that what Virginia's Gov. Almond and Arkansas' Gov. Faubus are doing to the school age children of those two states is all of their own—and their very, very, few disciples—making.

People of stature in both Virginia and Arkansas are speaking out against massive resistance graphically illustrated by closed school doors and the persons most vitally concerned—the children themselves—are raising their voices more and more in protest.

GOVERNORS ALMOND and Faubus say that they speak for the people. Here are the facts:

At Norfolk, students at Norview high school and at Northside junior high school are voicing their disgust at the Governor's action even as some of their parents try to compel them to go along with lawlessness.

THE STUDENTS say they're neutral in the "segregation-integration" hassle the two governors and some their parents want to keep aflame. They declare that all they want is to go to school—regardless of what the color the skin of their classmates might be.

The Journal and Guide was told by a student who said that he was "a senior at Craddock High School" this week, said that he — as a 17-year-old — had learned that there was no difference in people "despite what my parents, the governor or anybody else might say." This student said that he reached this conclusion a year ago when he suddenly found himself to be "stopping hate" Orientals because a star on his school's

football team was a Chinese-American.

THE STUDENTS at Granby high school, officers of the senior class there, said in a public statement:

"We want public schools at any cost! Having talked to various authorities, both pro and con, on the public school problem, we, as individuals, feel something must be done to secure our education at Granby High School.

"WE FEEL OUR superintendent of schools, Mr. J. J. Brewbaker, in his statement today, shows immense foresight and wisdom in dealing with this delicate situation. We hope that our fellow students will follow his advice and make no rash decisions.

"We take an unbiased stand on the issue of public school integration, but we strongly feel the need for public schools at any cost!"

AT THE SAME time, the Northside junior high students were getting signatures on a petition on which they declared:

"Not as segregationists or integrationists, but as students who want an education, we ask you to please keep our schools open."

A NORFOLKIAN of stature, W. L. Shephard, pointed out to City Council this week the stupidity of thoughts that defiance of federal court edicts will "work."

Mr. Shephard said, in part: "There is no logic which tells us we can defeat United States law." He said this as part of a request that the Council declare its stand on the schools issue. Mr. Shephard also said of efforts to set up "private" schools here:

"IT'S HALF-BAKED" to think private schools can be set up for 10,000 students overnight." Of the Federal District Court order to admit 17 colored students to schools they are qualified to attend, Mr. Shephard said:

"Judge (Walter F.) Hoffman has done nothing more than he must do."

ON WEDNESDAY this week, some 1,200 local residents made plain their intent to abide by the law of the land and committed themselves to peaceable means to bring about integration of schools in a full-page announcement in a daily newspaper.

Colored and white names were signed to the petition which was made into the announcement. The move was initiated by a white minister, the Rev. W. B. Abbott, pastor of Oakdale Presbyterian church.

ANOTHER NORFOLK group, also headed by a white minister, said this week that it has some 3,000 backers in its efforts to keep the public schools open.

Of the efforts of his group, the Rev. J. C. Brewer, said:

"THE THING which has impressed us about the response we are continually and increasingly receiving is that it represents a cross section of the community; men prominent in the business world, physicians, and members of other professions, school teachers, educators, Navy and Army officers, enlisted service personnel, city employees, mothers and fathers from every section of the city."

The Norfolk League of Women Voters went on record this week as opposing Gov. Almond's school-closing tactics and a group of 163 students at Norview High School

signed a petition asking that their school be opened whether integrated or not.

AT CHARLOTTESVILLE, E. G. R. Ferguson, an undertaker who is a leader in the colored community, said colored citizens still expect and "anticipate" that Venable and Lane High School, the other school closed to avoid integration, will reopen before long.

Also at Charlottesville a group of 75 Lane high school students requesting "that our public high school be opened," and petitioned the governor saying: "We know that recent legislation authorizes you to close schools which are ordered to integrate; but, we have been under the impression that schools so closed were to be reopened by you at once as state schools."

IT'S THAT WAY all over the two states where "massive resistance" has become a fact as other stories in this issue of the Journal and Guide will point out.

Yet, Govs. Almond and Faubus say—and possibly believe — that they "speak for the people."

For shame!