

News From:
THE CITIZENS' COUNCIL
Plaza Building
Jackson, Mississippi

July 21, 1964

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL INTEGRATION!

A misleading and factually incorrect advertisement was published in Sunday newspapers throughout Mississippi on July 19, sponsored by a group calling itself "Mississippians for Public Education." The Citizens' Council has been called upon by many of its members to issue a public clarification, cutting through the smokescreen of evasion and doubletalk found in this ad.

Therefore, we call the following facts to the attention of every Mississippian:

1--The group calling itself "Mississippians for Public Education" is nothing new. Similar organizations have existed under various names in a number of Southern communities faced with lawsuits demanding school integration. In every case, these groups have favored integration and opposed segregation. One need only recall events in Little Rock, New Orleans and Atlanta to place this newest integration effort in its true perspective. Don't be fooled-- integration is the ONLY issue!

2--In various cities throughout Mississippi, efforts to form such a pro-integration group have been underway for several years. Your Citizens' Council has watched these groups with interest, since it has been conclusively demonstrated that integration cannot succeed without inside help from the white community! All white residents of Mississippi should inform themselves as to just who is giving aid and comfort to the NAACP and other Communist-led forces of integration!

3--In its ad, "Mississippians for Public Education" professes concern over the cost of the tuition grant plan recently adopted by the Mississippi Legislature. Such efforts to place a price tag on the future of our children should be deplored by every parent in Mississippi. Our children represent our most valued and priceless hopes and dreams--we will not permit any person or group to put a price tag on our children!

4--The financial "facts" concerning the tuition grant program presented by "Mississippians For Public Education" are as phony as the group's self-

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2 Citizens' Council, July 21, 1964

proclaimed motives. Apparently, these people cannot grasp the simple truth that Mississippi will have the same number of pupils this Fall, whether the pupils are attending public or private schools. Therefore, the state will be paying for the same number of children, and it will cost the same amount for each child. Any claims to the contrary must be rejected as specious.

5--Likewise, this group is wringing its hands over the possibility of an economic depression unless Mississippians surrender their schools and deliver up their children to the altar of integration. We must point out that Mississippi's greatest economic progress has come during recent years, while the state's record of successful segregation was maintained unblemished. The city of Jackson led the nation in business growth, while other Southern communities which surrendered to the agitators found their economic indicators declining. Unless the "Mississippians For Public Education" want to create a depression, they should join with the rest of us in rejoicing at our state's upward progress on the economic ladder.

6--Since only three Mississippi school districts--Jackson, Biloxi, and Leake County--now face court integration orders, we must question the motives of "Mississippians for Public Education" in publishing their ad in other Mississippi cities which have no present conflict. Why, for example, would they run their ad in the Tupelo Journal--unless as a means of "softening up" the Tupelo area as a forerunner to voluntary integration? This group should make its real motives and intentions known!

7--Finally, we must regard with suspicion this group's efforts to play fast and loose with OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN. If "Mississippians For Public Education" were motivated by sincerity, they certainly would have included in their ad the names and ages of the children of their own officers, indicating where they attend school, and whether this group's leaders are willing for their own children to submit to an experiment in integration that has brought tragic results everywhere it has been attempted! Could it be that the wealth of this group's "leaders" insulates their children from any possible contact with integration? Or do any of them have any children still in school? Full and frank answers to these questions are indicated; else, the statement will be regarded with the same cynicism in which it was, no doubt, written.

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