

County; Richard Henry Lee, who moved the resolution in Congress, was a magistrate of Westmoreland; Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, was a magistrate of Albemarle; and Washington, on whose broad shoulders the Revolution rested, was a magistrate of both King George and Fairfax. The Commission is certain that the spirit that actuated our fathers during times of trial still lives in this Commonwealth, and that our best citizens will not fail to meet the challenge of their day.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PROPOSED

The Commission has been confronted with the problem of continuing a public school system and at the same time making provision for localities wherein public schools are abandoned, and providing educational opportunities for children whose parents will not send them to integrated schools.

To meet the problem thus created by the Supreme Court, the Commission proposes a plan of assignment which will permit local school boards to assign their pupils in such manner as will best serve the welfare of their communities and protect and foster the public schools under their jurisdiction. The Commission further proposes legislation to provide that no child be required to attend a school wherein both white and colored children are taught and that the parents of those children who object to integrated schools, or who live in communities wherein no public schools are operated, be given tuition grants for educational purposes.

There has heretofore been pending before The Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia the case of *Almond v. Day*, in which the court had before it for consideration the question of whether the Legislature could validly appropriate funds for the education of war orphans at public and private schools. On November 7, 1955, the Court rendered its decision and held, among other things, that § 141 of the Constitution of Virginia prohibited the appropriation of public funds for payments of tuition, institutional fees and other expenses of students who may desire to attend private schools.

If our children are to be educated and if enforced integration is to be avoided, it is now clear that § 141 must be amended. Moreover, unless this is done, the State's entire program, insofar as attendance at private schools is concerned, involving the industrial rehabilitation program for the physically and mentally handicapped, grants for the education of deserving war orphans, grants in aid of Negro graduate students, and scholarships for teaching and nursing, to remedy shortages in these fields, is in jeopardy.

Accordingly, it is recommended that a special session of the General Assembly be called forthwith for the purpose of initiating a limited constitutional convention so that § 141 may be amended in ample time to make tuition grants and other educational payments available in the current school year and the school year beginning in the fall of 1956. A suggested bill for consideration of the General Assembly is attached hereto as Appendix III.

Contingent upon the favorable action of the people relative to the amendment of the Constitution herein proposed, your Commission recommends the enactment of legislation in substance as follows:

1. *That school boards be authorized to assign pupils to particular schools and to provide for appeals in certain instances.*

Such legislation would be designed to give localities broad discretion in the assignment of pupils in the public schools.