

organizations and associations of our citizens. Included in the latter group are large and representative Statewide organizations. In addition, the sentiment of a large number of individuals has been expressed through the medium of petitions opposing integration.

The public hearing held in Richmond, the content of many communications to Your Excellency and to the Commission, conversations with the people of this Commonwealth, and the actions taken by a majority of the boards of supervisors of the counties, and by school boards and other organizations, have convinced the Commission that the overwhelming majority of the people of Virginia are not only opposed to integration of the white and negro children of this State, but are firmly convinced that integration of the public school system without due regard to the convictions of the majority of the people and without regard to local conditions, would virtually destroy or seriously impair the public system in many sections in Virginia.

The welfare of the public school system is based on the support of the people who provide the revenues which maintain it, and unless that system is operated in accordance with the convictions of the people who pay the costs, it cannot survive; and this is particularly true in Virginia where a large percentage of the cost of public education is dependent upon local revenues.

In view of the foregoing, I have been directed to report that the Commission, working with its counsel, will explore avenues toward formulation of a program, within the framework of law, designed to prevent enforced integration of the races in the public schools of Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

GARLAND GRAY, Chairman.

January 19, 1955.