

Leaders Praise Brownell Brief; Officials Opposed

The announcement of the Eisenhower administration's policy opposing segregation in public schools has been met with joy and sorrow in the South.

Leaders, white and Negro, Democratic and Republican, have aligned themselves for and against the administration's stand as could be expected of persons of diverse political persuasions and racial connotations. Negro leaders have marked the administration's stand as heralding a "new day" for the nation. Southern Democratic congressmen took an expected unfavorable view of the president's stand as revealed by Attorney General Herbert Brownell in his brief urging the Supreme Court to declare racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

NEGRO LEADERS VIEWS

Negro leaders in the South handed the administration an endorsement on its stand. At Birmingham, Arthur Shores, who heads Alabama's Negro Democrats, described the attorney general's stand "commendable." A similar view was taken by C. L. Harper, Atlanta NAACP branch president, who also criticized public officials planning to evade the issue if the Supreme Court declared segregation unconstitutional.

Mr. Harper, asking churches to pray for "divine guidance" of the court, said "We are not going to evade any decision of the United States Supreme Court. We are going to abide by the decision, and we think it out of place that public officials, who have taken the oath of office to enforce the law, should plan evasion of the law."

Mr. Harper's observation is based on announcements in some states that public schools as such will be abolished should the court declare bias in opposition to the constitution.

Dr. W. R. Strassner, president of Shaw University, Raleigh, NC, took an optimistic view, predicting that the high tribunal will decide in line with the attorney general's recommendation of gradual aboli-

tion of segregation." The South will adjust heroically to a gradual change, he said.

LAUDED BY GOP LEADER

J. Wesley Dobbs, vice-chairman of the central committee of the Republican Party in Georgia, heartily approves the administration's policy. Of Mr. Brownell's brief, Mr. Dobbs who also heads Georgia's Masons said "I approve Mr. Brownell's stand and admire his statement. It is in line with those American democratic principles upon which this nation is founded.

"Enjoyment of these principles was not originally granted to Negro slaves," Mr. Dobbs continued, "but the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to our Constitution were designed to give the American Negro equal rights of citizenship. They were put into the Constitution for that purpose.

"The trouble has been that the the Southern states have failed to obey these amendments among which is the 14th. For these reasons I think Mr. Brownell is imminently correct with the logic of his brief."

Brownell based his argument to the court on the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, declaring that its "primary and persuasive purpose" was "to secure for Negroes full and complete equality before the law and to abolish all legal distinctions based on race or color."

The amendment, adopted in the Post-Civil War period, bars any state from making or enforcing laws which abridge the privileges and immunities of any U. S. citizens.

GOV. TALMADGE'S VIEW

Gov. Herman Talmadge of Georgia said he feels that the stand taken by the Eisenhower Administration will solidify the South anew in the Democrat ranks.

Gov. James F. Byrnes, who supported President Eisenhower's candidacy but stands as a stout defender of segregation, said nothing about the brief of Brownell. Byrnes claimed that comment from him would be unbecoming while he is

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contends that the ruling should consider the fact that state's plans "do not call for bankruptcy" and that he does not believe "the court will take an abrupt course."

Representative E. C. Gathings, Democrat, of Arkansas, denounced the brief as an attempt to circumvent the will of Congress which, he said, has "consistently" refused to pass anti-segregation laws. He called for legislation to prevent the court from passing on the cases.

"The power to enact laws or to amend laws rests exclusively in the legislative department and not in the judicial branch of the Government," Mr. Gathing said. "Congress has refused consistently, year in and year out, to pass laws destroying segregation."

LOUISIANA VIEW

Gov. Robert F. Kennon of Louisiana expressed confidence that the Supreme Court will rule that "control of schools is essentially a state function."

Senator Olin D. Johnston, Democrat, of South Carolina said Mr. Brownell was "out of place" and declared "the Justice Department has plenty of cases of its own without going into others."

"I can't see why the Attorney General's office should enter the case when the State of South Carolina is a party," he added.

Senator Clyde Hoey, Democrat, of North Carolina, also joined the chorus of southern protests. He termed Mr. Brownell's action "highly improper."

Leaders Praise

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a delegate at United Nations.

A South Carolina law department official, asking his name be withheld, remarked that the Brownell action was "expected—unhappily so."

Tennessee's Republican chairman, Guy L. Smith, at Knoxville, declined comment.

Dr. M. D. Collins, Georgia State School Superintendent, said that "any transition period" ordered by the Supreme Court for a change-over to non-segregated schools in Georgia would "not be long enough."

A North Carolina educator, Dr. G. H. Ferguson, director of his state's division of Negro education, asks the high court to "go slow" determining a transition period. He