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Where Is the "Reign of Terror?"

SPEECH

OF

HON. JOHN BELL WILLIAMS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 1956

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, since the Black Monday decisions which sought to amend the Constitution by judicial fiat, the people of America have been subjected to the most vicious brainwashing campaign in the history of the world.

Newspapers, magazines, radio, and television, as well as Government agencies, have been continuously engaged in an unceasing barrage of malicious and misleading propaganda, assaulting the integrity, character, customs, and mores of the people of the Southern States. Those who are farthest removed from the segregation problem are the first to come forward with solutions to it, none of which suggest that those who must live with the problem should be consulted. None have sampled the opinion of the southern Negroes, who desire—as do the southern whites—to be left alone to work out their own destinies.

Opposition to integration by white and Negro citizens can be measured in direct ratio to the proportion of Negroes in the population. There is little, if any, support for segregation, for instance, in Vermont or Minnesota or Idaho, where the ratio of Negroes to whites in the population is merely a fraction of 1 percent. In Mississippi, by contrast, where the Negro population is almost equal to the white population, almost unanimous support for continued segregation prevails among members of both races.

The agitation for racial integration did not originate with southern Negroes, the alleged "victims" of the system, nor have southern Negroes generally supported such agitation. Southern Negroes know that their race is being exploited by the radical and pink-fringed NAACP, its sister organizations and captive politicians, and they resent as deeply as their white neighbors these efforts to destroy the identity of their race.

In the unceasing propaganda campaign being leveled against the Southern States, facts are being deliberately concealed and distorted. This propaganda would have Americans believe that the only difference between the races is in skin pigment, and that segregation is the root of all evil in human relations. They would have Americans believe that society should recognize no differences among people, no matter how pronounced those differences may be in actual fact, or how obvious such differences may be. In this, they are doing a distinct disservice to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, these bleeding-heart professional troublemakers weep buckets of tears over what they call second-class citizenship.

I am not going to deny what is a fact: That we do have a second-class citizenship, in the North as well as in the South. However, we might be equally as honest with ourselves and admit another very obvious truth: There will always be a second-class citizenship so long as there are second-class citizens. By the same token, there will be second-class citizens so long as there are citizens who refuse or neglect to discharge the duties, responsibilities, and obligations that must be given in return for the enjoyment of first-class citizenship.

First-class citizenship is not a commodity that can be handed gratuitously to a person or a people like a can of sardines handed across a counter. It is a status that will be conferred automatically when it has been earned, and not before.

The time has come for the light of truth to penetrate the iron curtain that has been thrown around the facts regarding racial differences and distinctions.

The big lie campaign touched off by the sociological fiat of the Supreme Court has reached such magnitude that the time has come to set the record straight.

Let us look at the facts for a moment.

Was Lincoln right when, in commenting on the white and Negro races in his debate with Douglas, he said:

> There is a physical difference between the two, which, in my judgment, will forever forbid their living together upon the footing of perfect equality.

Was Lincoln right when he spoke to a Negro gathering in Washington, on August 14, 1862, when he told them:

> It is better for us both, therefore, to be separated.

Has the Negro race reached the same, or a comparable level of mental development to that of the white race since the birth of his civilization some 93 years ago?

Do Negroes observe the same moral standards as whites, or does a double standard of morals exist as between whites and Negroes?

What is the real effect of segregation with respect to the Negro crime rate? Does the Negro commit more crimes in integrated or segregated States?

Is the Negro better treated in the integrated States, or does he actually fare better in the segregated States, current Government and press propaganda to the contrary?

Where is the real reign of terror against Negro citizens, if such prevails? Is it in Mississippi and the South, as the bleeding-heart liberals contend, or is it in the integrated States?

The facts and figures which I shall use later in this dissertation are authentic. They are compiled from official records of the United States Government and agencies of the several States. These figures have not been altered or changed in any way, but they speak more eloquently than all the words in Webster's Dictionary of the real differences that exist between the races. These will be facts and figures that will not be found in the propaganda being disseminated by South hating agitators, and undoubtedly will not be quoted by the left-wing press, though I challenge them to dispute their authenticity or try to explain away their significance.

First, it might be well to take a look at State prison statistics by race, compiled from official records of the United States Department of Justice:

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State	Negro population, 1950 census	Negroes admitted to prison on felony charges, 1950	Rate of Negro felony prisoners per 100,000, 1950	White population, 1950 census	Whites admitted to prison on felony charges, 1950	Rate of white felony prisoners per 100,000, 1950	Percent of population, Negro, 1950	Percent of felony prisoners Negro, 1950	Negro rate over white rate
									Percent
California	462,172	596	129	9,915,173	2,472	25	4	19	516
District of Columbia	280,803	444	158	517,865	136	26	35	80	608
Illinois	645,980	639	99	8,046,058	1,225	15	7	32	660
Indiana	174,168	189	108	3,758,512	944	25	4	17	432
Kentucky	201,921	277	132	2,742,090	1,088	39	7	21	338
Maryland	385,972	1,484	386	1,954,975	993	51	16	60	757
Missouri	297,088	413	139	3,655,593	1,133	31	8	27	448
New Jersey	318,565	478	150	4,511,585	888	19	7	35	789
New York	918,191	1,051	114	13,872,095	1,818	13	6	37	877
Ohio	513,072	922	179	7,428,222	1,729	23	6	35	778
Oklahoma	145,503	208	143	2,032,526	892	44	7	19	325
Pennsylvania	638,485	493	77	9,853,848	933	9	6	35	855
West Virginia	114,867	93	81	1,890,282	609	32	6	13	253
Total	5,096,787	7,287	143	70,178,824	14,860	21	6.7	33	681
Alabama	979,617	790	80	2,079,591	719	35	32	52	229
Arkansas	426,639	282	66	1,481,507	403	27	22	41	244
Florida	603,101	620	102	2,166,051	895	41	22	41	249
Louisiana	882,428	642	72	1,796,683	515	29	33	55	248
Mississippi	986,494	530	53	1,188,632	222	19	45	70	279
North Carolina	1,047,353	622	59	2,983,121	633	21	26	50	281
South Carolina	822,077	183	22	1,293,405	420	32	39	30	[1] 145
Tennessee	530,603	334	63	2,760,257	691	25	16	32	252
Texas	977,458	867	88	6,726,534	2,125	32	13	30	275
Virginia	734,211	941	128	2,581,555	800	35	22	54	366
Total	7,989,981	5,811	72	25,057,302	7,423	29	24	44	248

[1] White over Negro.

Note: The States of Michigan and Georgia are omitted from the above table, inasmuch as those States did not submit prison reports to the Department of Justice for the year 1950.

An analysis of the above table is most enlightening.

The top portion of the table lists the 13 States of the Union which have more than 100,000 Negro population, with the exception of Michigan. The bottom portion of the table consists of the segregated Southern States, with the exception of Georgia.

It should be noted that the integrated States show a substantially higher incidence of Negro crime in proportion to Negro population than the segregated States. In fact, this table reveals that the per capita crime rate among Negroes in the integrated States is 199 percent—or double—the rate in the segregated States. The cases enumerated in the foregoing table are convicted felony cases, and the figures do not reflect arrests or misdemeanor convictions.

These figures must prove conclusively 1 or 2 premises: Either that Negroes are more law abiding in a segregated society, or southern courts are far more lenient with Negro defendants. This, in my opinion, puts the lie to the left-wing and NAACP propaganda to the effect that a "reign of terror" against Negroes prevails in the South.

Much of the propaganda assault made against the Southern people originates in the State of New York. To those from that State who would criticize the South, I suggest a look at the record.

In 1950, New York courts sent more Negroes to the penitentiary than the courts of Arkansas, Mississippi, and South Carolina combined, in spite of the fact that the total Negro population of those three States exceeds that of New York by 1,317,019.

According to the 1950 census, Mississippi's Negro population exceeds New York's Negro population by 68,303. Yet official Justice Department figures show that New York sent twice as many Negroes to prison in 1950 than Mississippi.

Where is the reign of terror, if such exists?

Integrated Ohio sent more Negroes to prison in 1950 than did the segregated States of Arkansas, Tennessee, and South Carolina combined. Those three Southern States, according to the 1950 census, have a Negro population that exceeds that of Ohio by 1,266,247.

Again; where is the reign of terror, if such exists?

The foregoing table will show the startling fact that the integrated States sent more Negroes to the penitentiary in proportion to their overall Negro population than the segregated States. Per 100,000 Negro population, this rate ranges, in the Northern States, from 77 in Pennsylvania to 386 in Maryland. By contrast, the rate in the segregated Southern States ranges from 22 in South Carolina to 128 in Virginia.

The foregoing table, summarized, will also show the following comparison between the segregated Southern States and the integrated Northern States cited therein:

Negro prison rate per 100,000 population

	0 to 50	51 to 100	101 to 150	151 to 200	Over 200
Integrated States		3	7	2	1
Segregated States	1	7	2		

It should be noted that the white prison rate per 100,000 white population is practically the same in all the States reported, being 21 in the integrated States and 29 in the segregated States.

These 1950 figures further analyzed show the following:

On a per capita basis, New York sent 9 times as many Negroes to the penitentiary as whites; Pennsylvania sent 8½ times as many Negroes to prison as whites.

New Jersey's population is 7 percent Negro, but 35 percent of their felony convictions were Negro. In other words, 7 percent of their population was responsible for 35 percent of their major crimes.

The same pattern holds true practically throughout the integrated States.

Among the Southern States, South Carolina actually sent more whites than Negroes to prison on a per capita basis. On the basis of 100,000 population by race, South Carolina sent 145 percent more whites than Negroes to prison. This is the only State in the Union, according to available statistics, where this condition prevailed. In Mississippi, on a per capita basis, less than three times as many Negroes than whites were sent to prison. The same rate in New York is three times that of Mississippi.

Where is the so-called reign of terror?

In a range distribution, note the following breakdown, showing the percentage of the per capita Negro crime rate to that of the white crime rate:

Negro rate (percentage) over white rate, per 100,000 population

	0 to 100	101 to 200	201 to 300	301 to 400	401 to 500	Over 500
Integrated States			1	2	2	8
Segregated States	1		8	1		

The foregoing table will show that the Negro crime rate is 681 percent of the white crime rate in the integrated States. The Negro crime rate in the segregated States, by contrast, is only 248 percent of the white crime rate.

Where is the reign of terror?

Where is the Negro a better citizen: in an integrated society, or in a segregated society?

Each of the following States has less than 100,000 Negro population: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Delaware, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington—a total of 24 States. For this reason, these States—along with Michigan and Georgia—were not included in the foregoing table. Again, Michigan and Georgia were excluded because no reports had been made available to the Justice Department.

In the 24 States with less than 100,000 Negro population, the 1950 census shows a combined Negro population of 450,460. Justice Department records show that in 1950, those States sent a total of 898 Negroes to prison on felony convictions, making a rate—for those States—of 197 per 100,000 Negro population. It should be noted that this rate is substantially higher than the average of the other States with larger Negro populations. Even in States with the lowest percentage of Negro population, the Negro crime rate is almost triple the rate in the Southern States.

The following table, again compiled from official records of the United States Department of Justice, shows a breakdown of offenses, by race, for which the aforementioned convictions and imprisonments followed:

Male felony prisoners received from court, Federal and State institutions (except Georgia and Michigan), 1950

Offense	White	Negro	Other races	Percent Negro
Murder	734	865	20	53.0
Manslaughter	510	676	17	56.0
Robbery	3,563	1,918	25	35.0
Aggravated assault	1,167	1,402	44	53.0
Burglary	8,054	3,504	129	30.0
Larceny, except auto theft	5,478	2,553	108	31.0
Auto theft	3,608	630	76	14.0
Embezzlement and fraud	1,539	230	16	13.0
Stolen property	276	103	4	27.0
Forgery	4,949	1,127	82	18.0
Rape	1,259	427	34	25.0
Commercialized vice	190	48	1	16.0
Other sex offenses	987	165	14	14.0
Drug laws	1,049	940	50	46.0
Carrying and possessing weapons	162	116	3	41.0
Nonsupport or neglect	755	268	14	26.0
Liquor laws	1,140	660	5	36.0
Immigration and naturalization laws	945	12	4	1.0
Traffic laws	154	36	8	18.0
National-defense laws	85	10	2	10.0
Other	1,469	421	27	22.0
Military courts-martial	607	145	6	20.0
Total	38,680	16,256	689	29.2

Note: The 1950 census shows the population of the United States to be distributed percentagewise as follows: White, 89.5 percent; Negro, 10 percent; other races, .5 percent.

These figures—except for the percentages shown in the last column—are taken from the Annual Report of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, issued by the Department of Justice, Mr. Herbert Brownell, Attorney General, in 1954.

Negroes comprise 10 percent of the total population of the United States. Yet, as the above table shows, Negroes committed more than half the homicides, both murder and manslaughter, in our country in 1950. This 10 percent of our population is also responsible as this table shows, for a disproportionate share of the crimes committed.

This is but another reason why the Southern people intend to retain their segregated institutions.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, a great deal of the current anti-South and anti-Mississippi propaganda is coming from the State of New York, and New York City in particular. For that reason, and in order to reveal to New Yorkers what they probably don't know about themselves in this respect, I offer the following comparative analysis of prison populations, as between my State of Mississippi and New York State:

	New York	Mississippi
Total Negro population (1950 census)	918,191	986,494
Negroes in prison	[1] 7,585	[2] 1,432
Negro prisoners per 100,000 population	843	147
White prisoners per 100,000 population	80	44

[1] 1952.
[2] 1954.

NOTE.—These are the latest available prison population figures available for the 2 States.

These figures show that New York has five times more Negroes per capita in prison than Mississippi. Where is the reign of terror?

Several weeks ago, I reported to the House a breakdown of murders in Mississippi during 1954. During that year, 8 white persons were killed by Negroes; 6 Negroes were killed by white persons; and 182 Negroes killed members of their own race.

Mr. Speaker, the President, the NAACP, and the left-wing press hail the District of Columbia as the ideal example of integration. Some have gone so far as to call the District a utopia of integration. The facts just do not support these allegations.

The Census Bureau reported in 1950 that the population of the District of Columbia was about 65 percent white and 35 percent Negro. What the ratio may be today is anyone's guess, as there has been a general exodus of white people away from the District in the integrated years that have followed, into the segregated areas of nearby Virginia and Maryland.

The following tables, except for the percentage column, are official reports of arrests on felony charges, by sex and race, in the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1955, taken from the 1955 annual report of the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C.:

Arrests by sex, color, and nativity, District of Columbia, fiscal year 1955

Offense	Total both sexes	Total persons charged		Native white		Foreign-born white		Negro		All others		Percent, Negro
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1. Criminal homicide:												
(a) Murder	49	42	7	5	2			37	4		1	84
(b) Manslaughter	4	4		2				2				50
(c) Negligent homicide	20	19	1	6	1			13				65
2. Rape	165	165		20				145				90
(a) Attempted rape	40	40		9				31				77
3. Robbery	908	836	72	121	5			715	67			86
(a) Attempted robbery	79	77	2	12				65	2			85
4. Aggravated assault	3,597	2,661	936	305	71	19	2	2,337	863			90
5. Housebreaking	2,426	2,323	103	474	15	11		1,838	88			79
(a) Attempted housebreaking	116	112	4	19				93	4			83
6. Larceny-theft:												
(a) $100 and over	470	433	37	165	15	4	1	324	21			73
(b) Under $100	2,575	2,222	353	498	98	3	25	1,719	230	2		76
7. Auto theft	623	617	6	163	1	4		450	5			73
Total	11,072	9,551	1,521	1,739	208	41	28	7,769	1,284	2	1	82

Arrests on felony charges, District of Columbia, fiscal year 1955

Offense	Adult and juvenile		Juvenile age 17 and under		Percent Negro juvenile
	White	Negro	Negro	White	
Murder	7	42	3	0	100
Manslaughter	2	2	0	0	----
Rape	20	145	33	0	100
Attempted rape	9	31	6	1	86
Robbery	126	782	261	9	97
Attempted robbery	12	67	30	0	100
Aggravated assault	397	3,200	84	12	88
Housebreaking	500	1,926	715	207	77
Larceny—theft	125	345	48	4	92
Auto theft	168	455	204	121	90
Other assaults	67	141	13	5	61
Forgery and counterfeiting	285	80	3	1	75
Embezzlement and fraud	84	43	1	0	100
Stolen property	7	17	4	1	80
Weapons	12	24	0	0	----
Prostitution	9	15	0	0	----
Other sex offenses	58	76	14	3	82
Drug laws	299	365	6	0	100
Liquor laws	1	137	1	0	100
Gambling	117	417	1	0	100
All other offenses	122	156	11	12	48
Total	2,427	8,466	1,438	376	79

It should be noted that the above tables dealing with arrests on felony charges are broken down by race, and by adult and juvenile categories.

Mr. Speaker, these facts speak for themselves and require no explanation on the part of anyone. The people of the District of Columbia are entitled to this information.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other reasons why the people of the South, who know the problems involved, will never submit to integration in their public schools, the Supreme Court's fiat notwithstanding.

Mr. Speaker, are there differences between the races with respect to moral standards: do the two races really apply a double standard of morals? Why do so many white people object to sending their children to integrated schools, even in the enlightened District of Columbia?

I think it well that all should know the facts, and as amazing and distasteful as they are, I submit the following, which is an official report of the District of Columbia Department of Public Health:

Gonorrhea reported by all sources by sex and color, school age and under, fiscal year 1955

Age	Grand total			White			Colored		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	854	270	584	20	7	13	834	263	571
Under 6	11	1	10	1	1	----	10	----	10
6	3	----	3	----	----	----	3	----	3
7	1	----	1	----	----	----	1	----	1
8	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
9	1	----	1	----	----	----	1	----	1
10	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
11	2	----	2	----	----	----	2	----	2
12	6	----	6	----	----	----	6	----	6
13	23	4	19	1	----	1	22	4	18
14	66	11	55	5	1	4	61	10	51
15	127	22	105	4	----	4	123	22	101
16	241	80	161	4	2	2	237	78	159
17	373	152	221	5	3	2	368	149	219

Source: Preventable and Chronic Diseases Division, Venereal Disease Section, District of Columbia Department of Public Health.

An analysis of this table shows that, of 854 cases of gonorrhea among school-age children reported in 1955, 834—or 97.8 percent—were Negro.

This is but another reason why Southern States will never submit to integrated public schools.

The adult pattern of venereal disease is no different. In the Nation's Capital, Negroes account for 95 percent of the venereal disease cases reported. The following, also taken from an official report of the District of Columbia Department of Public Health, shows conditions with respect to adult venereal disease:

Number of cases of venereal diseases reported,[1] by color and diagnosis, fiscal year 1955

Diagnosis	White		Colored	
	January–June	July–December	January–June	July–December
Syphilis:				
Total early	11	16	190	256
Primary and secondary	(1)	(6)	(24)	(20)
Early latent	(10)	(10)	(166)	(236)
Late latent and other late	158	174	740	948
Congenital [2]	7	2	30	31
Total syphilis	176	192	960	1,235
Gonorrhea	128	143	4,734	5,509
Chancroid	2	2	36	55
Lymphogranuloma venereum	1	2	38	30
Granuloma inguinale	----	----	13	11
Total venereal diseases	307	339	5,781	6,840

[1] Includes new cases previously treated and untreated. No correction made for nonresidents.

[2] Cases under 1 year of age reported by clinics: 1 colored male; 2 colored females.

Source: Monthly Morbidity Reports (form 8958–B), Division of Preventable and Chronic Diseases, Venereal Disease Section, District of Columbia Department of Public Health.

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Mr. Speaker, there is even another reason which causes southerners to reject integration. This is not a pleasant subject, but it is true, nevertheless. It is a fact that the Negro rate of illegitimate births is about 11 times greater than the white race, and that a substantial number of Negro schoolchildren are illegitimate.

At this point, I include two tables. The first table was prepared by the District of Columbia Department of Public Health, and is one of their official publications. The second was taken from a book by Mr. W. E. Debnam, a North Carolina writer, and appears in his book, Then My Old Kentucky Home, Goodnight. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the figures in the second table, but believe them to be substantially true:

Reported illegitimate live births, by race: District of Columbia, 1945–54

Year	All births			Illegitimate births				Percent non-white births that are illegitimate
	Total	White	Non-white	Total	White	Non-white	Percent non-white	
1945	22,954	17,125	5,829	1,954	483	1,471	75	25
1946	25,929	18,897	7,032	2,192	563	1,629	74	23
1947	28,622	20,285	8,337	2,249	523	1,717	77	21
1948	27,867	18,919	8,948	2,628	525	2,103	80	23
1949	27,382	18,261	9,121	2,424	417	2,007	81	22
1950	28,926	19,090	9,836	2,801	505	2,296	82	23
1951	30,460	20,077	10,383	3,068	552	2,516	82	24
1952	31,898	20,952	10,946	3,395	591	2,804	83	26
1953	31,936	20,420	11,516	3,669	620	3,049	83	26.5
1954	32,346	20,441	11,905	3,745	617	3,128	84	26

Source: District of Columbia Dept. of Public Health, Biostatics and Health, Education Division, Mar. 8, 1956.

On December 28, 1955, Mr. Gerard M. Shea, Director of Public Welfare for the District of Columbia, furnished my office with the following information regarding welfare recipients:

1. The number of colored recipients of welfare (all phases) in the District of Columbia is 13,800.

2. The number of white recipients of welfare (all phases) in the District of Columbia is 4,700.

3. The number of colored illegitimate children receiving aid from the Department is 2,750.

4. The number of white illegitimate children receiving aid from the Department is 150.

Mr. Speaker, it has not been my purpose in presenting the foregoing to establish one race as a super race, or to present the other as a race of degenerates. I do not hold to either of these beliefs.

Perhaps some of the facts in the foregoing dissertation may appear to be cruel, but they are no less cruel than the lies that have been spread about my people and my State. At least, the figures I have presented are based on factual studies by impartial agencies, and are taken from official Government files.

I have presented this information with the hope that the truth may open the eyes of those who have been blinded by leftwing propaganda and brainwashed by a biased press.

The foregoing is unvarnished truth. It might be well to mull over the old adage:

There are none so blind as those who will not see.

State	Illegitimacy percentage of total white births	Illegitimacy percentage of total Negro births
Alabama	1.33	21.07
Delaware	1.92	28.99
Florida	1.88	24.02
Georgia	1.44	20.39
Illinois	1.51	20.98
Indiana	1.54	14.07
Iowa	1.49	13.02
Kansas	1.24	12.34
Kentucky	2.30	18.34
Louisiana	1.19	17.92
Maine	2.74	23.53
Michigan	1.57	13.02
Minnesota	1.58	17.94
Mississippi	.92	18.10
Missouri	1.48	21.68
Montana	1.26	13.92
Nevada	1.25	11.64
New Jersey	1.10	13.54
North Carolina	2.18	20.07
North Dakota	1.88	13.76
Ohio	1.69	14.60
Oregon	1.21	13.19
Pennsylvania	1.89	18.77
Rhode Island	1.58	14.23
South Carolina	1.73	18.11
South Dakota	1.28	16.26
Tennessee	2.22	21.13
Texas	1.12	16.98
Utah	.95	2.16
Virginia	2.24	20.62
Washington	1.34	9.19
West Virginia	3.85	17.19
Wisconsin	1.53	12.00
Wyoming	.87	7.20

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