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Where Is the "Reign of Terror?"

SPEECH

PEECE

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 flat 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 popu- lation, 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 pris- oners Negro, 1950	Negro rate over white rate
California District of Columbia Illinois Indiana Kentucky Maryland Missouri New Jersey New York Ohio Oklahoma Pennsylvania West Virginia Total Alabama Arkansas Fiorida Louisiana Mississippi North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee Texas Virginia.	918, 191 513, 072 145, 503 638, 485 5114, 867 979, 617 426, 639 603, 101 882, 428 986, 494 1, 047, 353 822, 077 530, 603 977, 458 774, 211	596 444 639 189 277 1, 484 413 478 1, 051 922 208 493 7, 287 790 282 620 642 530 622 183 334 867 991	102 72 53 59 22 63 89 128	1, 481, 507 2, 166, 051 1, 796, 683 1, 188, 632 2, 983, 121 1, 293, 405 2, 760, 257 6, 726, 534 2, 581, 555	222 633 420 691 2, 125 800	35 27 41 29 19 21 32 25 32 35	13 22	41 41 55 70 50 30 32 32 33 35	229 244 249 248 270 281 1145 252 275 366
Total	- 1, 505, 501			1			1	. '	

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 groups of terrors if such

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	Qver 200
Integrated StatesSegregated States	i	3 7	7 2	2	1

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 sen. 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	i		1 8	2	2	8

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	Per- cent Negro
Murder Manslaughter	734 510 3, 563	865 676 1, 918	20 17 25	53. 0 56. 0 35. 0

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

Offense	White	Negro	Other	Per- cent Negro
Aggravated assault Burglary	1, 167 8, 054	1, 402 3, 504	44 129	53. 0 30. 0
Larcency, except auto theft	5, 478 3, 608	2, 553 630	108 76	31.0 14.0
Embezzlement and fraud. Stolen property Forgery	276	230 103 1,127	16 4 82	13.0 27.0 18.0
Rape Commercialized vice Other sex offenses	1, 259 190 987	427 48 165	34 1 14	25. 0 16. 0 14. 0
Drug laws. Carrying and possessing weapons.	1,049	940 116	50 3	46.0 41.0
Nonsupport or neglect Liquor laws Immigration and nat-	1, 140	268 660	14 5	26. 0 36. 0
uralization laws Traffic laws National-defense laws	154 85	12 36 10	4 8 2 27	1.0 18.0 10.0
Other	1, 469 607	421 145	6	22. 0 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	Missis- sippi
Total Negro population (1950 census)	918, 191 17, 585	986, 494 ² 1, 432
ulation	843	147
ulation	80	44

¹ 1952. ² 1954.

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

Offenso	Total both		persons rged	Native	e white	Foreig wh	m-born nite	Ne	egro	All o	thers	Percent, Negro
	sexes	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	rvegro
1. Criminal homicide: (a) Murder (b) Manslaughter (c) Negligent homicide. 2. Rape (a) Attempted rape. 3. Robbery. (a) Attempted robbery. 4. Aggravated assault. 5. Housebreaking. (a) Attempted housebreaking. (b) Larceny-theft: (a) \$100 and over. (b) Under \$100.	165 40 908 79	42 4 19 165 40 836 77 2, 661 3, 328 112 433 2, 222 617	7 1 2 2 636 103 4 87 353 6	5 20 6 20 9 121 12 205 474 19 105 498 163	2 1 5 71 15 15 98	19 11 4 8 4	2 1 25	37 2 13 145 31 715 65 2, 337 1, 838 93 324 1, 719 450	67 2 863 88 4 21 230 5	2	1	84 50 65 90 77 86 85 90 79 83 73 76 73
(b) Under \$100	11, 072	9, 551	1, 521	1, 739	208	41	28	7, 769	1, 284	2	1	82

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

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

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

Offense	Adult and	l juveníle		ige 17 and der	Percent Negro		Adult and juvenile			Juvenile age 17 and under		
	White	Negro	Negro	White	juvenile		White	Negro	Negro	White	Negro juvenile	
Murder Manslaughter Rape. Attempted rape Robbery. Attempted robbery Appravated assault Housebreaking Larceny—theft Auto theft. Other assaults Forgery and counterfeiting	20 9 126 12 397 500 125 168 67	42 2 145 31 782 67 3, 200 1, 926 345 455 141 80	3 0 33 6 261 30 84 715 48 204 13 3	0 0 0 1 9 0 12 2007 4 121 5	100 86 97 100 88 77 92 90 61 75	Prostitution Other sex offenses Drug laws Liquor laws Gambling All other offenses	7 12 9 58 299	43 17 24 15 76 365 137 417 156 8,466	1 4 0 0 14 6 1 1 1 1,438	0 1 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 12	82 100 100 100 100 48	

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 flat 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 send-

ing 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	<u> </u>	Frand to	tal	White			Colored		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	854	270	584	20	. 7	13	834	263	571
T'nder 6	11 3 1	1	10 3 1	1	1		10		10
8	1		1				<u>i</u>		ï
11	6 23	4	2 6 19	1			2 6		2
14	66 127 241 373	11 22 80 152	55 105 161 221	5 4 4 5	1 2 3	1 4 4 2	22 61 123 237 368	4 10 22 78 149	18 51 101 159

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 schoolage children reported in 1955, 834—or 97.8 percent—were Negro.

This is but another reason why South-

ern 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

	Wi	ite	Colored		
Diagnosis	January- June	July- December	January- June	July- December	
Syphilis: Total early Primary and secondary Forther to the forth of th	11				
Late latent and other lote	(ìò)	16 (6) (10) 174	190 (24) (166)	256 (20)	
Congenital 3 Total syphilis	1 7	2	740 30	(236) 948 31	
Gonorrhea	190	192	960	1, 235	
Granuloma inguinale	í	2 2	4, 734 36 38	5, 509 55	
Total venereal diseases	307	339	5, 781	30 11	

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.

² Cases under 1 year of age reported by clinics: 1 colored male; 2 colored females 382798—58063

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 youch 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

	All births				Percent non-			
Year	Total	White	Non- white	Total	White	Non- white	Percent non- white	white births that are illegiti- mate
1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954.	22, 954 25, 929 28, 622 27, 867 27, 382 28, 926 30, 460 31, 898 31, 936 32, 346	17, 125 18, 807 20, 285 18, 919 18, 261 19, 090 20, 077 20, 952 20, 420 20, 441	5, 829 7, 032 8, 337 8, 918 9, 121 9, 836 10, 383 10, 946 11, 516 11, 905	1, 954 2, 192 2, 249 2, 028 2, 424 2, 801 3, 068 3, 395 3, 669 3, 745	483 563 523 525 417 505 552 691 620 617	1, 471 1, 629 1, 717 2, 103 2, 007 2, 296 2, 516 2, 804 3, 049 3, 128	75 74 77 80 81 82 82 83 83	25 23 21 23 22 23 24 26 26, 5

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.

382798--58063

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 fig-

State	Illegitimacy percentage of total white births	Illegitimacy percentage of total Negro births
Alabama Delaware Florida Georgia Illinois Indiana Iowa Kanasa Kentucky Louisiana Maine Michigan Minnesota Missouri Missouri Montana Newdaa New Jersey North Carolina North Dakota Ohio	1. 33 1. 92 1. 88 1. 44 1. 51 1. 54 1. 24 2. 30 1. 19 2. 74 1. 57 1. 58 1. 26 1. 25 1. 26 1. 25 1. 10 2. 18 1. 88 1. 69 1. 29	21. 07 28. 99 24. 02 20. 39 20. 88 14. 07 13. 02 12. 34 18. 34 17. 92 23. 53 13. 02 17. 94 18. 10 21. 68 13. 92 11. 64 13. 54 20. 07 13. 76
Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina. South Dakota. Tennessee. Utah Virginia Washington West Virginia. Wisconsin. Wyoming	1.89 1.58 1.73 1.28 2.22 1.12 .95 2.24 1.34 3.85 1.53	18. 77 14. 23 18. 11 16. 26 21. 13 16. 98 2. 16 20. 62 9. 19 17. 19 12. 00 7. 20

ures 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.