

We, the members of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Education Association, view with grave concern the situation that has been brought about in Virginia as a result of the decision of the United States Supreme Court on May 17, 1954, which prevents a State from denying to any person on account of race, the right to attend any school that it maintains.

In the past the State of Virginia, with the apparent approval of the Courts, has proceeded, through increasingly large expenditures, to provide equal but separate schools. In certain sections of Virginia there is a question as to whether the white or the colored people are prepared for the integration of children in the public schools. It is further noted that integration at this time will not be accepted, and if pressure is exerted, it will bring about irreparable damage to the public school system.

In meeting the grave situation the General Assembly, by large majority vote, in the recent Special Session has given the people an opportunity to vote on the question of a constitutional convention. A favorable vote of the people on the referendum would give the constitutional convention the responsibility of amending only section 141 of the Virginia Constitution and amending it only as stated in the referendum.

The Governor of the State and members of the General Assembly have pledged their support to a continuance of the public schools. We believe that it is the sincere conviction of the Governor and the majority of the General Assembly that the action being proposed by them is the best course in the protection of the public school system, which is so important to the citizens of Virginia and is so vital to the perpetuation of the American way of life. The VEA Board of Directors commends the action of the General Assembly in providing for this referendum.

Therefore, be it solemnly resolved that we the members of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Education Association recognize that we have an important responsibility to the children, parents, citizens, and teachers of the State to supply unbiased information on the issue in order that wise decisions can be made, only after carefully considering the facts.

It is our sincere opinion that the Governor of the State and the General Assembly have acted in good faith and that they will do everything in their power to protect the public schools of the State.

This action by the Board of Directors is in no way to be interpreted as binding on the local associations.