

*integration*

December 19, 1955

The Blue Ridge Herald

Purcellville, Va.

Dear Sirs:

*If has seemed to*  
~~Discussions~~ me that I should properly make some  
statement in relation to the election that will be held on  
the 9th of January and I hope it will meet with your approval  
to publish the enclosed in your paper this week.

Very sincerely yours,

O. L. Emerick

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The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that Prince Edward County, Virginia must integrate its public schools with "deliberate speed." This becomes indirectly a notice to all Virginia School Boards to act accordingly. No time has been set anywhere in Virginia to integrate, but we do know time is running out rapidly.

The time to integrate the white and colored races in the public schools is whenever pupils and teachers who go into a school of another race will find the welcome mats at the doors and a spirit of cordiality and friendship prevailing among all concerned. This means practically that a large majority of parents of both white and colored pupils must favor integration. To integrate sooner would amount to reckless speed not deliberate (or unhurried) speed.

There is a tendency on the part of supporters of integration to resort to reckless speed and thus to do incalculable damage to education. Also, we can have no way of knowing the exact definition of "deliberate speed" that is in the minds of the members of the U. S. Supreme Court who have boldly reversed the former decision of the same Court (different members), who had said that segregation or integration was within the constitutional power of the State Legislature to settle.

Consequently we need some means in Virginia to control the speed with which integration may be accomplished and as a safeguard we need this control before schools open in September 1956.

The proposed amendment to section 111 of the Constitution is the only real and positive authority the voters can give to the General Assembly to provide that no parent shall be required to send his child to an integrated school and yet receive an education at public expense.



The proposed amendment, if adopted finally, will make it entirely discretionary, not mandatory, on the part of our elected delegates and senators to provide for tuition payments, and this, if done one year by them, could be rescinded the next year. We ought to repose some confidence in our elected representatives who cast only 6 votes against this proposed convention to amend section 141.

A vote against the proposed convention to amend section 141 of the Virginia Constitution is another way of giving a go ahead sign to those who would integrate now.

I am strongly in favor of the amendment to the constitution. I believe, however, that the best way to get the most for our dollars in Loudoun County is through continued segregation on a voluntary basis but that the people of the county should join in equalizing physical facilities for both races in certain areas.



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1.4.3 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 12/19/55  
EMERGENCY STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
AMENDMENT -- INSIGHT INTO HIS OPINION ON  
INTEGRATION