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Chester County is just outside Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District, where there will be an election next Tuesday to fill the vacancy left by the death of Rep. Robert A. (Fats) Everett, a Democrat.

Republicans here were anxious not to cut Chester County off on the eve of the election, for fear it would destroy their candidate's chances.

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.) intervened in Chester County's behalf. County officials showed signs of coming up with a new plan, and Finch, on the final Saturday, gave them an extension through last Thursday.

ORDER RESCINDED

Thursday night, after a long meeting here with Baker and Chester County representatives, Finch accepted the new plan and rescinded his cutoff order.

Two kinds of school districts are generally given until 1970 to desegregate, those with Negro majorities, and those that can't readily desegregate without putting up new buildings.

Only 405 of Chester County's 2131 pupils are Negroes.

HEW civil rights officials maintained that the County could desegregate without putting up a new building, by drawing new attendance zones and sending white children to its one all-Negro school next year.

The County said it had another use in mind for the all-Negro school, and couldn't desegregate without building an addition to one of its presently white schools.

PROMISE EXACTED

Finch, who was under heavy political pressure, came down on the County's side, after getting it to promise to send some white children to "regularly scheduled classes in music and chorus" at the Negro school next year.

The County, which had about \$200,000 in Federal funds at stake, will desegregate completely in September, 1970.

The next day The Commercial Appeal, the Memphis newspaper that serves Chester County and most of the Eighth Congressional District, carried a story about the reinstatement.

The story quoted Senator Baker. Finch's decision, he said, was "a clear indication of the direction of the Nixon Administration. It wants to open, not close, the schools."

THE FRUITS OF INDECISION

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, many Members of Congress who have followed and supported the school desegregation program carried out under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 were dismayed by some of the statements attributed to then-candidate Richard Nixon and some of his supporters during last fall's campaign. After the election, however, most of us were willing to give the new administration the benefit of the doubt, believing that the school desegregation program would continue to be administered firmly and fairly as I believe it has been in the past.

Unfortunately, the new administration has not been clear in its intentions with respect to this important program. And its indecision and seemingly contradictory, sometimes confusing statements are causing a predictable reaction. Until the administration—either through the President or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare—makes clear its commitment to this program, without any ifs, ands, or buts, the confusion which abounds today will continue and increase.

Mr. President, an article published re-

cently in the New York Times provides some indication as to how the administration's actions and statements in the area of school desegregation are being interpreted. It is time to put an end to the confusion. I hope the President or Secretary Finch without further delay will issue a statement setting forth this administration's determination to continue to enforce the law consistent with the current court decisions and the existing school desegregation policies for carrying out the title VI compliance program. I ask unanimous consent the Times article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SCHOOL DESEGREGATION OPONENTS INTENSIFY PRESSURE ON PRESIDENT

(By John Herbers)

WASHINGTON, March 11.—"Dear Mr. President: The South elected you in 1968. The South will defeat you in 1972 if you don't fulfill campaign promises."

This letter to President Nixon from a man in Lakeland, Fla., is evidence of what appears to be a widespread Southern protest against school desegregation.

White citizens, school boards and members of Congress have mounted a campaign to achieve a slowdown of integration for the 1969-70 school year, which the Johnson Administration had fixed as the target date for abolishment of the dual school system in districts receiving Federal funds.

A FLOOD OF LETTERS

President Nixon and Robert H. Finch, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, have received a flood of letters similar to the following from a woman in Elysian Fields, Tex.:

"The South feels that we had a commitment from you guaranteeing true freedom of choice in attending schools. You were elected by conservatives and middle of the roaders. I, myself, was influenced by Senator Strom Thurmond (South Carolina Democrat who campaigned for Mr. Nixon)."

The amount of mail and pressures from Congress, a Government spokesman said, has picked up since U.S. News & World Report carried an interview with Mr. Finch in its issue dated March 10. The interview was widely read in the South and interpreted by many as a new, softer approach to desegregation enforcement.

In it, Mr. Finch said that the desegregation guidelines drawn by the Johnson Administration would be changed to make them "more responsive and realistic in terms of what is happening in education" and to make them "nationally applicable."

RAW PERCENTAGES

"I'm convinced that we just can't work with raw percentages and say, 'You've got to have the same percentages of blacks and whites in every school.' You can go into parts of Chicago and Harlem and Pasadena, Calif., into Washington, D.C., and you find all-black situations.

"It's totally artificial to insist on busing schoolchildren if it may be detrimental to the level of education. The greatest problem we've got in the elementary and secondary schools in the country is not to get so hung up on these other struggles as to let the quality of education in the public school system erode and erode and erode."

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has been enforcing desegregation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans racial discrimination in any federally assisted program. Enforcement has been largely in the South, where there was a dual school system by law, but recently has

been extended to other regions on a limited basis.

In the South, about 130 districts have foregone Federal funds rather than desegregate, but in the vast majority of Southern districts the department and the Federal courts achieved about 20 per cent desegregation this year, meaning that one-fifth of the Negro students are in formerly all-white schools.

Planning is under way for the 1969-70 school year. Under the Johnson Administration guidelines, department officials had hoped for a considerable increase of integration in faculties and classrooms.

In 1967, the districts were told that they would have until 1969 to complete abolishment of their dual systems.

GEARING FOR A FIGHT

Thus, Southern whites are gearing for a fight. Various statements by Republican officials, one agency aide conceded, have created a great deal of confusion from which the Southerners are drawing hope.

During the campaign, Senator Thurmond assured Southerners that Mr. Nixon would let up on school desegregation.

Mr. Nixon said that he would favor withholding funds from school districts practicing segregation but that the aim would not be to achieve what he considered arbitrary standards of racial balance. He accused the former Education Commissioner, Harold Howe 2d, of setting arbitrary standards.

Since taking office, Mr. Finch has cut off funds of several districts found not to be in compliance with the law and given others additional time to comply. He has insisted that he will enforce the law and the Supreme Court's interpretation of it. Some of his statements drew an angry response from the South.

"What kind of sellout is this to that forgotten American, the taxpayer peasants who put Mr. Nixon in office?" a man in Ellicott City, Md., wrote to Mr. Finch.

Mr. Finch's interview in U.S. News, however, was interpreted by some conservative columnists to the South. It was obvious from a sampling of a mountain of the mail received by the Administration that many people considered the desegregation issue an open one.

Joshua B. Zatman, who heads the information section of the department's office of civil rights, said that in the three years he had been here he had never seen as much mail.

"We have a backlog of 2,000 letters we have not answered," he said.

He said that a number of school boards were appealing to their Congressmen for a slowdown, and that the department was hearing from the Congressmen.

Only a small percentage of the mail requests a speedup of desegregation, Mr. Zatman said. Not all the mail is from the South.

A Kansas City, Mo., woman who worked in Mr. Nixon's campaign wrote:

"President Nixon, you owe the Negro nothing. They did not support you. You were elected on grounds of cleaning up this nation."

COMMENDATION OF WILLIAM R. McCANDLESS

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. President, President Nixon yesterday announced the appointment of a new Federal Co-chairman to replace William R. McCandless who has been Federal Co-chairman of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development Commission for the past 2½ years. While I do not question the President's authority to appoint a replacement for Mr. McCandless, I nonetheless would like to say a few words about the Ozarks Commission, and the outstanding success of the