
NOW 'EQUAL' IS EQUAL

Constitutional history was made yesterday as Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered the opinion of the Supreme Court that segregation in public schools deprives citizens of equal protection of the laws.

Previous rulings on application of the Fourteenth Amendment to the rights of the Negro held segregation to be constitutional as long as equal educational facilities were provided.

The separate but equal doctrine was reversed as the Chief Justice read the words, "Does segregation in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may

on this campus do not qualify me to offer anything more than observations, and as the graduation season approaches one impression overshadows all others. It is that life passes as inexorably as youth and that a world living under the menaces that overhang us will find in its universities that sense of continuity and community for which we all yearn.

The freshmen who arrived here when I did in the fall of 1950 now leave as graduating seniors in September. More freshmen will arrive and for them another four-year cycle will begin. President Morey has served the University not four years but forty. Other faculty members look back on periods of service equally long.

But for them, as for the youngest undergraduate, the Illini years come to an end. Although it is in the nature of things for the individual to mourn the passing of youth, work, and life itself, it is also in the nature of things for institutions in which men and women work together to endure and grow, and if the University of Illinois imparts something to all who have been associated with it, we all contribute to it something enduring of ourselves.

be equal, deprive the children of equal educational opportunities? We think it does."

Elimination of segregation in schools is in itself a victory for the Negro citizen, but the long run effects are destined to bring even greater rewards. As the prejudiced element of the white race are forced to sit in the classroom with the Negro they will soon learn not mere tolerance, but genuine appreciation for his real worth.

There are those who object to forcing tolerance through enforcement of laws, holding that education is the only way to end discrimination. Force, it is often argued, will do more harm than good.

While it is inevitable that violent repercussions and distasteful Southern reaction will follow in the wake of the Court's ruling, there is not much question that force will in the long run augment mere ivory tower education.

Right here in Champaign-Urbana is a good example of how this has worked. Not too many years ago a Negro could not patronize a campus area restaurant. A fight paralleling the barbershop controversy ensued, and force of law was finally used. Now—only a few years later—there is no trace of the bitterness that once existed.

The Court has made a momentous stride toward wiping the hypocrisy from our equal protection clause. It looks like a good example of advancing Americanism.
