

Post
5-7-73



Washington Merry-Go-Round



by JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Each morning, Justice Department officials review the daily crisis reports compiled by the regional offices of the Community Relations Service. More than a third of the crises listed lately have involved school problems.

During the last few weeks, for example, Justice officials have kept a close watch on racial outbreaks in St. Petersburg, Fla., Clairton, Pa., and Memphis, Tenn. School suspensions and expulsions have also preoccupied Justice mediators in Louisiana. In New York City, meanwhile, boycotts and tense school board elections have come under close scrutiny.

The daily "crisis" reports, intended for official eyes only, substantiate an earlier, "confidential" survey of the nation's potential trouble spots. The survey, which predicts rising racial tensions throughout the

nation this summer, flatly disputes Attorney General Richard Kleindienst's public statement that the days of racial tension in the streets "might possibly be behind us."

Throughout the South and its border states, tension is building up. In Georgia, according to the crisis reports, "protests related to racial grievances generally occur in schools throughout the state during May and June, and can be expected to occur this year."

In Tennessee, "anti-busing forces are viewed to be gaining strength throughout Tennessee. . . Tension is expected to be extremely high in August and September."

In Virginia, meanwhile, "school officials classify more than 50 school divisions as potential crisis areas. Minority community leaders are

frustrated by the lack of progress made in the schools. Demonstrations are taking place in urban divisions now and more are anticipated in the latter part of the school year."

In Alabama, the crisis reports list numerous causes of school confrontations, including "discrimination in disciplinary actions between black and white students, use of confederate symbols, re-segregation in the desegregated schools, busing, loss of black teachers."

Racial tensions in public schools, of course, are not limited to the South. In Pennsylvania, one "sensitive issue" in the school system is biracial dating of the students. "As a result of this and other unresolved issues, several of the small communities have begun to polarize into all white and totally black groups," the report states.

In Newark, N.J., there is a "daily school crisis." In Buffalo,

"the educational system is in a near-crisis state. Separate demonstrations by blacks and whites and racial confrontations in the schools continue to mount."

Schools on the West Coast are also in trouble with a myriad of problems. In San Bernardino, "the greatest potential crisis area appears to be in education." This is due, says the report, to a successful NAACP class action suit against the local board of education. Two hundred miles north in Fresno, "Chicano parents and students are protesting alleged inequities in staffing and curriculum."

Footnote: CRS director Ben Holman told Rep. Don Edwards, D-Cal., at congressional hearings last March he would forward the CRS findings when they were completed. Three weeks ago, when the congressman learned we already had a copy, he immediately fired off a letter to Kleindienst questioning the delay. Kleindienst hasn't replied.

CONNALLY AND AGNEW: Both Vice President Spiro Agnew and ex-Treasury Secretary John Connally, the two top contenders

for the 1976 GOP presidential nomination, are reported by friends to be nervous about Watergate. Some advisers have urged Connally to remain a Democrat rather than risk getting tainted by the Watergate scandal. Others have urged him to switch immediately to the Republican party, as evidence to the Republican faithful that he is willing to accept the party for better or for worse. Connally has decided to wait and watch awhile before making any moves. Agnew, too, would like to speak

out against Watergate. But any outspoken denunciation might be interpreted as disloyalty to President Nixon. Agnew is fretting over how to avoid the Watergate tarnish without breaking his ties with the President.

GOLDBLUM'S GOLD: Stanley Goldblum, the husky weightlifter who presided over the scandal-ridden Equity Funding empire, hedged his political bets by contributing heavily to both parties. Goldblum gave \$30,000 to President Nixon's campaign, another \$40,000 to the Democrats. While some of Goldblum's gifts are listed openly, others were recorded by their recipients as coming from political committees. For example, Common Cause sleuths found that Goldblum gave \$46,423, mostly in Equity Funding stock, to the "National Committee for the Re-Election of a Democratic Congress." The committee claims it then parceled out the money to 36 Democratic congressional candidates.