

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1970

Ramsey Clark Attacks Nixon Record on Integration

By JACK ROSENTHAL
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 7—Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark charged today that the Nixon Administration acted sluggishly against traditional school segregation, failed to act at all against new segregation techniques and then misled the public on the extent of actual desegregation.

"Government has a greater duty than to tell us we're doing well when we're not doing well, whether it is in the sanctuaries of Cambodia or in the school districts of the South," he said.

Mr. Clark testified at a crowded hearing of the Senate Equal Educational Opportunity Committee, which is investigating integration and quality of education.

Citing the Administration's estimate of 97 per cent desegregation next fall in the South, Mr. Clark said that the figure applied to school districts with desegregated schools, not to the number of children in desegregated schools.

"I don't even know what the figures mean," he said. "But I am greatly disturbed that the figures suggest the job is 97 per cent done. That's the furthest thing from the truth."

Mr. Clark, who was sharply

attacked by Mr. Nixon during the 1968 campaign, did not spare the President today. He said white racists in the South had been encouraged by Mr. Nixon's statements making legal distinctions between types of desegregation.

"We'll be a segregated society if we keep making these nice distinctions," he said. "What is this, some kind of game we're playing?"

Mr. Clark's testimony set the stage for the first rebuttal from the Administration before the committee, headed by Senator Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota.

That rebuttal will come next Monday with the appearance of Jerris Leonard, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. Attorney General John N. Mitchell had been invited, but replied he was "too busy," Senator Mondale said today.

Re-Invite Mitchell

At the urging of Senator Edward W. Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, Senator Mondale said he would re-invite Mr. Mitchell, as well as invite Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Elliot L. Richardson.

Senator Brooke pressed the suggestion after hearing Mr. Clark's soft-spoken but often sharply worded testimony.

Throughout his testimony,

Mr. Clark stressed his belief that the nation must pursue a policy of integration.

"There is probably only one place on earth that it can be shown that black and white and brown and yellow can live together with dignity and respect and love. It is here in America," he said.

"We have no greater challenge. We must quit this petty and endless tinkering with school desegregation and do it."

Mr. Clark chided both "Northern liberals" and black separatists for giving up on integration as a goal.

"Did they give up because it is hard? Of course it's hard. Anything worthwhile is hard," he said.

He criticized the Administration more strongly. In the last year of the Johnson Administration, he said, "we were well on the road" to substantial desegregation achievements.

The Nixon Administration, however, applying a Southern strategy, "began to strategize with the constitutional rights of Southern black children," he said.

"There has not been the progress there would have been and should have been had there been a fair, nonpolitical administration of the law," he said.

He denounced the weakening

of administrative guidelines for desegregation that "became controversial for one reason—they worked." And he described as notorious an Administration request for delay in Mississippi desegregation last fall.

Mr. Clark also assailed the Department of Justice's failure to bring suits against such new forms of discrimination as in-school segregation, and transfer of resources from public schools to new private "segregation academies."

'Government of Men'

"This is government of men, not law," he told the committee, "and an abandonment of the major purpose and function of law—moral leadership."

He called for a series of remedial actions, including legal prohibition of private school segregation, increased Federal funding for integrated education, increased Federal enforcement capacity, and an affirmative national policy of integration.

In a House Education subcommittee meeting also held today, Carl Meigel, director of legislation for the American Federation of Teachers, said expanded general aid to education was preferable to the Administration's proposed \$1.5-billion emergency fund for desegregating schools.