

1951(?)

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE RESOLUTION

The Garrett Park Parent Teacher Association offers the enclosed resolution as a means of strengthening the Montgomery County PTA Council, the Maryland State Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The barring of Negro Parent Teacher Associations leads to a weakening of the Organization at a time when it needs to be as strong as possible in fighting for better schools for our children.

When Mr. Boss and Mr. Abbe came to Garrett Park to discuss the question of organizing a Garrett Park elementary Parent Teacher Association in May, 1951, they were both questioned about the Constitution and By-Laws of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers. Mr. Abbe stated that according to the Constitution and By-Laws, the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers was open to all groups of parents and teachers in the state.

When the Garrett Park Parent Teacher Association elected its delegates to the State Parent Teacher Association Convention in November 1951, the delegates were instructed to find out whether there were Negro delegates at the meeting representing Negro schools. No Negro delegates were present.

After the State Convention, the Garrett Park Parent Teacher Association corresponded with Mrs. John E. Hayes, National President, on this problem and was informed that no Negro Parent Teacher Associations were chartered by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in those states which maintain segregated schools. This agreement was worked out with the officers of the Negro Congress of Parents and Teachers, a separate group not affiliated with the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, on May 7, 1926.

Mrs. Hayes, in her letter to Mr. Guernsey of the Garrett Park PTA, referred the matter to Miss Bottomley of the National PTA office. Mr. Guernsey wrote to Miss Bottomley on January 2 asking a number of specific questions about the original agreement that was worked out in 1926. No answer has been received to this letter.

By checking on the situation in Arlington, Virginia, the Garrett Park PTA learned that the Arlington County PTA has set up an associate membership for local PTA's in Arlington which are barred from membership in the Virginia State PTA. (In Virginia, the PTA receives support from state funds which makes the problem somewhat different than the problem in Maryland.)

Recently, the two teacher organizations in Maryland voted to combine into one organization. In Montgomery County and in Maryland, the vote for amalgamation was overwhelming. There are few, if any, Parent Teacher Associations in Baltimore City affiliated with the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers. One reason for this, although not the only one, is the fact that only white PTA groups are chartered.

Resolution of the Garrett Park PTA
submitted to the Montgomery County PTA Council

WHEREAS after a careful study of all the evidence available to it, the Garrett Park PTA is convinced that no Negro school in Montgomery County or apparently in Maryland is chartered by the Maryland State Congress of the PTA; and

WHEREAS we feel that denying Negro parents and citizens an opportunity to participate in the work of the Maryland Congress of the PTA is unbecoming in a democratic society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1) that the Garrett Park PTA request the Montgomery County Council of PTA's to take the leadership in breaking down this undemocratic practice by opening its membership to all parent groups from the various ^{public} schools regardless of race, creed, or color;

2) that the Montgomery County representative on the state PTA board present and support for passage the same type of resolution as outlined in section (1) above;

3) that the Montgomery County Council of PTA and all of its affiliated PTA's inform the National PTA office of this resolution and urge that the National PTA officers at the National PTA Convention in Indianapolis, May 1, 1952, support action which will open membership in the PTA in every state in the United States to all parents and citizens regardless of race, creed or color.