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Roy Innis

Integration hurts black unity

The national director of the Congress on Racial Equality Thursday denounced school integration as only promising a "perpetual minority" status for American blacks.

Roy Innis, in a speech at the Nebraska Union, said, "In an integrated system nothing is changed except you have dispersed the blacks so they can not organize themselves."

He went on to explain that school integration has many drawbacks because, in conflict of interests with whites, the blacks would always be outvoted by a white majority. Innis said he favors blacks organizing themselves in units where they can be a majority.

The black leader said that if integration became a fact of life in the United States "blacks in every way of life would be wards of the whites. That is no way to live in this world."

Innis said he favored community control of schools as an alternative to integration.

Innis' plan would draw school district lines around natural residential communities. Thus both black and white communities would have their own separate school districts. Each school district would have its own board of education and superintendent.

However, Innis said he favors freedom of choice for students who want to go to a school outside their own district. Thus a black child could transfer to a white school district or a white to a black school district if they so desired.

The black leader said that if his plan was presented by both black and white groups the Supreme Court would accept it. He said the Supreme Court is forcing school districts to integrate to eliminate the condition in many districts where there is one board of education but different systems for blacks and whites.

Innis forecasted a "hell of a battle in the North" concerning his school program. However, he said many southern governors have indicated that they are in agreement with his plan.

The CORE leader lambasted Eastern liberals for ignoring realities by favoring school integration. Innis' two main targets of attack were New York City Mayor John Lindsey and the New York Times.

However, Innis did not reserve his criticism to the white community only. He also attacked the "bankrupt black academic community" and certain black civil rights groups for favoring school integration.

In a question and answer session after his speech, Innis stated that he also favored blacks forming their own economic community. He said this economic independence could be achieved since blacks already contribute a substantial portion to the nation's economy.

The CORE leader opposed conscription because blacks "are being impressed to fight in imperialistic racial wars." But he brought cheers from the audience when he said that military-trained blacks might be needed in the future to secure equality for their race.

However, Innis said of Vice President Spiro Agnew: "He's looking better than Dick Nixon. He just might dump Nixon in '72."

Innis was born in the Virgin Islands and came to live in Harlem at the age of 12. He majored in Chemistry at the City College of New York.

His first contact with CORE was in 1962 and he quickly became one of its leading advocates for black male leadership and for more community involvement. Innis also headed an active educational committee of Harlem CORE and after the failure of the school boycotts for integration of New York City schools, began a movement toward quality education and community control of schools.

In 1965, Innis was elected chairman of Harlem CORE and served in this capacity until January 1968. During this time, the Harlem chapter led the way in changes of ideological direction of CORE toward black power and black self-determination.



No 'live-in' at UNO

by BILL SMITHERMAN
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Although the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) student senate recently appropriated \$5,500 of its budget to promote the building of dormitories on that campus, the University administration has remained non-committal on the subject.

UNO student body president Steve Wild said, "We are losing many good students because they feel they would have no place to live." "Students here are overwhelmingly in favor of dormitory construction."

UNO President Kirk E. Naylor said, "There are no plans at all by the Board of Regents or the Administration to build dorms here. There have been no dorms at UNO for over 60 years," he added.

The only housing service now maintained at UNO is a list of available apartments. The student senate tried to operate this service for a while, but was unsuccessful, Naylor said.

Wild said the student senate did not expect help from the UNO administration. The senate is utilizing the appropriated money to change zoning around the campus to provide space for possible dorms.

"If the rezoning is accomplished, the next phase of the program will be to entice private contractors to build

dorms," Wild continued. "The University itself would have no connection with dorm construction of this type."

Naylor said the University has no objection to private contractors building housing geared for University students.

"There are many pluses and minuses in the question of dormitory building," University of Nebraska Chancellor Durward B. Varner said. "But, I doubt there is any way to build a dormitory today and make it economically feasible."

Varner said in his discussions with the Regents he had sensed a negative attitude toward dormitory building. This seems to be a national trend, he added.

"I'm not sure it would be desirable to build dorms even if it were feasible," Varner said. "The University's business is

education and it seems that the housing business is somewhat of a foreign field."

Citing the increasing trend of students desiring to live away from campus, he said he was not sure if there is any real gain in dormitory construction today.

"The Lincoln and Omaha campuses should have a good deal of contact," he added. "Instruction should be equally good at both campuses."

"But, it shouldn't be the University's job to build dorms to attract people for the Omaha campus," Varner said. "It should be increasingly the position of the University to get out of student housing."

He added that the University should develop two distinctive quality programs at the Lincoln and Omaha campuses. The student should have free choice between the two, he said.

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