

January 14, 1974

about the schools in his neighborhood that brings them up to where they ought to be. Bussing is a transition. It's loosing another entire generation of black children to illiteracy. To injustice. You can't imagine how embarrassing it is for a grown man to go to a store and not know how to read the labels on the packages. There are police problems caused by this because there was a young man who was getting a traffic ticket and he started an argument with the police man, so a black officer went up to him and he said man I know you what are you fighting for, it's just a traffic ticket. He said he wants me to sign the ticket. He said why don't you sign it. He said man I can't write. He would rather go to jail for insulting an officer than let it be known that he can't write. They can tell you this that I'm going to tell you happens in the high schools. If they come to a point where they read orally, and a lot of these black children are not taught to read, as it comes closer to his time to read, he'll begin to get restless and make noise so he will be put out of the classroom and not be embarrassed in front of other high school students because he does not know how to read. To not know how to read in a society where such a premium is placed on it is the most damnable thing that they can do to somebody. Especially when you are running into education system that is supposed to be doing its job. Go to an employment agency talk to Chizek, talk to a lot of these people who will tell you about grown black people who don't know how to fill an application for a job. Who cannot write, who cannot read the instructions. It's not because we are inferior I'm from the same stock they are. If I had come from the same schools, I would have not know how to read better than do. It's not genes and chromosomes in my black body. It's an education system which is designed to keep me ignorant. They want to put on my mind that what they used to put on my body.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Senator Chambers, but I live in practically all white community and I have experienced from the white high school that you say about the black. So I..we're again getting at things from the wrong end. We've got a lot of people. I get applications and the employment just this week at home told me. These people absolutely cannot read or write.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well Senator Carstens what you have to do is get a higher caliber of teachers through out your school system. But you have a single school -system and part of it they have a high quality of teachers, then this is not by accident. If everybody in the school system would be denied the opportunity, we could say we've got to upgrade all of education, which by the way I think is necessary. But when you have a double system where one is favored over the other under a single school board, this does not happen by accident but by design. And when a school board designs a school system which is discriminatory, it has an obligation placed on it to correct that situation that it created. Bussing because of the placement of the schools, school building by the school board by..has been made necessary by the school board itself. They created this problem. They will not offer any solution. Riding the bus, as I say is not the devastating thing which is being implied here this morning. The children in your district ride a bus right now. If they ride to go to a school, why can't mine ride to go to a school.