

1E) Racial Tension Builds on Long Island

L.I. Cross-Burning Attacks N.A.A.C.P., *New York Times, September 23, 1963*

Amityville, L.I., September 22 -- A cross was burned here early today in front of the office of Dr. Eugene T. Reed, president of the state conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Suffolk County police said the charred remains were discovered about 1 A.M. in front of Dr. Reed's office. A note tacked to the front door said: "We ain't going to your nigger school - down with the N.A.A.C.P." Dr. Reed, a dentist who lives in Islip, said he had ignored thousands of crank letters and calls in his three years as president of the state conference. "I cannot ignore this, however," he said. He said he would seek police protection. Dr. Reed said the note probably stemmed from recent protests by the N.A.A.C.P. of de facto segregation of the North Amityville schools.

A Negro Questions White Americans: Letter to the Editor, *Newsday, January 4, 1964*

Hewlett -- Why is it that most white Americans refuse to . . . understand what it means to be a Negro in this country? Though you treat us with the injustice of a Hitler for a Jew, we give you the respect of a fellow citizen. Though you rob us of our resources, culture and history, we treat you like a human being and brother. You the white man are very quick to point out the advancements of other ethnic groups who have experienced discrimination in one form or another. Somehow you always leave out the basic difference between the two groups - color. Some ethnic groups are discriminated against because of religion, the spelling of one's name and so on, most of which can be changed if desired. The Negro enjoys no such privileges. One's color can never be changed.

Racism, Money Hot Hempstead Issues, *Newsday, March 12, 1965*

Hempstead -- Voters here will elect a mayor, two trustees, and a police justice Tuesday after a three-way campaign in which sporadic charges of racism and financial bungling have been hurled at the incumbents. Murray Chanin of the Village Improvement Party, Herbert Mirschel of the Fusion Party and Walter B. Ryan of the Taxpayers Protective Party are running for mayor. The campaign has been marked by verbal blasts from Chanin and Mirschel at Ryan and the Taxpayers Party. . . . Mirschel has accused the incumbents of excluding Negroes and Jews from the village board because of prejudice and of downsizing Negro residential areas. . . . Ryan has offered to donate \$1,000 to charity if anyone can prove he had acted with prejudice as a village official.

Negroes New Setauket House Marked Twice by Klan's 'KKK', *Newsday, May 3, 1965*

Setauket -- A home purchased by a Negro couple in a new housing development was defaced over the weekend by "KKK" lettering. Residents of Bobcat Lane in the Heatherwood housing development said that the symbol of the Ku Klux Klan had been painted in red, three-foot-high letters on the side of the \$15,000 home at No. 21 and in eight-inch letters on a front shutter of the unoccupied house.

Probe Asked on Bircher School Talk, *Newsday, April, 1, 1966*

East Meadow -- The chairman of two groups opposing the East Meadow School Board said last night they are asking the State Education Department to investigate why a member of the John Birch Society is being allowed to speak today at W. Tresper Clark High School. . . . Joseph Malone, a social studies teacher at the school and sponsor of the student club, said Werner was invited to speak because students felt they would like to hear a conservative view on civil rights. He added that a civil rights worker . . . appeared before the club last fall and that a speaker from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was scheduled later this year.

Cause of Trouble Eludes L.I. Area, *New York Times, May 3, 1966*

Central Islip, L.I., May 2 -- On Saturday, at 1 A.M., . . . Nathaniel Ford, a 30-year old Negro, was arrested for speeding at Beech and McKinney Streets by two Suffolk County policemen. Nearby, a party was in progress. Several of those at the party said they had heard the policemen call Mr. Ford a "black so-and-so," and they rushed out. One 17-year-old boy said the police were pushing Mr. Ford around. Both charges were denied by the police. The crowd that gathered grabbed revolvers from the policemen and started shooting. Patrolman Edward Michael, 24, was hit three times in the leg with slugs from his own .38-caliber revolver. Patrolman George Forrester, 23, of Bellport, was beaten.

A Half-Million Whites Left City From 1960-1964, Figures Show, *New York Times, May 5, 1966*

An exodus of about half a million white persons from New York City between 1960 and 1964 was disclosed in population estimates released yesterday by the City Health Department. The exodus was only partly offset by an increase of less than 400,000 in non-whites and Puerto Ricans during the period. What actually is happening, population experts say, is that the middle-class flight to the suburbs is continuing and non-whites and Puerto Ricans are taking part in it. Similar movements are taking place in every metropolis and large city of the country.

Negroes Slam 2 LI Parties, *Newsday*, February 6, 1967

Mineola -- The Nassau Democratic Party called on top Negro civil rights and church leaders last night to help in a bipartisan voter registration drive only to hear the Negroes issue a bipartisan threat to boycott both major parties unless Negroes are placed on the ballots. Mel Jackson, chairman of the Long Island Congress of Racial Equity, said he was "sick and tired of having Democrats and Republicans alike ask us to register black people and ask us to get out the vote, when neither party is doing anything to help us." Using the meeting in county Democratic headquarters as a forum to express their grievances against both Democrats and Republicans, Negro leaders said they would work to register Negroes all right, but as independents.

Oceanside Residents Jeer Civil-Rights Unit, *Newsday*, July 16, 1967

Oceanside -- The Oceanside Committee for Human Rights drew a clapping, whistling, jeering audience of 275 last night at its first public meeting. Angry exchanges between speakers and the audience punctuated the meeting. Ray Klein, moderator for the meeting, announced that a tentative steering committee had suggested three projects for prospective members - to seek active recruitment of Negro school teachers and hospital and professional workers, to seek the cooperation of the business district in hiring more Negroes and to engage in education programs for the "inevitability of local and nationwide integration."

Some residents of Oceanside, a community of 30,000 white persons and five Negro families, questioned the "inevitability." The atmosphere was tense from the start of the sessions. Some audience members said they wanted their children to get to know Negroes, to have Negro teachers and attend classes with Negro children. Others said qualified Negro teachers were now becoming accepted when they applied. Some thought Negroes should be sought out for the school system. One man said: "If there are no colored children in Oceanside, we don't have to have any (Negro teachers). Colored teachers should go up to Harlem and teach those children." The statement was met with yells of "yeah" and enthusiastic applause.

Questions:

- 1- What major demographic change is affecting race relations on Long Island?
- 2- What tactics were used to intimidate African Americans who challenged racial segregation?
- 3- What is the author of "A Negro Questions White Americans" trying to explain?
- 4- Why are some African Americans suspicious that whites will not support racial justice?
- 5- If you attended the meeting in Oceanside, how would you have responded to the man who said: "Colored teachers should go up to Harlem and teach those children"? Why?