

### 3C) L.I. Districts Grapple with Racial Integration Plans

#### **L.I. Board to Shift Pupils from School, *New York Times, July 3, 1963***

Freeport, L.I., July 2--The Freeport Board of Education voted unanimously tonight to transfer all pupils from the Cleveland Avenue elementary school, whose enrollment is 90 percent Negro, to five other schools. Clifton B. Smith, the president of the board, said the action "was in the spirit" of a directive issued last month by Dr. James E. Allen, Jr., the State Commissioner of Education, calling for greater speed in the elimination of racial imbalance in public schools.

#### **Glen Cove Offers a Plan to End Racial Imbalance, *New York Times, August 7, 1963***

Glen Cove, L.I., Aug. 6--The Board of Education recommended last night that an elementary school in a Negro neighborhood be eliminated and that a \$750,000 school be built in another part of the school district. It said that this plan would provide the only "permanent" solution to an end of racial imbalance in the district.

#### **Nyquist Would Dissolve 2 Districts, *Newsday, October 9, 1969***

Albany -- Acting State Education Commissioner Ewald Nyquist recommended yesterday the dissolution of the predominantly black Roosevelt and Wyandanch school districts and their merger with surrounding white districts on Long Island. Nyquist, while admitting that he has no power to order such a dissolution, noted that both districts have a large number of disadvantaged students and poor financial resources.

It was the first time a state official had raised the possibility of dissolving the Roosevelt district, which is about 80 per cent black. But last year, former State Education Commissioner James E. Allen, Jr. refused to dissolve the Wyandanch district after proponents of the move argued that the district, where more than 90 per cent of the 2,500 students are non-white, would never have the tax base to support quality education.

Officials from the districts around Roosevelt were cool to the merger idea.

#### **L.I. School District Is Ordered to Admit 27 at Mitchel Field**

*New York Times, September 4, 1970*

Mineola, L.I., Sept. 3--The children of welfare families living in barracks buildings at the former Mitchel Air Force Base were ordered admitted to the local public schools today by a State Supreme Court justice. The Uniondale School District refused last week to admit the 27 children for the term starting this month on the ground that they were not residents of the district.

During the summer the 15 families moved into Mitchel from motels, where they had been housed by the Nassau Department of Social Services. They are living in barracks buildings at the abandoned Air Force field, which is now owned by the county. Most of the families are black, while the population of the school district is predominantly white.

The Republican majority on the County Board of Supervisors termed the families "squatters" and refused to allow the county to lease the buildings to them through intermediaries. The Democratic administration of County Executive Eugene H. Nickerson then issued occupancy permits to the families, renewable every 30 days.

#### **Questions:**

- 1- How did Freeport and Glen Cove respond to racial imbalance in their districts?
- 2- Why did acting State Education Commissioner Nyquist want to dissolve the Roosevelt and Wyandanch school districts?
- 3- Based on the history of racial integration on Long Island, what response would you expect to this proposal?
- 4- In your opinion, why was there controversy over admitting children from families living at Mitchel Field into Uniondale schools?