

## 5D) Teenagers Search for Answers

### **Students Meet to Trade Views in Plainview, *Newsday, February 4, 1969***

Plainview-- Students from the predominantly black Wyandanch Junior High School, who met last night with students from the John F. Kennedy High School here to discuss candidly the racial situation in America, found that they agreed on so many issues that by the time the meetings had ended, little had been accomplished. During the discussion period, the 10 students from each of the two schools went over several issues that were raised in "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," the black leader who was slain in 1965. They discussed integration, and all agreed that they were in favor of it. They also agreed that most people today are not yet ready for integration. They discussed black people, and all conceded that there are many misconceptions about the race. But they did not discuss the misconceptions. The students are part of two exchange groups from the 95 percent black Wyandanch school and from the Plainview school, which has only one black student. The groups are meeting twice monthly to discuss books related to the racial situation and to talk about what they as individuals can do to foster better understanding and relations between black and white communities.

### **Let's Talk About Us, Blacks, Whites Say, *Newsday, February 18, 1969***

Wyandanch-- A group of black and white high school students discussed a book on Malcolm X last night in the second session of a series of meetings designed to foster better race relations. Then they agreed that wasn't what they really wanted to talk about at all. "We should talk about us; we should talk about records, about school, about sex," Elizabeth Kaplan, a white student from Plainview's John F. Kennedy High School, said. Dorys Taylor, a black student from Wyandanch High School, agreed, "I want to talk not about what Malcolm X thought; I want to talk about what I think," she said.

### **Freeport Youth Council Plan Program to Alleviate Community Racial Tension**

*The Leader, Freeport, Baldwin, February 6, 1969*

The Youth Council meeting on January 28 revolved around the issue of racism in the community. Council members, all of whom attend Freeport High School discussed racial tension and how to alleviate it among students and adult members of the community. Black and white members of the Council agreed that militants of both races were to be blamed for the disturbances and at the suggestion of a member, the group debated the merits of inviting both black and white militants from the High School to attend the next Council meeting. White students suggested the invitation of white fraternity members and black members suggested the invitation of more militant blacks.

### **About Racial Incidents, *The Leader, Freeport, Baldwin, March 20, 1969***

About eight weeks ago local newspapers reported that hundreds of Freeporters had attended a school board meeting to voice their concern over reports of inter-racial incidents in the high school. Many expressed the view that they sensed a rising tide of racial tension and polarization in the community, which had come into the open in the overt actions of some of the youth of the village. To stem that tide of racial tension several hundred people met at the Atkinson School to discuss the problem. They disagreed vigorously on many aspects of the problem, but agreed to go on meeting in an effort to clear the air and to get some definite action going. Further meetings were held at the Columbus Avenue School, which were followed by meetings of a steering committee, composed of members of the group.

Out of those meetings has come a new and unique Experiment in Community Understanding." Through the cooperation of the Village Human Rights Commission and the Board of Education a series of programs will be conducted by Prof. LeRoy Ramsey, of Hofstra University, the Education Chairman of the Nassau County Human Relations Commission.

**White Student Endorsed**, *Newsday*, April 1, 1969

Freeport-- Almost 100 persons at Freeport High School, including about 17 faculty members, endorsed yesterday the goals of a white student attempting to enlist whites in securing the goals of black students. The new program, called All-White Action for Racial Equality, was begun by Eugene Goldman, an 18-year-old white senior, who said that after several months of participating on a biracial student committee he believed that the black students did not really want to work together with the whites and had finally walked out, convinced that they were getting nowhere. He said, "When the whites ask the black students what we can do, they tell us to leave them alone and just do our own thing. So we will. Maybe this way we can really show them that we do care" The statement signed yesterday by students and faculty supported the demands of the black students, issued several months ago. The demands included requests for additional black personnel in the school, more black literature, a black history course for a four-year period, and the instruction of African languages.

**Questions:**

- 1- How did Plainedge, Wyandanch and Freeport schools try to ease racial tension?
- 2- If you were a student in Freeport, would you have supported the "All-White Action for Racial Equality"? Explain your views.
- 3- In your opinion, why did efforts to address racial tension on Long Island focus on schools?