

"When men and women who desire to do the fair and equitable thing toward the colored school population are eager to know what the wishes of colored people are. Their best source of information is the Negroes themselves. White men and women, no matter how well intentioned, cannot evaluate the needs of Negro schools nearly so well as Negroes can evaluate them."

Scores of opinions were received, but limited space will not permit more of them to be printed. However, we present here a copy of the letter sent to Superintendent Weglein, which up until the time we went to press it remained unanswered.

Dr. David E. Weglein
Supt. of Public Instruction
3 E. 25th Street
Baltimore, Maryland

My Dear Mr. Weglein:

The Association for the Handicapped has become interested in the movement on the part of the colored citizens to have one of their number appointed a member of the School Board. We have sought the opinions of educators in and outside of Baltimore, white and colored. It is astonishing how freely they have expressed themselves on this question. The opinions are almost unanimous in their assertions that colored people should not be kept off the Board merely because of color.

We have sought the experience of Superintendents in cities where colored citizens are serving on Boards of Education successfully and with distinction. Many of them feel that to exclude Negro membership on such Boards merely because of their color, is indicative of prejudice and discrimination. In Baltimore no other reasons can be justly assigned for the exclusion of Negroes.

We have confidence in your fairness and lack of prejudice. We believe that you would not practice discrimination, rumors to the contrary notwithstanding. The rumor referred to is one to the effect that you did not believe Negroes should be permitted to serve on the School Board in Baltimore. We are desirous of securing from you, at the earliest possible date, a frank, clear-cut, statement as to your stand on this important question. The colored citizens of Baltimore are ready to make an issue of this matter and they would like to know the attitude of their Superintendent. May I have the pleasure of hearing from you be-

fore you leave the city on your vacation?

Respectfully yours,
ROBERT W. COLEMAN,
Manager, Association for
the Handicapped, Inc.

NEGRO WEEK FOR THE HANDICAPPED

March 16, 1937

Governor Harry W. Nice

Annapolis, Maryland

Sir:

I am sending this letter in the interest of Mr. Robert W. Coleman, who has been interested in the Association for the Handicapped, Inc., for more than twenty-five years.

Last year, you issued a proclamation for Negro Handicapped Week. We are wondering if you would be as generous with us this year as last and issue a proclamation designating May 16th to May 22nd as Negro Handicapped Week.

For your information, I am sending you a copy of the proclamation issued last year.

If this meets your approval, you can send it directly to Mr. Coleman at 1145 Myrtle Avenue.

Thanking you for your many favors,

Respectfully yours,
WILLARD W. ALLEN.

WWA/LBD
Enclosure: 1

Executive Department
Annapolis, Maryland

March 17th, 1937.

Mr. Willard W. Allen,
1841 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Allen:

I shall be delighted to issue the Proclamation for Negro Handicapped Week, May 16th to May 22nd, as per your request of March 16th, and shall cause the same to be sent directly to Mr. Robert W. Coleman, 1145 Myrtle Avenue, Baltimore.

I am sending your letter, together with copy of this answer, on to Mr. Hooper, and I will appreciate your having Mr. Coleman get in touch with Mr. Hooper prior to May 16th, in order that there may be no slip in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Harry W. Nice, Governor.

Executive Department
Annapolis, Maryland