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# CONSOLIDATED PARENT GROUP INC

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CONSOLIDATED PARENT GROUP INC. RECORDS  
Collection 19-1 to 19-3

Prepared and Revised by  
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June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

## Scope Note

The records of the Consolidated Parent Group, Inc. consist of papers relating to school desegregation activities of this Washington, D.C. based civic organization. These activities preceded the passage of the 1954 Civil Rights Act which outlawed segregation in the public schools. The records include organizational materials, reports, minutes, records of community activities and publicity materials, school data, court documents, manuscripts, publications, material relating to members and to the Women's Action Committee, photographs, a scrapbook and newspaper clippings.

Correspondence is composed of outgoing letters and memoranda from two of the organization's executive officers, Gardner L. Bishop, President, and Burma M. Whitted, Vice- President, and incoming letters from supportive organizations.

The collection is contained in three boxes, plus one individually, wrapped scrapbook totaling 2 linear feet of storage space. Donations for materials in this collection were contributed by Gardner L. Bishop, James L. Haley, Burma Whitted, and Dorothy Porter in 1972.

## Background

In the fall of 1947, a group of concerned citizens and parents of Washington, D.C. organized an investigative committee to examine inadequacies of the educational facilities at the Brown Junior High School. With the passage of time the Brown Junior High School Parent Group grew to encompass more diversified supporters, including civil rights advocates as well as parents from other city high schools.

By February 1948, the original alliance of parents had re-organized under the leadership of its original chairman, Gardner L. Bishop, who was also the Brown Junior High P.T.A. President. The organization renamed itself the Consolidated Parent Group, Inc.

Among some of the controversial issues at question were the perfunctory validity of the District of Columbia's Board of Education, which had been found to act selectively in favor of white schools. Throughout their struggle, the parent group demanded the unconditional resignation of the Board's Chairman, Hobart M. Corning. From the issue of over-crowding in Negro Schools-compared to unused space in white ones, grew the idea of desegregation of schools, with this latter point later becoming the pivot on which the organization operated.

Between the years 1947 and 1949 the Consolidated Parent Group, Inc., brought before the courts four cases with complaints of discrimination in the Washington, D.C. school system. None of these cases received a ruling and all of them were subsequently dropped from the courts. With the death of their lawyer, Charles H. Houston in 1949, the Consolidated Parent Group became less vocal and less public.

However, that year also marked the beginning of a stronger alliance with the NAACP and three Negro lawyers who would eventually plead their case successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1954, the Consolidated Parent Group, Inc- witnessed a major victory as the aforementioned trio of attorneys, Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit and George E.C. Hayes won a ruling to abolish segregation in the District of Columbia Schools and Schools in 48 states.

## Series Description

- Series A**  
Box 19-1  
**Documents**  
Undated constitution of the Consolidated Parent Group, Inc.
- Series B**  
Box 19-1  
**Fiscal Reports**  
Annual and monthly reports for the Years 1952-1953.
- Series C**  
Box 19-1  
**Financial Data**  
Includes canceled checks, receipts, names and amounts given from contributors, plus expenditures for 1949-1953.
- Series D**  
Box 19-1  
**Minutes**  
Minutes of meeting held in June of 1952.
- Series E**  
Box 19-1  
**Stationary**  
Copies of official letterhead, blank petition and pledge forms.
- Series F**  
Box 19-1  
**Correspondence**  
Outgoing letters and memoranda from Gardner L. Bishop, President, and Burma M. Whitted, Vice-President, plus incoming correspondence from supportive organizations and individuals. There is also general correspondence to and from the Group, i.e., memoranda, notices, announcements, and other correspondents.
- Series G**  
Box 19-1  
**Community Activities**  
Materials centering round group involvement within the community including notes, a transcript of a radio broadcast, statements, reports, news releases, newsletters, programs, invitations and tickets.
- Series H**  
Box 19-2  
**Publicity**  
Advertising materials and flyers.
- Series I**  
Box 19-2  
**Women's Action Committee**  
Statement of purpose, notices of meetings and blank questionnaires.

Series Description continued

- Series J**  
Box 19-2  
**Materials Concerning Members**  
Certificates of achievement, tributes and dedication speeches of and about active members such as Gardner Bishop, organizer and first president and Charles Hamilton Houston, outspoken lawyer of the Group. Also newspaper articles written by members concerning inequality in education. There are holographic notes which are enclosed in an envelope addressed to Mrs. Dorothy Porter, plus several membership and guest lists.
- Series K**  
Box 19-2  
**Photographs**  
Includes holograph of Gardner L. Bishop and others participating in a panel discussion televised on WTTG, Channel 5; and Several photo duplicated copies of photographs of the Consolidated Parent Group members.
- Series L**  
Box 19-2  
**School Data**  
Statistical information showing the capacities of several junior and senior high schools in the District of Columbia in 1950; a summary of class size of Banneker Junior High School; a report by the Superintendent of Schools and recommendations for school integration.
- Series M**  
Box 19-2  
**Court Documents**  
Complaint cases filed in the District Court of the United States in 1948, 1950, and 1954 regarding segregation and inequities in the public school system because of race.
- Series N**  
Box 19-2  
**Manuscripts**  
A summary of the Citizenship Education Workshop of the National Council of Negro Women written by Burma Whitted; and a study of the Dual School System in the District of Columbia by Mary Anliot.
- Series O**  
Box 19-2  
**Publications**  
Articles from the *Scottish Rite Bulletin*, American Friends Service Committee, National Civil Liberties Clearinghouse, and *Journal of Negro Education* concerning school segregation. Included also is an edition of *The Wilson Herald*, a serial published by D.H. Wilson, focusing on the activities of the Dwight Wilson Family.
- Series P**  
Box 19-3  
**Song**  
A song composed by Nellie V. Greene entitled "Our Cause is Marching On."

Series Description continued

- Series Q**  
Box 19-3  
**Clippings**  
Newspaper clippings from the *Evening Star*, *New York Times*, *Pittsburgh Courier*, *Times Herald*, *Washington Afro-American*, *Washington Daily News* and *Washington Post* concerning the Consolidated Parent Group and its efforts to eliminate segregation in public schools and public recreational facilities. Numerous articles about the Supreme Court Decision enacted on May 17, 1954, banning segregation in the public schools, are included.
- Series R**  
Box 19-3  
**Poster**  
A Poster in support of the Brown Junior High School Parent Group's fight for educational equality.
- Series S**  
Box 19-4  
**Scrapbook**  
Contains articles about the parent group's activities and members during the years 1947-1950.



## Container List

- Series A Documents**  
Box Folder  
19-1 1 Constitution, n.d.
- Series B Fiscal Reports**  
2 Monthly reports, April 1952, Nov. 19, 1953  
3 Annual reports, n.d.
- Series C Financial Data**  
4 Canceled checks, 1949-1954  
5 Expenditures, 1949-1953  
6 Lists of contributors and amounts 1949-1951  
7 Receipts, ca. 1951-1953
- Series D Minutes**  
8 Minutes - June 1952
- Series E Stationary**  
9 Stationary - letterhead  
10 Blank petition forms  
11 Pledge slips (blank forms)
- Series F Correspondence**  
12 Bishop, Gardner L. (1948-1953)  
13 Brown Junior High School Parent Group, (1948)  
14 Corning, Hobert M. - 1949-1951  
15 Whitted, Burma - 1953-1954  
16 Whitted, Burma - 1953-1954 – personal correspondence  
17 General correspondence - 1947-1954 - memoranda, notices, announcements, etc.  
18 Correspondence - other correspondents -1949, 1953
- Series G Community Activities**  
19 Notes and meetings, 1950-1954  
20 Statements  
21 Fragments of statements  
22 News releases  
23 Transcript of Radio Broadcast station WOOK, Washington, D.C.  
April 8, 1956  
24 Resolution forms

## Container List

- Series G      Community Activities**  
Box      Folder  
19-1      25    Reports of activities  
            26    Newsletters  
            27    Programs  
            28    Invitations  
            29    Tickets
- Series H      Publicity**  
19-2      30    Advertising materials  
            31    Flyers
- Series I      Women's Action Committee**  
            32    Statement of purpose  
            33    Notices of meetings  
            34    Questionnaires (blank)
- Series J      Materials Concerning Members**
- Bishop, Gardner L.
- 35    Citation issued by the National Capital Area Community Chest,  
                UDF-USO Campaign
- 36    Certificate issued to Gardner L. Bishop by NAACP - Aug. 8. 1956
- Butcher, Margaret (Maggie)
- 37    Dedication speech honoring Dr. Butcher, n.d.
- Hayes , George E.
- 38    Tribute to George E.C. Hayes(draft)
- Henderson, Edwin B.
- 39    Newspaper clippings - authored by Henderson, Edwin B. n.d.
- Houston, Charles Hamilton
- 40    In Memoriam - Charles Hamilton Houston, 1950
- Hunter. Alice C.
- 41    Hunter, Alice C.-Motions and Dissent, June 1949
- 42    Porter, Dorothy Notes to Dorothy B. Porter
- 43    Membership and guest lists, cards, etc.

## Container List

- Series K      Photographs**  
Box            Folder  
19-2          44   Pictures and photographs
- Series L      School Data**
- Banneker Junior High  
45    Summary - class size
- Cardoza  
46    Cardoza - Central High School Controversy
- Miller Junior High  
47    Capacity - 1950
- Sousa Junior High  
48    Capacity - 1950  
49    Recommendations for school integration  
50    Statistics White, and Colored School, n.d.  
51    Superintendent of schools report relative to petition on behalf of  
          Marguerite Daisy Carr
- Series M      Court Documents**  
52    *Bishop, et al v. Doyle, et al.* Complaint, Jan., 1948  
53    *Bolling, et al, v. Sharpe, et al* Complaint, Nov. 1950  
54    *Bolling, et al v. Sharpe, et al* Complaint. Brief, Oct. 1954  
55    *Cogdell, et al v. Sharpe, et al.* Complaint - Oct. 1949  
56    *Gregg, et al v. Sharpe, et al.* Complaint. - Oct. 1949  
57    *Hayley, et al. v. Sharpe, et al.* Complaint, Oct. 1949
- Series N      Manuscripts**  
19-3          58    Citizen Education Workshop... National Council of Negro  
                    Women, n.d.  
59    A Study of the Dual School System in the District of Columbia, by  
          Mary Anliot - June, 1954

## Container List

- Series O      Publications**  
Box          Folder  
19-3         60 "Negro Publisher Scans School Integration", Scottish Rite Bulletin,  
               July, 1953  
               61 "Integration in Washington" Schools, American Friends Service,  
               Committee, Publishers, April, 1954  
               62 "A memo on school integration prepared by the NCLCH - May, 1954  
               63 "Toward Racial integration in the District of Columbia." Summer,  
               1954  
               64 "The Schools that Broke the Color Line.: Oct. 1954  
               65 The Wilson Herald, Gheretein Wilson, editor, vol. II, No. 3, Nov.,  
               1945  
               66 The Journal of the Negro Education, vol. XXIII, no. 1, Winter, 1954  
               67 The right of every child - American Friends Service Committee,  
               April 1, 1955  
               68 "Desegregation of Washington Schools: The 1<sup>st</sup> Sixty Days, Sect.  
               B." Winter, 1955
- Series P      Song**  
69 Our Cause is Marching On" - song composed by Nellie V. Greene,  
n.d.
- Series Q      Clippings**  
19-4         70 Evening Star - 1949-1955  
               71 New York Times - May 18, 1954  
               72 Pittsburgh Courier - 1950-1956  
               73 Times Herald - 1950-53  
               74 Washington Afro-American, 1951-1954  
               75 Washington Daily, News, 1948-55  
               76 Washington Post, 1948-55  
               77 Reference to Consolidated, Parent Group, Inc.  
               78 Re.: integration of recreational facilities  
               79 Re.: school integration  
               80 Re.: segregation  
               81 Re.: Supreme Court decision on segregation of schools  
               82 Miscellaneous
- Series R      Poster**  
83 "We Support Brown Junior High School Parent Group.

## Container List

<b>Series S</b>	<b>Scrapbook</b>
Box	Folder
19-4	84 Scrapbook 1947-1950