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CONSOLIDATED PARENT GROUP INC

MSRC Staff

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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.
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<tr>
<td><strong>Series A</strong></td>
<td><strong>Documents</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-1  Undated constitution of the Consolidated Parent Group, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Series B</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fiscal Reports</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-1  Annual and monthly reports for the Years 1952-1953.</td>
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<td><strong>Series C</strong></td>
<td><strong>Financial Data</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-1  Includes canceled checks, receipts, names and amounts given from contributors, plus expenditures for 1949-1953.</td>
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<td><strong>Series D</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minutes</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-1  Minutes of meeting held in June of 1952.</td>
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<td><strong>Series E</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stationary</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-1  Copies of official letterhead, blank petition and pledge forms.</td>
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<td><strong>Series F</strong></td>
<td><strong>Correspondence</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-1  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.</td>
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<td><strong>Series G</strong></td>
<td><strong>Community Activities</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-1  Materials centering around group involvement within the community including notes, a transcript of a radio broadcast, statements, reports, news releases, newsletters, programs, invitations and tickets.</td>
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<td><strong>Series H</strong></td>
<td><strong>Publicity</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-2  Advertising materials and flyers.</td>
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<td><strong>Series I</strong></td>
<td><strong>Women's Action Committee</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-2  Statement of purpose, notices of meetings and blank questionnaires.</td>
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<td><strong>Series J</strong></td>
<td><strong>Materials Concerning Members</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-2&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td><strong>Series K</strong></td>
<td><strong>Photographs</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-2&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td><strong>Series L</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Data</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-2&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td><strong>Series M</strong></td>
<td><strong>Court Documents</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-2&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td><strong>Series N</strong></td>
<td><strong>Manuscripts</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-2&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td><strong>Series O</strong></td>
<td><strong>Publications</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-2&lt;br&gt;Articles from the <em>Scottish Rite Bulletin</em>, American Friends Service Committee, National Civil Liberties Clearinghouse, and <em>Journal of Negro Education</em> concerning school segregation. Included also is an edition of <em>The Wilson Herald</em>, a serial published by D.H. Wilson, focusing on the activities of the Dwight Wilson Family.</td>
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<td><strong>Series P</strong></td>
<td><strong>Song</strong>&lt;br&gt;Box 19-3&lt;br&gt;A song composed by Nellie V. Greene entitled “Our Cause is Marching On.”</td>
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- **Series Q**  
  **Clippings**  
  Box 19-3  

- **Series R**  
  **Poster**  
  Box 19-3  
  A Poster in support of the Brown Junior High School Parent Group's fight for educational equality.

- **Series S**  
  **Scrapbook**  
  Box 19-4  
  Contains articles about the parent group's activities and members during the years 1947-1950.
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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
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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.
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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

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
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<td>&quot;Negro Publisher Scans School Integration&quot;, Scottish Rite Bulletin, July, 1953</td>
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<td>61</td>
<td>&quot;Integration in Washington&quot; Schools, American Friends Service Committee, Publishers, April, 1954</td>
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<td>62</td>
<td>&quot;A memo on school integration prepared by the NCLCH - May, 1954</td>
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<td>64</td>
<td>&quot;The Schools that Broke the Color Line.: Oct. 1954</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>The right of every child - American Friends Service Committee, April 1, 1955</td>
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### Series P Song

| 69 | Our Cause is Marching On" - song composed by Nellie V. Greene, n.d. |

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|      | 71 | New York Times - May 18, 1954 |
|      | 72 | Pittsburgh Courier - 1950-1956 |
|      | 73 | Times Herald - 1950-53 |
|      | 74 | Washington Afro-American, 1951-1954 |
|      | 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. |
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Scrapbook 1947-1950