

Harlem Politics Makes 'Model' School A Mess

It was to be a "model school" when it was opened 18 months ago.

But Harlem's Intermediate School 201 has turned into a center of political and social controversy, largely because of Black Power politicking.

Stokely Carmichael has taught a class there. H. Rap Brown has talked there, LeRoi Jones' violently anti-white plays have been presented there, and youngsters there have heard the United States described as "the Fourth Reich."

It still doesn't have a principal and teachers leave almost as fast as they are recruited. Pupil discipline is poor, and so is their academic performance.

And public opinion has been so inflamed over the Harlem community's efforts to gain control of the school that it threatens a city plan for decentralizing the city's million-pupil school system.

THE DREAM WAS of a \$5 million, windowless, completely air-conditioned school with an "innovative curriculum" including courses in foreign languages, music, Negro and Puerto Rican culture, superior teachers and classes of no more than 24 pupils.

Harlem got the modern school. But it also got so much controversy and disorder that many openly say they wish it had never been built.

McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation, drew up this plan. Ironically, the Ford Foundation helped seed the local control controversy with two grants totaling \$77,000 for an experiment with it.

THERE IS disagreement about what started all the controversy.

Harlem parents say they were promised that IS 201 would be an integrated school, and that the Board of Education betrayed them by resigning the district and including more Negroes and Puerto Ricans.

The Board of Education denies that it promised integration. It did send out 10,000 leaflets suggesting to white parents that they might want to send their children to 201, but the response was nil.



NAACP DINNER SPEAKERS — Carl B. Stokes (left), mayor of Cleveland, and entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. will appear for the annual Detroit NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner to be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 28, in Exhibit Hall A of Cobo Hall. Some 3,000 are expected to attend.

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aimed at testing community control over local school districts.

The board, composed of a supervisor, five teachers, ten parents and five community representatives, won't have official status until its program is approved by the Board of Education.

Recently the governing board was a co-sponsor of a program at IS 201 memorializing slain Black Nationalist leader Malcolm X.

Speakers exhorted a crowd of about 600 persons—mostly young Negroes—to obtain weapons for "self-defense" against whites. The United States was described as the "Fourth Reich."

BOARD OF Education officials expressed shock and directed Schools Superintendent Bernard Dorman to "establish strict control" over the school.

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