

NEWS

FROM

NAACP

National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People

~~MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE~~
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The recent appointment of Dr. Richard D. Trent as president of Community College #7 in Bedford-Stuyvesant represents a victory over those forces in our community that would enslave the rest of us.

In February 1968, representatives of 25 community organizations (list attached) became the Steering Committee of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Coalition on Educational Needs and Services. There were early indications that "no coalition" was ever intended on the part of some of the members. However, there were those of us who continued until June 1969 to try to work as a team. At that time, 11 of the 25 organizations comprising the coalition issued a statement (copy attached) of "no confidence" and sought to augment the negotiating team by adding 5 persons from our group of 11 and 5 elected officials from the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. Shortly thereafter, our number was reduced to 10 when one of the signers requested that his name be removed from the document. Verbal abuse, near-physical violence, and threatened violence prevented the operation of such a team.

It is common knowledge that certain forces in the New York City Government will fight until hell freezes over to prevent the establishment of an institution of higher learning in our community. Some of the members of the Coalition have contributed most.

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generously to the aid and comfort of those forces.

We have a memorandum dated November 4, 1968 from Charles S. Wright, Planning Consultant, outlining his "preliminary and tentative" report on four sites that might be suitable for the college. Our Coalition agreed on the building formerly occupied by the Long Island College of Pharmacy, and this information was passed on to the NYC Board of Higher Education. YET - one year and three months later this same site turns up on the agenda of the NYC Board of Education in the form of a resolution to acquire the site for additional seats for high school students. By the Board's own admission, the seats currently available are under-utilized. Who is playing games with whom?

One member of the Coalition has said "Education is an affliction." We say education is our first exit from poverty. Other members have said "No Rhody McCoy as president - no college." We say a resounding WELCOME to Dr. Trent. The coming of the college to our community can bring with it many of the things we want and need so desperately. It's very coming represents a substantial financial investment. It can place great emphasis on elementary education, nursing, social work, and many other areas where the needs are so very great. It can also provide some jobs for our residents.

We strongly urge that those of us who might tend to comprise the silent majority in Bedford-Stuyvesant to gird ourselves for the battle that will surely ensue as we move forward toward the realization of our college.