Shanker Debates Doar

**United Teacher** (Nov. 6, 1968)

Shanker's statement that he's anxious to get the schools open and that this dispute has lasted too long. He felt that it was important to make the opening work out in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. He indicated that the governing board of Ocean Hill-Brownsville, as well as the principals, would work to make the opening successful.

Shanker: That's right. That's precisely the situation that was obtained on the last day of school. We were not able to exercise our independent judgment, not to do it in terms of an agreement with one side or the other. If Ocean Hill-Brownsville and the UFT could agree as to what should be done to cause the opening of the schools, that would be fine. But as an independent public body we have to think of one thing, our responsibility is to get full compliance for the schools. And in our judgment on that Friday we felt that it was the best way to get compliance was to put the principals back in the schools the following Monday. We felt that was necessary, because, the principals are key people in those schools. They can help us get compliance. They indicated at that time that they would carry out the directives of the Superintendent of Schools.

Shanker: By compliance, yes, you mean that the teachers would return without furor?

Doar: Teachers would return, yes, and would teach in an educational atmosphere. Now, Mr. Shanker, what I think is that we've got to take advantage of that acceptance of local responsibility, and we can't go back to a situation prior to the time this was all worked out, this commitment was made. I think it's in everyone's interest, and I really--if I may say so, in your teachers interest that we capitalize on this, that we--this is what we want in getting compliance, this acceptance of responsibility. And we all want to get not only the schools open, but we want to--to make this work out in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. And for that reason don't see speaking personally, although I'm sure the board would consider this, and welcomes your suggestion, I don't see how it would be possible for us not to want these teachers and these principals returned to their schools.

Now, there's been a lot said about Mr. McCoy, Mr. McCoy was reinstated and placed under the direct supervision of Superintendent Donovan. He wasn't transferred down to headquarters, but he was left there because he was the head of the unit administrator out there really know how school system should run. And there are eight thousand kids involved. And he had started and structured an educational program. Now, you can't have teachers teaching in an educational atmosphere if you don't have a teaching plan, a basic educational program. If he defined an order of Superintendent Donovan, Superintendent Donovan was prepared to take action against him. But if he cooperated with Superintendent Donovan and helped us get the teachers in an educational atmosphere, then that is what we wanted him to do.

We want compliance. We think that the program that we adopted that Friday of returning the principals to their schools--and we have the board under suspension, we're preparing the suspension will continue, we've implied for an injunction against Mr. McCoy and the governing board. There won't be any interference. And we think that the sound, fair, sensible way to perform the obligation which we owe to you and the public to get compliance with the right of your teachers to teach.

Shanker: That's a fine statement, but I think it's very inconsistent, because on the one hand you say that the principals and Mr. McCoy are in violation of the law, and I'm coming back because they've agreed to comply, and on the other hand you say that you're going to get an injunction because they refuse to comply, I think that you're just not telling the truth when you say these things.

I was with Dr. Donovan and the President of the Board, Mrs. Shapiro, and representatives of the Mayor, on the day when you proposed to send those principals back. And I asked Dr. Donovan, I said, Dr. Donovan, have you spoken to those principals, and have they agreed to comply with the part that the Board and the UFT have entered into? And he said, No, I have not spoken to them. I'll try to call them tonight to see whether they will enter into it. But you had decided to send those principals back even though they had not agreed. You're also ignoring the statement of Reverend Oliver made before both of us--just the other day in front of the Board of Regents. "Oh, yes," he said, "we're going to welcome these teachers back, and we're going to take them back into the teaching assignments, as if we have always done." In other words, he was not recognizing any distinction between the situation before and after what happened just before. He was saying that we've always done well, that we've always taken this back, and everything has been fine within the district, and there's never been any trouble.

Now, I just fail to understand why the Board of Education feels that it is so absolutely essential to keep Mr. McCoy and the governing board and eight principals why--sooner or you're seeking an injunction against them, you have supposed that they have taken all this action against them, and yet they seem to be so important to the Board of Education that you're willing to keep over one million children saddled over eight principals, and premise them in their particular offices.

Now, when you say that Mr. McCoy is absolutely essential to the running of that district because he's the leader of it, what you're really saying is that no matter what he does, no matter how teachers are mistreated, how we're indiscriminately, how we're suffocated, how they're threatened, you can have that same answer tomorrow or the day after that. And then you must have also ignored what terrible thing happens to teachers in this district.

Now, I think there comes a point--and that point has come, because, after all, this didn't start yesterday, it didn't begin last day after that, you just say, Well, he's the head of the district, and so we can't go back to--we can't get to the point of letting terrible things happen to teachers in this district.

Now, I think three corners come--and that point has come, because, after all, this didn't start yesterday, it didn't begin last day after that, you just say, Well, he's the head of the district, and so we can't go back to--we can't get to the point of letting terrible things happen to teachers in this district.

Now, I think three corners come--and that point has come, because, after all, this didn't start yesterday, it didn't begin last day after that, you just say, Well, he's the head of the district, and so we can't go back to--we can't get to the point of letting terrible things happen to teachers in this district.
We're trying to get an assumption of local responsibility. We're trying to get voluntary compliance. We have made progress. —Doar

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DOAR: WELL, I DON'T THINK you're aware of exactly my position, and I'm not sure that I can answer all of the things you've said. I'm sure you don't—I'm sure you believe that Dr. Donovan hadn't talked to the principals that I'm referring to about my position, and I believe that he didn't. I don't think it is true that they would interfere with the teaching assignment of your teachers in the way that you have described it. It sounds to me as if they would have interfered with the teaching assignment if they had interference, but that would be their function, and I don't know the extent to which they would interfere. I can only tell you about the interference that we've had, and the way that we've tried to see that it was interfered with. What I can say is that the Board of Education, as far as those schools are concerned, has dealt with the situation in such a way that we don't want to go back to a condition where the schools were interfered with. That step, the step of interference, is one that we don't want to see again. We've had that experience, and we've tried to see that it was interfered with.

Now, I want to say that I have not really wanted to say anything about whether or not the principals should be there or not, I don't know the facts about that—so I'm not really able to respond to you. But I have been out in those schools, and I have been to those schools. And I have seen those principals, and I have seen those schools. Now, what's your argument? You've got a lot of things that you concern you, and you're concerned about the way the Board of Education operates. We can't solve all of those problems, but if we were to agree that we would put our shoulders to the wheel, you and the board and the principal of Ocean Hill-Brownsville, and try to make this thing succeed on a voluntary basis as men, I'm satisfied that that course is the course for progress in the City of New York. And if it's the course that you are going to follow, I'm willing to provide security and protection for the teachers that we have.

PRESSMAN: You're talking about Mr. Brownsville governing board. Do you agree, Mr. Shanker?

SHANKER: I DON'T THINK IT'S more any exciting now, and I challenge some of the statements which you've made. I was present in a room with Board President Rose Shapiro, with Superintendent Donovan, with the like to know, with the Board of the Ocean Education, on the one hand, and yesterday, Board President told me that he's not sure what happened at that particular night at that meeting which brought about the third strike.

PRESSMAN: Was that two weeks ago?

SHANKER: YES, IT WAS TWO weeks ago tonight, and that brought about that strike, because the Superintendent of Schools definitely said that he did not have any commitment from them, that he didn't ask them, and they did not respond.

Now, I want to say another thing about those seven principals. Judge Rendell had declared that those seven principals are illegally there. They are not certified. They're not there properly. And I don't think that's fair. And I think that the Board of Education continues to employ them where they should not be. I'd like to know why the Board of Education continues to defend the Ocean Hill-Brownsville governing board when the Court of Appeals last night not only affirmed the right of the Board of Education to suspend that governing board, but told them to go and find out whether that governing board is legally constituted, whether it was properly elected, the whole role of the Board of Education, the fact that no chance was given for any opposition group to run.

Now, I think that there are very important facts of this whole thing, and I still am a Board of Education trying to keep a particular governing board in office which has been right every rule in every book, seven principals declared by the court to be illegally there, and a unit administrator who has defined every rule in the book ever since May 9th. And the Board of Education is keeping one million children out of school in order to defend these particular people in their positions, and I wonder to know how you justify that.

DOAR: WELL, YOU KNOW, I justify it in any number of ways and reasons, but the one I justify to you is that you have got a right to make a decision to carry out your role with respect to the Ocean Hill-Brownsville governing board, with respect to Mr. McGoy, and with respect to the principals, is a course that in my judgment and the judgment of all the officials is the best way to insure and to enforce the right of your teachers to teach there and in schools throughout the city free of harassment. We're trying to get an assumption of local responsibility. We're trying to get voluntary compliance. We've made progress. Now, there are some questions about whether or not the principals should be there or not, I don't know the facts about that—so I'm not really able to respond to you. But I have been out in those schools, and I have been to those schools. And I have seen those principals, and I have seen those schools. Now, what's your argument? You've got a lot of things that you concern you, and you're concerned about the way the Board of Education operates. We can't solve all of those problems, but if we were to agree that we would put our shoulders to the wheel, you and the board and the principal of Ocean Hill Brownsville, and try to make this thing succeed on a voluntary basis as men, I'm satisfied that that course is the course for progress in the City of New York. And if it's the course that you are going to follow, I'm willing to provide security and protection for the teachers that we have.

PRESSMAN: You're talking about Mr. Brownsville governing board. Do you agree, Mr. Shanker?

SHANKER: WELL, I'M SURPRISED that you keep talking about voluntary compliance, because I'm the first one of those people to defend these particular people in the courts to be illegally there, and a unit administrator who has defined every rule in every book ever since May 9th. And the Board of Education is keeping one million children out of school in order to defend these particular people in their positions, and I wonder to know how you justify that.

PRESSMAN: It's not my fault that you have got a right to make a decision to carry out your role with respect to the Ocean Hill-Brownsville governing board, with respect to Mr. McGoy, and with respect to the principals, is a course that in my judgment and the judgment of all the officials is the best way to insure and to enforce the right of your teachers to teach there and in schools throughout the city free of harassment. We're trying to get an assumption of local responsibility. We're trying to get voluntary compliance. We've made progress. Now, there are some questions about whether or not the principals should be there or not, I don't know the facts about that—so I'm not really able to respond to you. But I have been out in those schools, and I have been to those schools. And I have seen those principals, and I have seen those schools. Now, what's your argument? You've got a lot of things that you concern you, and you're concerned about the way the Board of Education operates. We can't solve all of those problems, but if we were to agree that we would put our shoulders to the wheel, you and the board and the principal of Ocean Hill Brownsville, and try to make this thing succeed on a voluntary basis as men, I'm satisfied that that course is the course for progress in the City of New York. And if it's the course that you are going to follow, I'm willing to provide security and protection for the teachers that we have.

PRESSMAN: But you didn't wait until they went around loving each other, until they were settled in a very voluntary compliance. You marched in with Mr. Meredith, and you admitted that you would have waited a very, very long time before you got voluntary compliance. And you admitted that you would have another kind of compliance. And compliance it was, and as I think Mr. Donovan was going to tell you, some of these institutions have been integrated.

Now, I want to say that I have not really wanted to say anything about whether or not the principals should be there or not, I don't know the facts about that—so I'm not really able to respond to you. But I have been out in those schools, and I have been to those schools. And I have seen those principals, and I have seen those schools. Now, what's your argument? You've got a lot of things that you concern you, and you're concerned about the way the Board of Education operates. We can't solve all of those problems, but if we were to agree that we would put our shoulders to the wheel, you and the board and the principal of Ocean Hill Brownsville, and try to make this thing succeed on a voluntary basis as men, I'm satisfied that that course is the course for progress in the City of New York. And if it's the course that you are going to follow, I'm willing to provide security and protection for the teachers that we have.

PRESSMAN: Gentlemen, it seems to me that you are now two proposals here, the Board of Education and the Ocean Hill-Brownsville. Do you endorse the new proposal that you've made, Mr. Dom? Do you wonder, Mr. Dom, do you see any meeting ground between the two of you on this?

DOAR: WELL, I WOULD LIKE to continue to talk to Mr. Shanker. I would like to talk to the people out at Ocean Hill-Brownsville. I would try to convince them that we can get rid of them if we could reach a meeting ground between the parties to this dispute. Now, I have been to the Ocean Hill-Brownsville schools here. It's not possible for me to displace them. I think we have a commitment to uphold the right of our teachers to teach there and in schools throughout the city free of harassment. We're trying to get an assumption of local responsibility. We're trying to get voluntary compliance. We've made progress. Now, there are some questions about whether or not the principals should be there or not, I don't know the facts about that—so I'm not really able to respond to you. But I have been out in those schools, and I have been to those schools. And I have seen those principals, and I have seen those schools. Now, what's your argument? You've got a lot of things that you concern you, and you're concerned about the way the Board of Education operates. We can't solve all of those problems, but if we were to agree that we would put our shoulders to the wheel, you and the board and the principal of Ocean Hill Brownsville, and try to make this thing succeed on a voluntary basis as men, I'm satisfied that that course is the course for progress in the City of New York. And if it's the course that you are going to follow, I'm willing to provide security and protection for the teachers that we have.

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'How are we to have confidence in a Board of Education... allied with extremists within the city'—Shanker

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HANSON, get in the meeting and said... PRESSMAN: This was Friday night.

DOAR: YEAH, AT THE GOVERNINK board, and said, "There's one thing new here. Before, we resisted because it carries over a threat from the outside, but now because of our concern for the one million children and the fact that they're not getting an education, we had certain board and said we accept the teachers, the principals, we'll honor those assignments.

Now, that's a step forward. And we ought to try to build on that, rather than continue to retreat behind suspicion from within and without the city, which may have been said to you directly, or you may have heard that there may be people who may or may not be accurate. We ought to try to move ahead to get these schools open and get our educational atmosphere as you want it.

And I have had considerable experience in getting compliances, and it has been found that the only way you can pro- ceed as a public official is to be one hundred percent fair, to be patient, not to take drastic action except in the last resort, to use in getting compli- ance not just directive, but to use negoti- ations, to appeal to as- sistance of local responsibility, appeal to the goodness in people, appeal to the fact that you've just go to do this because it is what the law provides.

And I've found generally that we get compliance in difficult situations. Occasion- ally, at a very last resort, we had to take drastic action. But more times than not we were restrained, we were patient, we deferred, and tried and tried to get compliance.

SHANKER: WELL, I CERTAINLY agree with that approach. I think that probably the most tragic of all of this is that the Board of Education has to act in situations in which the Board of Education is not there to restore order to the schools, or to bring any sort of reconciliation, but they are there specifically as partisans of one side in the dispute and are allied against the Board.

DOAR: WELL, YOU KNOW, IT'S not possible, and it's not reasonable to make out these allegations that you make in four minutes. A majority of the Board of Education is not there to make an appeal to the best in you and I, talking before the people of New York about personalitv. What we've got—what we've got—to keep an eye on is the law. How can we as a Board of Education get for you over there and me, that's the way we do it. The way to do it is to continue to move forward and show restraint, although, but be firm forward, keep persuading, keep negotiat- ing, keep appealing to the best in people. And that's the way to best serve your teachers.

SWANGER: WELL, I AGREE that we've had progress, but I want to remind you how we had the pro- cess. You suspended the governing board. You suspended Mr. McCoY. You suspended the principals. And with each one of those, attendance rose within the schools, more and more people have a chance to get a chance. You never have had better programs. And now I would like to know why it is that tak- ing—making this progress and taking these acts—which you took, we didn't make you suspend those acts? Why did you take three particular actions? And I also want to talk about that meeting that you had with the President, and that the other night, where one parent got up and made a very fine statement, and we're trying to do that. But I think you should also point out the fact that a member of the Board, a Board of Education, a Board of Education, the school can't open with quite a number of people who caused—a—alarming, a member of the Board of Regents, with yelling and screaming not least but also disrupting of the press conference, and everything else; and how the teachers or the parents or the citizens of the City of New York, how can we have confidence in a Board of Education where one mem- ber, or members, is carrying on, is carrying on within the system is more important than the con- tinued education of a million children. And that I cannot understand.

PRESSMAN: Do you see any hope in doing what Mr. Shanker's statement to- night?

DOAR: WELL, I WANT TO CON- tinue to talk to Mr. Shanker. I will continue to talk with him. We talk practically every day. I make an ef- fort to see if I can work out a statement of a formula that's acceptable to him. There's nothing I...

PRESSMAN: Do you think his formu- la represents any progress?

DOAR: WELL, I THINK THE fact is, he's content, and talks with me tonight and says 'I'd like to do this.' I don't want to abolish the go- verning board, we'll put that through. I think that is progress. I think it's a step forward.

But I want to try to bring about compliances. And I think that the Board of Education has to act partially and fairly in a way that the teachers or the principals or the people who believe they are being treated fairly.

Now, there's nothing that we want more than to get those kids back in school. But I'd ask you, Mr. Shanker, to just reconsider your position and see whether or not you may be on the chance, give the Board of Regents a chance to show you that we can get confidence.

SHANKER: WE HAVE RECON- sidered your statement to-night. And although we won't call these schools, we will hold classes at your request. We'll make every effort to get these schools open and get this educational atmosphere as you want it. But the Board or the Board of Education or the City Council have to act in this matter. The Board of Education has to act.

PRESSMAN: Gentlemen, a short an- swer. Right now is there hope, Mr. Shanker?

SHANKER: THERE'S A LWAYS hope. Strikes always end.

PRESSMAN: Mr. Dean.

DOAR: I BELIEVE THERE'S hope. I believe that we're going to go forward and build a better educational system for the kids of New York, and we're going to do it by working to- gether with the Board of Educa- tion, and the community.

PRESSMAN: Thank you very much, gentlemen, for being with us tonight.

This has been a special program on the four o'clock, which is now entering its eighth week. And I appreciate very much the appearance here tonight of the Board of Education figure in that situation. Albert Shanker, the President of the United Federation of Teachers, John Dear, the President of the Board of Education.

The end. The Pressman. NBC News. Good night.

/ November 6, 1968
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24—Negotiations to end the school strike remained stalled today despite a series of informal talks and activity on various state and local levels.

Board of Education President John M. Doo said that "the situation was not satisfactory." In Albany, Dr. James E.Allen, Jr., State Education Commissioner, discussed the situation with members of the Board of Regents at its monthly meeting. Dr. Allen, according to the press, has been "under increasing public pressure to intervene in the strike dispute."

UFT President Albert Shanker said that if there was a school action within the next day or two the state should step in.

School custodians, who are supporting the UFT, warned of disaster arising out of "improper" operating oil burners in schools that are open. If this continues "there will be a disaster," custodian said.

The custodians issued their warning through Walter J. Degnan, president of the Council of Supervisory Associations.

The custodians charged violations of the city law which requires that anyone operating an oil burner in a public building must have a certificate of fitness from the Fire Department. Bailiffs in school buildings are fed from 10,000-gallon tanks, with as many as three such tanks in larger buildings.

In the City Council, night members petitioned the Mayor to call an immediate meeting of the Council "to take up the present school crisis."

The City Charter provides that the Mayor must call a special session upon the petition of five councilmen. The councilmen had submitted their petition for a special session after an unsuccessful attempt at Tuesday's regular meeting to get the Council to discuss the school crisis. Matthew J. Troy, Jr. (D-Q.), charged that the Council's leadership had adjourned the meeting to block his efforts to bring the school crisis up for debate.

In addition to Troy, the councilmen who signed the petition were the following Democrats: Edward V. Curran (R.), Arthur J. Kazama (Q.), David B. Fried- man (M.), Monroe Cohen (K.), Walter Ward (Q.), Saul Savoyon (M.) and Queens Republican Joseph Mochago.

Some 23 city members of the State Legislature called upon Governor Rockefeller to convene a special session "to suspend the New York City Board of Education."

They proposed the replacement of the central board by a "temporary commission that would work for a cooling-off period and would be empowered to reopen the schools."

The Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court sustained the Board of Education's recent suspension of the locally-elected Ocean Hill-Brownsville governing board. In a sharp-worded opinion, the court noted that there had been "ample basis for the suspension" because the local board had disobeyed the lawful orders of the central board, directing the reattribution of the UFT teachers to "teaching assignments in the schools."

(For details on court ruling, see story elsewhere in this newspaper.)

The State Legislature, represented by Sen. Albert R. Lewis (D-K.) and Assemblyman Leonard M. Simon (D-Q.), asked Mayor Lindsay to admit his failure and pull out of the school system.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25—This afternoon, at a press conference, UFT President Shanker challenged Mayor John V. Lindsay to a debate, as "a confrontation in front of the public to bring out the facts and to discuss the differences between the UFT and the Mayor."

The UFT head disputed the Mayor's role in the whole strike, pointing out to questions fired at him, that "either the Mayor is trying to deceive the people or he does not know what is going on in the schools."

Mr. Shanker was referring to the anomalous situation of Mr. Rhody McCoy, suspended, ordered to re- turn to 110 Livingston Street, but still in the demonstration district, as well as the suspended governing board "continuing to function." Quizzed by the press on whether a settlement could be reached with Mr. McCoy and the governing board "still intact," Mr. Shanker replied: "No, how could we send teachers back to the schools when they went back on the basis of 'good intentions' last time?"

"This is the last strike this year. We will remain out until those who make these threats against teachers are removed. Thus, there will be school again. The teachers are not you-ya."

Turning next to a point which he continued to stress in the next few days, President Shanker challenged the Mayor, saying:

"The Mayor is evidently willing to keep one million children out of school to protect one governing board and one unit administrator, both of whom have violated the agreement... Has there been a promise to protect them? Will the Mayor keep the children out for weeks in order to protect these individuals?"

"Despite any pact between them, will the Mayor have the gum to remove these people?"

At the press conference, both NBC and CBS television failed to show Mr. Shanker's statements.

"Despite any pact between them, will the Mayor have the gum to remove these people?"

President Shanker went on to stress the Mayor for "not reading the reports of his own observers" if he describes the conditions in the schools in the district outside of IS 271 as "normal."

"In return to any charge that 'the union was trying to tear down the community by the strike,' the UFT head shot back.

"'It's the Mayor who is destroying the city, ever since May 9, by creating racial hostility and polarization, it's disgraceful trying to pin the blame on me and the UFT."

"Where was the Mayor in May and June afterwards?"

"'Thank God, there's a union in fight for the public school system.'"

In conclusion, President Shanker underlined the basic point as seen by the UFT: "Mayor Shanker charged the Mayor:

"Will the governing board continue to function?"

"Will the governing board continue to go into the schools?"

"Will those who commit these threats continue to function?"

"Will Mr. McCoy continue to be paid $10,000 a year even though he defies the orders of the Superintendent and the central Board?"

"Will Mr. McCoy's authority continue to remain intact?"

"Will the principals in the district continue to work?"

"In the evening, the State Education Commissioner, Dr. James E. Allen, Jr., offered a proposal that was introduced at the meeting at the Hotel Commodore in New York City.

Dr. Allen offered to assume the responsibility for the safety of the UFT teachers to the Ocean Hill-Brownsville district's schools.

At the same time, Dr. Allen proposed the lifting of the suspension of the governing board and of unit administrator Rhody McCoy.

The UFT President Albert Shanker, in turning aside the new proposal, said:

"I think the Board of Regents' proposal is obviously a complete capitulation to the demands of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville governing board. It goes backwards two steps."

The proposal by Dr. Allen also called for the return of the 79 UFT teachers to teaching assignments in the district; the return of the eight principals to their posts; the establishment of guidelines "to bring into harmony the rights of the teachers and the protection of these rights, and the rights of a community."

The State Commissioner also stated that if there was any action by any person individual to interfere with any of the 79 teachers, this would be "regarded as justification for immediate removal or other appropriate disciplinary action by the Commissioner, rather than more symbolic suspensions."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26—A second, but undis- closed, proposal to end the third teacher strike came from State Education Commissioner Dr. James Allen, Jr.

The Commissioner's first proposal, offered on Friday night at a meeting of all the parties at the Hotel Commodore, was flatly rejected by the UFT as "a complete capitulation to the demands of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville governing board."

The Rev. C. Herbert Osborne, Director of the governing board, on the other hand, declared the proposal acceptable.

The new proposal was not made public, but was apparently to be considered by all of the parties privately.

The same day, two UFT spokesmen spoke at a panel discussion sponsored by the New York Jewish Labor Committee, Judes Kelinsky, Assistant to the President, insisted that the union was not against decentralization, and called for "responsible community control" which respected the UFT contract. Richard Parrish, Assistant Treasurer of the UFT, said that "black people must have a voice in controlling the educational destiny of their children."

The growing concern over the use of schools in the ongoing civil rights battle came from Democratic State Chairman John Burns on Sunday. He asked that Governor Rockefeller intervene to settle the crisis. Burns was concerned both for the education of the children and that the schools be open for votes on November 5th. He was especially concerned because the presidential race was to close in New York State.

The day also brought a statement from McGovern funded, president of the Ford Foundation. Bundy said that the current crisis indicated that decentralization, in the form of transfer of power to local boards, should have begun long ago. He also insisted that it must proceed with the protection of teachers' rights insured.

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Mr. Doar rejected the proposal, saying it was "difficult to turn the clock back" to the last school day of Friday, October 11, as had been suggested by President Shanker.

He claimed that the various officials whose suspension was an integral part of the union's new proposal for settling the strike had, since October 11, agreed to accept and live up to the orders of the Board of Education and Dr. Doar.

A dispute between Mr. Doar and President Shanker arose over whether or not the eight principals in the district had agreed to obey Dr. Doar's orders.

The UFT head maintained that there had not been any such commitments on the part of the principals and that he had been told this by Dr. Doar, personally.

Further, President Shanker declared, there were witnesses to this lack of commitment on the part of the principals.

Mr. Doar, on his side, pressed his position for the settlement of the dispute by "voluntary compliance" on the part of the governing board and the administrative staff in the district.

He declared that "the acceptance of local responsibility by the governing board, in agreeing to accept back the union teachers, was a key improvement in the situation.

Earlier, during the 11 o'clock news on WCBS-TV, Dr. Donovan appeared for a brief interview. Informed of the new proposal by the union to end the strike, he reacted favorably and promised that the UFT plan would be "considered carefully by the Board of Education," unaware that Mr. Doar would be rejecting the proposal in less than half-an-hour.

In other activities, carried on secretly during the day, the State Education Commissioner, Dr. James E. Allen, Jr., met privately with various parties to the dispute, evidently trying to find a formula acceptable to all to end the strike.

On Friday night, the UFT had rejected Dr. Allen's proposal for an emergency UFT--the teachers and, in addition, the reinstatement of the governing board and Mr. McCoy.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 - Despite earlier expressions of hope, the day ended without any headway being made towards settlement of the school crisis.

Officials of the Board of Education and UFT representatives reported "no progress" after a three-hour-long night session.

At an afternoon press conference, UFT President Albert Shanker called upon the Board of Education to build a public hearing on the school's proposal aimed at "restoring education processes" and "returning the schools to normal teaching.

The union's plan, which had been outlined on Sunday, called for the temporary closing of J.H.S. 271, the continued suspension of the local board, unit administrators and principals involved in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville dispute. (See Sunday, October 27 report).

Three points had been part of the Mayor's and Board's earlier proposals.

Board of Education President John M. Doar had rejected the UFT plan Sunday. The next day he said that he had acted as an individual and that the proposal would be placed before the full board.

Pointing out that the union had submitted the Mayor's proposal to its Delegate Assembly "in public," Shanker urged the Board to allow the public to vote on a plan that sought to end the strike.

In a statement to the press Monday, Shanker declared that the union was not going "to tolerate the vilification and violence that is being tolerated by people in high places."

He asserted that the Ocean Hill-Brownsville issue was a "test case" and that groups of extremists were waiting in the ocean districts "if they saw something else get away with it."

The UFT head said that the union had not sought a special session of the State Legislature and did not think one was "warranted now."

But, he added, if the dispute is not ended soon, a special session "might well be the answer."

Shanker also ridiculed Mayor Lindsay's accusation that the union was seeking to force a special senator in the hope that it remove the school and central board and "kill decentralization."

In the first place, the union was not opposed to decentralization, Shanker said. Further, it was highly presumptuous of the Mayor to assume that he was privy to the thoughts or motives of other persons.

Shanker also announced that the union's offer to buy television time to answer the Mayor's "first time" attacks on the union and its leadership—had been turned down by all major networks, without reasons being given. He added that the UFT attorneys were now looking into the matter.

The Ocean Hill-Brownsville governing board announced acceptance of the plan presented Friday night by State Education Commissioner James E. Allen, Jr.

The Allen proposal, which had been rejected by the union because it did not address itself to the main issues, called for state observers to oversee the return of the 79 union teachers and reinstated the suspended local board.

President Shanker declared, there were

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Twenty-four UFT pickets at J.H.S. 263, Brooklyn, complained that they were shoved and threatened by a crowd numbering some 50 persons.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 — A state take-over of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville district was proposed today by Dr. James E. Allen, Jr., State Education Commissioner. The proposal calls for a trustee to run the district and oversee the return of the 79 UFT teachers.

Under the Allen plan, district administrator Rhody McCoy would be reinstated in his post if he agreed to serve under the state trustee, the eight principals would remain in their positions while the suspension of the local board would be continued.

While not making a formal response to the proposals (since the union had not been formally notified), UFT President Albert Shanker told a press conference that a mere "paper change" would not resolve the issues long as the Mayor and Board of Education permitted the unit administrator and the principals to "subvert and sabotage" agreements reached with the union.

In answer to a query, Shanker said that it had never been the union's intention to obstruct the conducting of the Nov. 5th elections. "We want and urge everyone to vote and will do everything we can to make that possible," he said.

However, he added, the union hoped and trusted that the Board of Education would not seek to use the opening of schools for the installation of voting machines as a cover to begin in scams.

In a joint statement with the Council of Supervisory Associations and Local 891, International Union of Operating Engineers, the UFT spokesmen pledged "to cooperate with all interested parties and agencies to work out details related to the delivery, protection and inspection of voting machines.

This pledge was incorporated in a telegram to Maurice J. O'ourke, Commissioner of Elections.

Following is the text of the in-paint Allen plan:

"1. The appointment of a state trustee for the Ocean Hill-Brownsville district who is not a citizen of New York State, who shall assume responsibility for the orderly operation of the schools of the district. The trustee's staff will include personnel, appointed with my approval, who will be in constant attendance in each school to deal promptly and effectively with any interference with the rights of the teachers.

"Those personnel will be assisted in each school by teams of observers, whose membership will include representatives designated by the UFT and the Board of Education. Provision will be made for hearings at the local level, to be conducted by a direct representative of the trustee, before final disciplinary action is taken. Any teacher who feels that such disciplinary action was improper may appeal to me."

"2. The lifting of the suspension of the members of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville board will be postponed until such time as I determine, in consultation with all the parties, that the assurance to me that the district may properly be returned to the community."

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reinstatement of the local board, the state trustees will remain until the orderly operation of the district has been achieved.

3. If the unit administrator assures me that he can serve under the direction of my trustees, he will be entitled to serve in the capacity of the head of the district or his associate as the local administrator for the district.

4. If he decides that he will be unable to carry out the policies and directives of the trustees, I am confident that he will promptly inform me of that fact, so that he may be given an assignment elsewhere. If he renounces his duties, but fails to perform them in a manner consistent with the trusteeship, I shall immediately direct his reassignment.

5. Each principal who gives me similar assurance will be permitted to continue at his post. Any principal who is unable to give such assurance, or whose actions are inconsistent therewith, will be assigned elsewhere.

6. All teachers who are members of the Unit Union will be returned to their regular teaching assignments.

7. All Ocean Hill-Brownsville schools will be reopened immediately to demonstrate that the conditions which have prevented the orderly operation of Junior High School 271 cannot be remedied, I shall direct that the operation of this facility at a junior high school be terminated, and that it be subsequently reopened as a high school, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools Bernard E. Donovon.

Richard Nixon, Republican presidential nominee, issued the following statement on the school situation:

"I have never believed that the safety of citizens or the preservation of public order is contingent upon the implementation of the table of collective bargaining. I do not approve of the present closing of the city's schools; and I trust it will be terminated promptly.

"But I also recognize that the motive behind the teachers' actions is a far more compelling one than simply that for the sake of a shorter working hour.

"When we talk of removing respect for law in our country, we mean respect as well for the symbols of legitimate authority. One of these is the solitary police officer on the beat; but another is the teacher in his classroom.

"In the Ocean Hill-Brownsville district, I understand that not only was the authority of teachers questioned, but a number were physically subjected to intimidation and threats of violence.

The toleration of insults and threats of violence is inconsistent with the principle which underlies the proposition that the one million children of the City of New York shall receive their education in a school system free of threats of violence, intimidation, and harassment. The citizens of New York demand no less.

October 30, 1968

Though hesitant, Governor Rockefeller said, after the Union decision had been relayed, to him that "this leaves us closer to a peaceful solution of the question that the one million children of the City of New York shall receive their education in a school system free of threats of violence, intimidation, and harassment. The citizens of New York demand no less.

The Board of Education met early in the day and voted to accept the plan. Rev. C. Herbert Oliver, Chairman of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Board, said that even though the Board might disagree with parts of the plan, "we will live with it." His Board members, who had met with Dr. Allen, had accompanied earlier that they were not accepting or rejecting the plan.

Rev. Oliver also published a letter from the governing board to Commissioner Allen. In it the governing board expressed its willingness to cooperate with the return of the teachers. It also was critical of any attempt which might be made to close the school. The letter asked that the district become "a ward of the state for educational excellence for a period of three years as a model demonstration district regardless of the action of the UFT in relationship to the strike."

While rumors of a possible legislative session began to spread, a petition to call a special meeting of the City Council was rejected by Mayor Lindsay because, as he said, it was "a pleasure and an honor to meet the (Continued on Page 17)
A heated Delegate meeting held at the Felt Forum of Madison Avenue in the latest dispute, and discuss the reasons why the officers and Executive Board had recommended that the Allen proposal be rejected.

The union chief also expressed reservation as to the possibility of an emergency meeting of the state legislature to resolve the school crisis. He admitted, however, that "if the Mayor and the Commissioner, and the Board of Education are unable to act it may be the only answer.

The delegates meeting, which opened with reverberations of "depute State Must Go!" and "Marayal Campus, Tell the Truth," heard President Shanker discuss the latest proposal. He said, "About the only thing new we have been offered, after we have been told to trust the Mayor, trust the Board of Education, and trust the Superintendent of Schools is—trust the Commissioners."

Shanker said that anyone who attempts to say that Rhody McCoy would work for the Commissioner is trying to hoodwink the people. McCoy's position has been consistent, he pointed out, he is for community control and representation by the Community. He also dealt with the concerns that that victory will vanish when we have to go back. I am ready to walk out tomorrow if there is no compliance. We have nothing to lose, and we could gain the respect of the community as a group that has been willing to stand up and should stand up and do something for the community.

"Yet the Mayor, and the Board, and the Commissioner continue to allow the schools to be closed to teachers and children in order to see if that is not an illegally appointed group remains there," Shanker said. He went on by citing another court decision—one that had come out of the Ocean Hill governing board's attempt to obtain a court decision against the Board of Education for suspending the school. The Court decided not only that the Board of Education had a right to suspend the governing board, but also said that the decision by which that board had been selected was suspect, as were subsequent appointments made to the board. The delegate also raised questions about the propriety of the role of the Ford Foundation in the creation of the district board.

Shanker devoted a part of his remarks to the news coverage of the strike and the bias many teachers feel has been evident. He said, "We must realize that people who own newspapers have enough money to have battles against unions." He was critical of the fact that none of the major papers have reported the Rinaldi decision, or the recent decision raising questions as to the legality of how the governing board was constituted. "But it is always mentioned that the strike is illegal," he said. "How many stories do you read that say that the highest attendance in the district was right after we went in, and right after Rhody McCoy was suspended?"

"There is a fantastic job being done on us," he went on, "the one thing they just can't tolerate, is that we are an organization that has always stood for civil rights for both black and white. If it were another organization they could write their articles more easily—but, we haven't turned around with backslap people, or backslap signs—we have turned every time we went back and offered to extend a hand to any community that will work with us."

"It's very simple to write a column—to put words in my mouth. I think that all of these writers who are trying to rewrite our history and our progress and our spirit—I think that they ought to look into themselves and see if they haven't taken a racist position—a racist position which says that Mr. McCoy and the governing board must be treated differently, and that we must tolerate from them anything that we would not tolerate from others in the system."

The UFT President also dealt with the concerns many teachers have had that the opening of schools for the election might result in large numbers of parents and teachers entering the schools. He said, "All this means is that a few thousand votes will be spread over a number of schools and that none of the striking teachers will go back." The delegates rose to applaud his approval.

In commenting on the possibility of a special session of the state legislature, Mr. Shanker said, "We did not, and are not asking for it. It has not been our purpose to have the deconcentration legislation repealed. We have said it before and we say it now. I hope the situation will be resolved in the next few days without such a session."

Walter Degnan, President of the Council of Supervisory Associations, also spoke to the delegates. He too countered the charges that the professionals were acting in the best interests of students. He said, "I don't think there is any group in the world that is more concerned about the recruitment of students and teachers than the teachers and the supervision of this city. Now—if we are to be seen as not being that way simply because our position is unpopular—that would be a most dastardly thing."

Most delegates who spoke were in favor of continuing the strike; a few spoke their opposition to that course of action. Mark Ullerman from Central Commercial High School said, "I think we have made a mistake. We should stand and should stay out—but I am concerned that we will try to go back and say that we want it."

The UFT President expressed the hope that this would not be a failure but a victory, namely the resignation of the Rinaldi administration. Shanker added, "We want the Mayor and all other parties concerned to guarantee that we can teach without harassment and with academic freedom, and so that we can discuss any issue in any district."

Emanuel Weinberg from the Bureau of Child Guidance spoke out in favor of accepting the Allen proposal. He said, "We should accept this proposal on this basis. There comes a time when we have to be trusting and go back. I am ready to walk out tomorrow if there is no compliance. We have nothing to lose, and we could gain the respect of the community as a group that has made every effort in the last dispute."

Later the same day Governor Rockefeller echoed the union chief's reservations about a special legislative session and said he hoped the parties would work it out for themselves. Mayor Lindsay expressed an even greater doubt about the prospects of a special session. He said, "Special sessions are troubled. . . . The consequences of a special session might result in more serious problems than we have now."

In related developments Dr. James E. Allen, Jr. announced that he was continuing his efforts to resolve the dispute; and that evening, on a WABC-TV news program, AI Shanker agreed to an earlier proposal made by Rhody McCoy that a public hearing on the school crisis be held. When questioned by the WCBS reporter as to the degree of public support for the Union Mr. Shanker replied that he would be willing to submit the whole question to a public referendum within 60 days. "That's how confident we are of public support," he said.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 — Mayor Lindsay's proposal calling for school striking to return to work and to submit the issues in the dispute to binding arbitration was rejected today by three of the parties in the dispute.

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District Leaders and Co-Leaders from districts 1-10, front row, (Continued from Page 16)
It is unfortunate that Mr. Shanker described the proposal as "the warmed-over and unacceptable package that would continue to keep those who have threatened violence in the schools."

"Since the Mayor has already said publicly that there have been acts of violence, racism and anti-semitism, he should not ask the issue by bringing it on as an arbitrator—he should act like a Mayor and handle the dispute.

Unit administrator McCoy also cold-shouldered the proposal, saying: "I hardly think there is anything to negotiate except to go to arbitration as the removal of the seven principals in the dispute.

The Mayor's arbitration proposal was in the form of a letter to Mr. Shanker in which he led some state sources to interpret the move as an attempt to seize public pressure for a special session. At a press conference late in the afternoon, Shanker accused the Board of Education and the Mayor with making no move to end the strike. The teachers 'would lose heart.' "That tactic will fail," he added.

Shanker also expressed the union's deep regret over a statement by Whitney M. Young Jr., executive director of the Urban League, which charged that Orient Hill-Brownsville district, and by Board of Education District Leaders and Co-Leaders from districts across the city into "ruthless play" with a stiffening of the atmosphere. Shanker added that "Mr. Shanker created the issue of racism and anti-semitism."

"The issue of due process for teachers, a dubious issue from the beginning," Shanker charged that Mr. Shanker was "making a ruthless play for power" depriving children of "their right to an education" and threatening the city into "racial strife."

Mr. Young, who today resigned from Mayor Linday's cabinet, also charged that "Mr. Shanker created the issue of racism and anti-semitism."

"It is also interesting to note that Mr. Young believed that the firing of 19 educators and the refusal of the Orient Hill-Brownsville governing board to reinstate them does not involve a serious issue of due process. It is not true, and I do not believe that teachers, too, should enjoy civil rights," Shanker added.

"This existence partnership, his denial to denounce racism and anti-semitism, his refusal to denounce violence will do much to impair his effectiveness as a civil rights leader and will lend little credit in the eyes of the UFT members."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2—Behind the scenes talks occupied most of the time of the chief proponents involved in the dispute today. State Education Commissioner James E. Allen, Jr. was meeting privately, trying to put together a package acceptable to all sides in the controversy.

Appropriately, Commissioner Allen's plan was based upon his idea for a State "conciliation" over the Orient Hill-Brownsville demonstration district, a proposal that had been rejected by the union on Tuesday. JHS Vice President John O'Neill held a press conference at which he called for the name of UFT Pres. Albert Shanker by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers, the parent body of UFT. Mr. O'Neill, who still holds his offices pending the "though he does not draw salary from the UFT, main- tained that Pres. Shanker had been in violation of the AFT constitution was "guilty of racial de- magogy.""

Dan Sanders, UFT public relations director, charged that Mr. O'Neill was a "sore loser who has lost all credibility in the eyes of the UFT members."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd—a UFT President Al Shanker said on "Newsmakers," a noon WCBS-TV program that a proposal that the New York State legislature, 'if the school crisis were not settled by election day, Mayor Lindsay announced later, on his weekly Sunday evening program, that he was calling all the parties to meet at Gracie Mansion the next morning at 11:00 a.m. In his TV appearance, Mr. Shanker had said that if the Mayor, the State Commissioner, and the Board of Education could come up with "one single unified proposal, to provide for compliance—of proportion containing the strongest proposals of all of them. I am convinced that if they did that I could take it back to the membership."

Those who were invited to attend the Gracie Mansion meeting included: Dr. James McCaslin, Chancellor of the State Board of Regents; Dr. James E. Allen, Jr., the State Education Commissioner, John A. Doar, President of the Board of Education, and Dr. Bernard E. Donovan, Superintendent of Schools. Shanker had proposed his members regarding the possible legislative session, Mr. Shanker said, "We are not calling for a special session to defeat decentralization . . . there's a very reason why a special session should do that." He said that a special session should only "restructure" the district so that teachers could return with "relaxed assurance that they're not going to be threatened tomorrow."

Governor Rockefeller said later the same day that both Dr. Allen and Mayor Lindsay had asked him not to call a special session. Senate Majority Leader Earl W. Bryan said that if such a session were called it would "be the last of decentralization for the reasonably foreseeable future.

In his remarks on the "Newsmakers" program, Mr. Shanker referred to a question on the "mobology" as "nub rub" and "wigilant," said: "We have a peculiar situation where the words describing a particular fact are used to mean something else."

When 200 people stand in front of a school and block its doorways is it a mob?

On an earlier program at 11:00, John O'Neill, UFT Vice President for Junior High School, repeated an announcement he had made on Saturday, calling on the Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers to remove Mr. Shanker from his position as President of the United Federation of Teachers. According to the "Newsmakers," Mr. O'Neill was interviewed by Milton Bergerman of the Citizen Union; Leonard Buder, Education reporter for the New York Times; and Gabe Pressman of NBC-TV.

"We're not being asked to pacify or appease Mr. Shanker but . . . to return to classroom duties in a healthy atmosphere."

Mr. O'Neil replied that he was seeking such a referendum. He called for an rally of teachers opposing the UFT at the Union headquarters at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, and predicted "thousands" would come.

Mr. O'Neill admitted that there had been harassment of teachers in Orient Hill-Brownsville but said that he had never personally heard any threats. He said that the Mayor's program would not impose a "mob mentality" and that you "have to view it in the context of the situation out there." He blamed the Board of Education for "not defining the powers of local boards there clearly and predicted "five or ten years of chaos in the public school system."

The UFT Vice President said that reports quoting him as having called President Shanker "a racist" were correct. He said that Mr. Shanker had "insulted" the teachers and that the whole dispute could have been solved in May. When asked what his own solution to the crisis would be, Mr. O'Neill replied, "patience and understanding." He also accused the UFT of speaking "without defining the powers of local boards there clearly and that you "have to view it in the context of the situation out there." He blamed the Board of Education for "not defining the powers of local boards there clearly and that you "have to view it in the context of the situation out there." He blamed the Board of Education for "not defining the powers of local boards there clearly and that you "have to view it in the context of the situation out there." He blamed the Board of Education for "not defining the powers of local boards there clearly and that you "have to view it in the context of the situation out there." He blamed the Board of Education for "not defining the powers of local boards there clearly and that you "have to view it in the context of the situation out there."