

J. Lindsay Almond School Integration Speech (excerpt), Jan. 20, 1959 Transcription

To those whose purpose and design is to blend and amalgamate the white and negro race and destroy the integrity of both races;

To those who disclaim that they are integrationists but are working day and night to integrate the schools;

To those who don't care what happens to the children of Virginia;

To those false prophets of a little or token integration;

To those in high places and elsewhere who advocate integration for your children and send their own to private or public segregated schools;

To those who defend or close their eyes to the livid stench of Satanism, sex, immorality, and juvenile pregnancy infesting the mixed schools of the District of Columbia and elsewhere;

To those who would overthrow the custom, mores, and traditions of a way of life which has endured in honor and decency for centuries and embraced a new moral code prepared by nine men in Washington whose moral concepts they know nothing about;

To those who would substitute bright bitterness, turmoil, and chaos for the tranquility and happiness of an orderly society;

To those who would destroy our way of life because of their pretended concerns over what Soviet Russia may think of us;

To all of these and their confederates, comrades, and allies let me make it abundantly clear; for the record now and hereafter as governor of this state I will not yield to that which I know will be wrong and will destroy every rational semblance of public education for thousands of the children of Virginia. I call upon the people of Virginia to stand firmly with me in this struggle. Be not dismayed by recent judicial deliberances.

Citation: Excerpt from J. Lindsay Almond School Integration Speech, 20 January 1959 (WRVA-386), WRVA Radio Collection, Accession 38210, Library of Virginia.