

EDWARD R. MURROW

485 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 22, N.Y.

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Dear Governor Almond:

During the past three weeks, we have had a camera crew in Norfolk filming material for a special one-hour report on the school closing situation. This will be presented on the CBS Television Network in late January.

We began this project with the assumption that this was a complex question, that there are sincere people with wide differences of opinion, and that the nation-wide reporting of this controversy left much to be desired in granting all shades of opinion a full and fair hearing. We attempted to launch this project without pre-judgement except for a feeling that this was a dilemma which had decent people in all walks of life seeking a solution.

We found the people of Norfolk extremely cooperative. From Colonel James G. Martin, IV, President of the Tidewater Educational Foundation to Robert McKendree, a leader of the Defenders and President of the Norfolk PTA Council, to Rev. James Brewer, Chairman of the Norfolk Committee for the Public Schools, we found articulate, responsible people eager to state the views of their organizations. Among other things, we filmed a Board of Directors' meeting of the Tidewater Educational Foundation and covered classes at Tidewater Academy which, as you know, has just been accredited. Thanks to your cooperation, Dr. Davis Y. Paschal gave us permission to film the closed public schools.

We feel that the large audience which will view this program (it will be shown on a weekday evening) will come away with an understanding both of the issues and of the traditions of Virginia.

I feel that one of the major obligations of this program is to present a clear picture of your position and that of the General Assembly. For that purpose, I should like to interview you on film at your convenience during the first week in January. This would require approximately one hour of your time. Our crew could install lights and equipment after working hours to minimize disruption of your schedule. During the next week we will telephone your Executive Secretary to discuss this in more detail.