THE STATE OF EDUCATION CENSORSHIP IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FIELD

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25 • 1:00 PM EST
Today's Agenda

- Welcome
- Report Overview
- Deep Dive 1
- Deep Dive 2
- Wrap Up & Calls to Action
Housekeeping

• **This webinar is being recorded**. All those who registered will receive a follow up email with a link to access the recording, slides, and any other resources the panel may want to share.

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Today’s Panel

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Education Fellow
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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Report Overview

Themes

1. Legislation Targeted Toward the Erasure of Ethno Racial Diversity in Schools

2. Legislation Targeted Toward the Erasure of Sex, Gender, and LGBTQ+ Diversity in Schools

3. Distorted Narratives through WhistleBlown Language

4. Funding
Report Overview
Progress Retracted

- Federal & State Legislation
- Political & Physical Violence
- Reshaping of the Educator Workforce
- Exposing the Narrative

The new “Southern Manifesto” recently adopted by Congress has been a timely and entirely justifiable declaration denouncing the administration’s so-called civil rights program as unconstitutional and calling for its defeat. The second “Manifesto,” like its predecessor, transcends sectional considerations.

In their earlier “Manifesto,” Southerners in Congress protested the Supreme Court’s ruling against school segregation, pleading to exercise every legal means to prevent that unfortunate bit of judicial legislation from being forced upon the South. The second “Manifesto” now seeks to thwart similar tyranny in the matter of “civil rights.”

The latest declaration exposes the evils of so-called civil rights legislation now pending, citing in complete detail the dangers inherent to the liberties of all Americans, under the false pretense of protecting “minority rights.” Stripped of its plain language, such legislation presents a Civil Rights Commission with the aid of paid investigators, unavowed pressure groups and self-appointed reformers would wage relentless war against Southern states at taxpayer expense.

As the second “Southern Manifesto” points out, Americans who entertain notions that the so-called racial issue is paramount today are due for a rude awakening if and when pending “civil rights” legislation ever becomes law. Not only will it trample underfoot the civil rights of all Americans but it also places extremely dangerous powers in the hands of federal bureaucrats.

Proposed legislation would require that all civil actions be filed in the federal courts and tried without a jury. Congress for the first time would permit the U.S. Attorney General to by-pass state law and ignore available local remedy. Thus our politically-minded Attorney General could subject the governments of states, counties and cities to insults, intimidation and a literal reign of terror against from which there could be no reprieve.

Thinking Americans devoted to Constitutional government must realize that the so-called civil rights legislation now pending in Congress can have no other effect than to further inflame an already critical situation. Such legislation is certain to result in destroying the good will and harmonious relations existing between the races in the South, and in the entire nation for that matter. If the second “Southern Manifesto” can serve to arouse Americans to the danger involved in “Civil rights” measures, it will have served a highly useful purpose.

All who have the country’s welfare at heart should join with the South in our fight to defeat this vicious and sinister bid for colored votes at the expense of our internal security. It is a long stride in the direction of Communism.
Report Overview

Legislation Targeted Toward the Erasure of EthnoRacial Diversity in Schools

- individual vs. structural racism
- accurate and complete history
- inclusive classroom (communities)
- inclusive content and curriculum
- scholarly tools versus standard P-12 content and curriculum
Report Overview
Legislation Targeted Toward the Erasure of Sex, Gender, and LGBTQ+ Diversity in Schools

- predates current political issues
- proliferation of no promo homo laws
- some affirmation of protections for students
- conflating ethno-racial diversity with gender and sexual diversity of students
- scholarly tools versus standard P-12 content and curriculum
Report Overview
Distorted Narratives through WhistleBlown Language

- Critical Race Theory (CRT)
- 1619 Project
- divisive concepts
- diversity equity and inclusion (DEI)
- LGBTQIA+
Report Overview
Funding

- Funding Violations (CRE)
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Precedent for Other States
- Penalties for Schools
- Penalties for Educators
Implications for Higher Education

- Foreground the role of teachers in an educated democracy
- Acknowledge the importance of preservice educators learning about social and educational inequalities
  - Educational inequalities often correlate with racial disparities
  - Importance of cultivating the ability to think broadly about our society and history
  - Encourage full examination of the history of American schooling

- Be explicit about curricular and pedagogical choices
- Interrogate divisive language (e.g., "indoctrination")
Implications for Higher Education

- Be clear about the important role of deliberative discussion
  - Preservice educators should be provided with a rich diversity of texts and other materials
  - Multiple perspectives and debate spur learning and growth
  - Deliberative discussion does not occur spontaneously
    - Discussion Project
    - For PK-12: *The Political Classroom* Evidence and Ethics in a Democratic Education

- Prepare preservice educators to address censorship

- Keep controversies in perspective
  - NPR poll shows most families are satisfied with the way their child's school treats issues related to race and gender
Implications for the Teaching Field

- Educator Preparation Programs
- Expertise & Intellectual Freedom
- Interfering with (Research-Based) Instructional Practices
- Limiting / Erasure of Curriculum Materials
- Serving Diverse Student Populations
- Reduction of Educator Pipeline
Potential Implications for EPPs

- Restrict the intellectual freedom of teacher educators and the liberty to create program standards that support this work.
- Create significant and costly bureaucratic burdens that stifles student learning.
- Negatively impact retention and attrition rates among educators.
- Inhibit the ability of educators to fully serve diverse students and their needs.
- Interfere with research-based, instructional practices that maximize critical thinking skills and prepare students to compete in an increasingly globalized market economy.
- Prevent use of innovatively inclusive content and curriculum standards in teacher preparation programs.
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