

For more than twenty years, Negro scouts, institutional representatives, leaders and district committees of the Occoneechee Council and Region Six of the Boy Scouts of America have appeared to the executive board of the Occoneechee Council, Region Six and the National Council for representation on the executive board and councils as any other scouts and leaders of councils as stipulated by the National Council. We have been repeatedly denied this representation and all three bodies have turned deaf ears to our requests.

On June 19, 1962 the Durham District followed up a conference with the scout executive with a letter to Armistead Maupin, council president, requesting the use of Camp Durant (the only Boy Scout camp owned and operated by the Occoneechee Council) in the scouting program as any other scouter, scout, explorer, or unit; that our districts be give equal representation on the executive board of the council as required by the National Council and as ALL white districts are given; and that all of our institutional representatives be recognized as official members of the Occoneechee Council as required under Article XII, Section 2, Clause 7 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Boy Scouts of America. Our letter was signed by sixty-five registered scout leaders and copies were sent to Ellsworth H. Augustus, national president, Boy Scouts of America; Joseph A. Brunton, Jr., chief scout executive; Ray W. Sweazey, director Urban Relationships Service (formerly the Interracial Service); Spurgeon P. Gaskin, regional executive, Region Six; Wallace E. Wood, scout executive, Occoneechee Council; Charles R. Lewis, chairman Enoe District; Nat A. Gregory, chairman, Shawnee District; James Bates, Chris C. Hamlet, Elisha M. Herndon, I. L. Dean, members of the board and others. Until this writing Spurgeon P. Gaskin has been the only one who has extended the courtesy of a reply.

Through the years our conferences with Calud Humphries, Stanley Harris, A. J. Taylor, W. Y. Compton, Herbert Stukey, Weaver Marr, W. A. Dobson, E. A. Resch, E. N. Brower, Roy Armstrong, W. W. Noel, Ray Sweazey and others have brought us nothing. W. A. Dobson, then regional executive of Region Six on November 19, 1955 told our district in a conference in Durham that "there are no Negroes on executive boards in Region Six and there would be none as long as he was regional executive."

In 1947 fund raising drives were launched to develop Camp Durant and Camp Moore. Although several thousands of dollares were raised and set aside for Camp Moore for Negro Scouts, the camp was never developed and these boys have had to attend camp at Reedy Creek State Park while white scouts have been attending Camp Durant, a well developed Boy Scout camp. Our last inquiry of the funds raised for Camp Moore brought a statement that the funds had become property of the Occoneechee Council and that the executive board could use as it saw fit.

The Congress of the United States chartered the Boy Scouts of America on June 19, 1916 and it gives the organization the franchise ownership of its name, seal, emblems, insignia, etc. and the power to make and adopt by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the United States. It is not enough to just make scouting "available" to Negro boys. We should be fully represented on policy and program planning and making bodies and committees as established by the National Council for council organizational structure.

Although these inequities have existed for decades, the Durham District has carried out a very fine program in scouting and we have tried to make the entire program available to our deserving boys. The Occoneechee Council is among the largest in the nation for Negro units, membership, program, etc., yet our information comes to us through district executives, all Negro leader meetins, called by the council, or through releases. None of our leaders are present at any of the planning meetings.

In our letter a year ago, we stated that "It is our hope that these requests will receive favorable consideration to prevent any unfavorable pulicity or

embarrassment to the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America." We are now ready to begin our publicity campaign, legal proceedings and demonstrations with boys and leaders in uniform in New Brunswick, N. J., Raleigh and Atlanta and with any other council where Negro leaders and boys can join us.

Scoutingly yours,

DURHAM DISTRICT-OCONEECHEE COUNCIL, B. S. A.

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Commissioner

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June 16, 1963