Turmoil in the schools

Despite the massive amount of school desegregation throughout the South, statistics are unable to gauge accurately the progress of race relations in education. In-school discrimination against blacks is reported to exist on a broad scale in several forms: segregation within the classroom, insensitivity of principals and other top school officials to the needs of black students, demotion or ouster of experienced black teachers and administrators, lack of firm and equal discipline for students. RRIC commissioned two North Carolina newsmen to make a special survey of this turmoil in the public schools of North and South Carolina, as an example of the overall problem in the region's schools.

The newsmen report that "from numerous schools in both states have come a steady stream of complaints." The two writers, Bob Boyd and Allen Sloan of the Charlotte Observer, found that "reports are far from exaggerated about widespread violence in the Carolinas,..."Tense boycotts, confrontations between white and black students and outbreaks of violence in the two states have frequently hinged on disputes over racial make-up on cheerleading squads, student government organizations and school clubs," "Those problems," the newsmen found, "merely symphonize a larger problem, the inability of many principals and superintendents to cope with the problems of student conduct and social interaction thrust upon their schools by desegregation." School and civil rights officials predict that much more school turmoil lies ahead and a new round of court suits can be expected. A preview of the Boyd-Sloan survey is included inside this issue.

Sickle-cell test requested

A black geneticist at Yale University has charged the nation's public health agencies with being "unconsciously derelict" for not requiring marriage-bound blacks to have a special blood test detecting the inherited sickle-cell trait. Sickle-cell anemia affects one of every five black Americans, including

Minority publishers plan to challenge the Association of American Publishers....The era of "Negroes playing Negroes" is reported nearing an end....The misdemeanor trail of a Chicano leader sparked widespread resentment....