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Recommended Citation

Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Miss.), "Barnett Sends Governors Putnam's Book on Race" (1961). *Clippings*. 9. https://egrove.olemiss.edu/citizens_clip/9

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Barnett Sends Governors Putnam's Book On Race

Gov. Ross Barnett announced here Tuesday afternoon that he has sent copies of the recently published book, "Race and Reason — A Yankee View," to each of the governors of the other 49 states.

He said that it is his hope that the book will enlighten all chief executives as to the fallacies of integration and that the information may be passed on by them to the people of their respective states.

The book, written by Carleton Putman, former president of Delta Airlines, born and reared in the North, goes into all facets of the segregation versus integration question, much of it given to questions and answers. It is published by Public Affairs Press, Washington.

Gov. Barnett said that the books had been given to him by two outstanding Mississippi attorneys, and, that he decided the best way to distribute them was to the governors of states.

In a letter to each governor, Barnett said:

"In my judgment, many people in all sections of our country who support racial integration do so because of an inadequate understanding of its full significance. They have not given the issues involved through consideration: and, consequently, integration to them probably means no more than riding on a train or bus with a few Negroes or having a comparatively small number of them in their public schools. They evidently have not realized that the basic question is whether the white race is gradually to merge with the black race and thereby eventually become extinct, at least in our country.

I cannot believe that this fundamental fact has been forcibly impressed upon the national mind, because it defies reason to suppose that a majority, or even a sizable minority, of the people in the United States want to destroy the white race.

"It is, therefore, entirely possible that many people who disagree with us do so, not because of the basic difference in attitude toward amalgamation with the

negro, but because they are either misinformed or insufficiently informed as to the full meaning and consequences of the integration movement.

"Therefore, one of our greatest needs is that of public education; and the purpose of this letter is to urge that in meeting this need we make full use of a very valuable instrument which is already available to us. Carleton Putman's book, "Race and Reason, a Yankee View," contains a brief, forceful, and understandable presentation of the reasons why integration would be disastrous; and if read by enough people in all sections of our nation — it could well change public opinion throughout the country.

"Since some members of the press cannot be expected to give us any real assistance in advertising the book, it will be brought to general public attention, if at all, by conservatives. Therefore, I suggest that we, as Governors, discuss and emphasize the book whenever we have an audience. The news syndicates and television networks will, no doubt, be spotlighting racial integration activities in most of our states in the not too distant future; and as we all know, one of their favorite news sources is the Governor. On such occasions, we have nationwide coverage; and it is my suggestion that we take full advantage thereof to urge all people everywhere to read Mr. Putman's book. It seems to me that it should be done rather dramatically with some such remark as, "If all Americans want to understand why the South feels the way it does, then there is one short book every one should read."

"I take the privilege of writing you solely because I deeply feel that we urgently need to inform the people of the nation about the full import of racial integration and because I earnestly believe that Mr. Putman's book could do much to alter public opinion.

"I enclose a copy of the book.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Ross R. Barnett

"Governor of the State of Mississippi"