### **TEACHER'S GUIDE**

## **Primary Source Document Collection**

MISSION US: "No Turning Back"

#### Five-Point Action Program of the Citizen's Council

White opponents of racial integration in public schools formed Citizens' Councils throughout the South during the 1950s and 1960s. In Mississippi, the Citizens' Council received funding from the state budget. These white segregationists, often prominent business and social leaders, organized against Black voter registration and used violence and intimidation to stop civil rights actions.

# **Five-Point Action Program** 1. Prevent Race-Mixing. Racial integrity is essential to civilization and liberty. The fate of the white man (and woman) in the Congo and other new African nations is a stern warning! 2. Avoid Violence. Experience has proved that where integration occurs, violence becomes inevitable. Peaceful operation of segregated schools in the South proves that social separa-tion of the races is best for all concerned. Maintain and Restore Legal Segregation. As growing disorder in Northern cities shows, if segregation breaks down, the social struc-ture breaks down. The Communists hope to achieve disintegration through integration in 4. **Defend States' Rights.** The states are the source of all governmental power, local and Federal. Under the Tenth Amendment, the states have the reserved power to decide questions of segregation. Federal usurpation of any such power is a violation of the Constitution. Correct the Court and the Congress. Both the Supreme Court's "Black Monday" decision and the Congressional "Civil Rights" Act are obviously un-Constitutional, based on false "science" in mockery of the law. If they ternarriage are doomed. Such a prospect is intolerable! The "Black Monday" decision must be reversed, the "Civil Rights" Act repealed! stand, social segregation and laws against in-JOIN THE CITIZENS' COUNCIL Organization is the Key to Victory! Distributed by:

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#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. How did white segregationists organize to oppose integration?
- 2. What were the main aims of the Citizens' Council in the action program?
- 3. What did the Citizens' Council say would happen if integration was successful?

