

Haverford's Dr. Reid, at 65, Expects a Busy 'Retirement'

By JOHN F. MORRISON
Of The Bulletin Staff

Dr. Ira DeAugustine Reid is a sociologist who is not afraid to admit that some of today's sociological problems have him baffled.

He's not afraid to shake his head sadly and confess that he just doesn't know the answers to the many problems being generated daily by the increasing urbanization of America.

Dr. Reid talked about some of these problems—and on the many other subjects he's studied over the years as teacher, writer, and world traveler—in his home on the Haverford College campus.

He will retire as professor of sociology at the college at the end of this academic year. He has reached the mandatory retirement age of 65.

He'll Keep Busy

Dr. Reid, one of the better-known Negro educators in this country, will be about as busy in retirement as he's been as a full-time teacher.

He will continue to live in his home at 2 College lane, on the Haverford campus, and will conduct from there searching studies of the problems of the elderly under two federal grants.

Next week, he will go to Washington for a White House conference on civil rights. In November, he will travel to New Delhi, India, to participate in the Third World Conference on Medical Education.

Meanwhile, there are his positions on the city Commission on Higher Education, the Mayor's Committee on City Scholarships, as well as his activities with the Society of Friends, of which he is a member, and miscellaneous other activities.

Grew Up in Germantown

Dr. Reid is a Virginia-born, Germantown-reared former semiprofessional basketball player who has no rags-to-riches story to tell. His father was a Baptist minister and his mother was a college graduate.

He attended private schools and was always encouraged to go to college. It was only for the short period of two years while a youngster in Savannah, Ga., that he got an inkling of how poor was the public education for Southern Negroes of that time.

Although the white and Negro families lived side by side in Savannah, they went to separate schools. And the white boys would teach the Negro boys such subjects as physics, which they were studying, but which weren't offered in the Negro schools.

"I learned physics in the streets of Savannah," he says.

He was able to catch up to the white boys through private school and tutoring at home, but the boys he left behind in the Negro school would never catch up, he said.

The Germantown he remembers as a boy was not part of the same big city of today and it is the changes that disturb Dr. Reid and cause him to wonder if many of the urban problems can be solved.

"We used to follow the lamplighter on his rounds," he recalled, "and when he told us to go home, we went home."

"We had neighborhoods in those days. There's no such thing today. The corner grocer, the man in the drugstore, they wouldn't let us do certain things."

"And if you didn't show up at school, a teacher went to see your father the next day."

Informal Controls Gone

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He believes part of the cause is that "too many people moved in too rapidly." There is no longer the sense of community in the city, no feeling of social responsibility or concern for others, he said.

Dr. Reid said he believes that many attack on the social problems of the big city must begin with the family. The parents must be encouraged to

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He said something happens to the children of these families in the five or six years before they get into the schools that marks them for life.

"It is almost impossible," he said, "for them to ever reach the standards of their peer group."

"Colored kids find a certain comfort in being racial," he went on. "They come from families who have been blocked out of society so long, they have adjusted on the outside of things."

As a result of these conditions, he said, society demands that the schools "become reform institutions as soon as the children enter them."

Dr. Reid said nothing short of "social revolution" is needed to solve the problems of increasing urbanization. Old ways of thinking about social problems and of dealing with them must be overthrown.

Political Reorganization

He believes there must be a political reorganization as well. Some form of metropolitan government is necessary because the growing urban areas cross political boundary lines, he said.

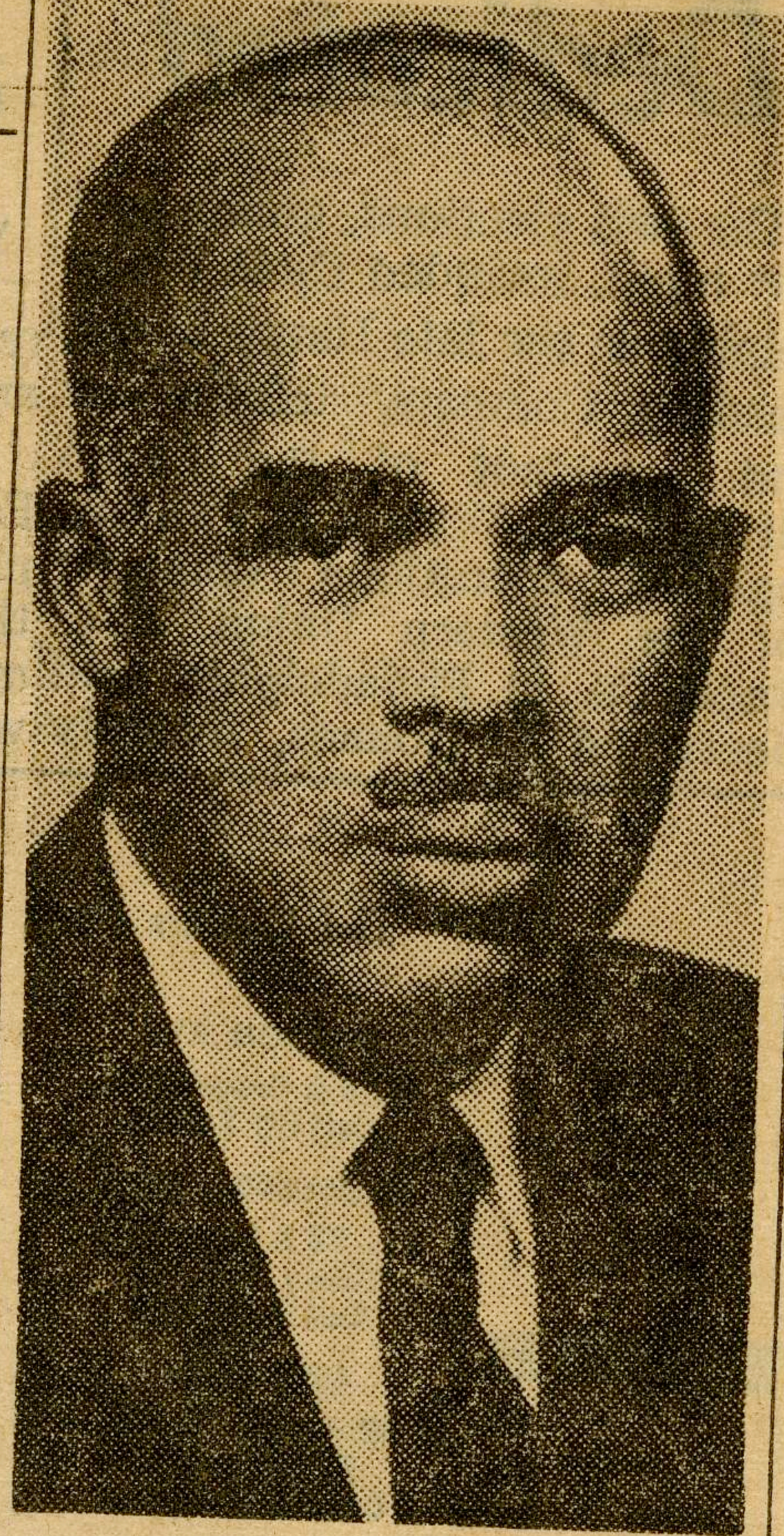
Dr. Reid believes that agitation by civil rights groups and others seeking social changes has its place.

"Agitation," he said, "breaks the hard crust."

Dr. Reid is a supporter of U. S. policy in Viet Nam, but he said he is pleased to see college students demonstrating against it and even against the draft.

"These demonstrations are causing their elders to face up to certain issues that they might not otherwise have considered," he said. "Remember that the one free-thinking group throughout the world is youth."

Many of the demonstrators are not solely pacifists, but they



Dr. Ira DeAugustine Reid

dislike the way this country is "confronting other people of the world." This, he said, is a legitimate point of argument.

Doctorate From Columbia

Dr. Reid was graduated from Morehouse College, in Atlanta, and holds a master of arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh and doctor of philosophy degree from Columbia University.

He came to Haverford College in 1946 as a visiting professor of sociology while on the faculty of New York University. The next year he came to Haverford as a full-time professor and became head of the sociology department.

Dr. Reid, who is six feet, four inches tall, played both varsity basketball and football at Morehouse College and played semi-pro basketball in New York City.

In 1962 and 1963, he taught in Nigeria and Japan and traveled extensively in the East. His wife, Anne, holds a doctorate degree in fine arts from Yale University. A daughter, Mrs. Enid Odo, 23, is the wife of a graduate fellow in Chinese history at Princeton University.

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Marked for Life

He said that through his contacts with teachers who deal with culturally deprived children he was amazed at “what comes into the schools to be
