[MS-0234.002.011.061]

January 23, 1980

Mr. H. Brown
Computer Center
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA

Dear Mr. Brown:

Enclosed is a letter that was sent to Dr. J. Griffith. I thought you might like a copy.

Sincerely,

Clifford Stallings, PH.D.

UNITED STATES
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR

10455 Pomerado Road, San Diego, California 92131 – Telephone (714) 271-4300

January 17, 1980

Dr. J. Griffith
Dept. of Educational Research
4100 Normal Street
San Diego, CA 92103

Dear Sir:

This note to you, was the result of a television show, Saturday Night Live, January 11, 1980. Dr. Arthur Jensen presented a theory of Black inferiority in I.Q. testing. I wrote a formal response to Dr. Jensen which I have enclosed. However, the reason you came to mind is that as I wrote the letter to Dr. Jensen it occured to me, that the one piece of data that seems to consistantly come into question is the poor performance of Black children on I.Q. tests. The one overwhelming piece of data that seems to confront educational researchers is that with equal family income between Black and White children, Black children still score lower than Whites.

I think that I have found one reason that contributes to that conclusion. According to most of the respected researchers, Gilford, Kamin, and Jensen himself, the highest level of intellectual thinking is Minipulation of Abstracts, with the ability to recall information, at the lower level of intellectual capacity.

What I have discovered is that we are in the right church but the wrong pew. We have attempted to use parental income instead of parental occupations as a variable to correlate with intelligence. When this is done, White parents with comparable incomes to Blacks have higher I.Q. scores. I will demonstrate on the chart (see illustrations) that there is a fundamental error that educational researchers have made.

There are occupations that correlate with Minipulation of Abstracts much more than others, by isolating just a few, I again refer you to (B). We are able to demonstrate a point, the occupations enclosed demand higher levels of abstract thought. (C) As we move to those occupations that involved physical labor there is almost no opportunity for the use of Minipulation of Abstracts. We shall call this the time on task phenomena.

It would seem to me that those children who have come from families who are within population (B) have the advantage of time on task. They are constantly in an environment in which minipulations of abstracts are being used.

If we move one step further, by reporting parential data by income instead of occupation this important point is overlooked. But what is more significant is that the shift of emphasis on this data produces a different result.

By reporting income, we discover that under the existing system both Black and White parents could report similar incomes; for example, a Black construction worker could report a median income of $13,000.00 and a White accountant $13,000.00. The accountant, although even in income with the construction worker, is involved in an occupation that gives one an advantage. What figures do not tell us is that one's occupation uses a mental facility that is also highly valued in I.Q. testing.

So Minipulation of Abstracts does not find equal use in occupations.

If we look at the percentage breakdowns I am quite sure that although not accurate, they are within the ball park. As you can see Blacks, as a group, are unequally distributed in the very occupations that use minipulation of abstracts the most.

Illustration

Parental Occupations

	D White	E Black
Minipulation of Abstracts		
B. Lawyer Accountant (CPA) Corporate Exect. Business	*80%	20%

	D White	E Black
Physical Labor		
C. Mail Carrier Clerical Workers Mechanics Construction Workers	20%	80%

*Percentages are rough estimates
Let me suggest that if you would like to research this idea further you get correct percentages.

So as we review what I have presented I suggest that these points be taken into consideration:

I. If minipulation of abstracts is indeed the highest form of intellectual thinking those children who come from homes in which this mental facility is in use have a distinct advantage over those who do not. I have referred to this as the time on task phenomena.

II. That equal family income between Blacks and Whites tells us nothing, that occupations do correlate with minipulation of abstracts.

III. As we look at the percentage of Blacks in the high mental occupations as compared to Whites there is no question that the difference is significant.

IV. What I encourage you to do in the future is have I.Q. scores reported between both groups on the basics of B-C occupations on the illustration scale.

Sincerely,

Clifford Stallings

Cliff Stallings, Ph.D.
Psychology Division
U.S.I.U.

CS/km