

AFFIDAVIT
OF
DR. ERNEST STONE
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

My name is Ernest Stone. I was elected to the office of State Superintendent of Education, State of Alabama, and took office January 16, 1967. I am the Secretary and Executive Officer of the Alabama State Board of Education. I have a doctor's degree and have been a teacher in Alabama for 34 years, less two and one-half years spent in the Armed Forces during World War II.

The Court Order of March 22, 1967, is so far reaching in scope that it will be difficult for me, as State Superintendent of Education, to carry out the directions brought upon me by said Order, even assuming I have full authority to do so. My authority is found in Title 52, Code of Alabama, as amended, and it does not empower me with complete authority over local boards of education in the areas covered by the Court's DECREE.

Without regard to my authority, or lack of it, to enforce the mandates of the DECREE, the following sections must be considered:

Section I of the DECREE directs me, as State Superintendent of Education, to resurvey every school system in Alabama involved in the Court Order before any new construction of school facilities can commence. There are more than 1,800 separate schools in the 99 school systems involved, and it would take several years with the available survey personnel we have to survey each of these 99 school systems. It is, therefore, impractical to completely disregard the surveys of these involved systems as we now have on record. To finance the surveys directed by the Court would be extremely expensive and would take away monies, if available, from other phases of the public education program in Alabama.

Section II of the DECREE deals with the desegregation of faculties in the public elementary and secondary schools, where this section directs that faculty desegregation be effected by the fall of 1967. It is not administratively feasible or practical that this be done in this short time. Many areas of the state lack available white teachers for assignment to schools and likewise other areas do not have Negro teachers available for assignment to schools.

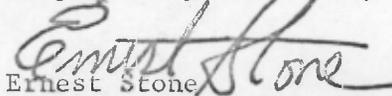
Section III of the DECREE deals with school bus transportation, and it is believed that there is not sufficient time between now and September, 1967, to properly adjust bus routes and to comply with the Court Order in this regard.

Section IV of the DECREE deals with the desegregation plans for all involved school systems. It is here where there is much confusion and additional time is desperately needed to acquaint parents, students, the public, and secure local acceptance of the problems of complete desegregation of all schools.

Section V of the DECREE deals with trade schools, junior colleges, and senior higher institutions of learning under the State Board of Education. These 48 institutions indicate they cannot find suitable faculty personnel to comply with the Order by September, 1967.

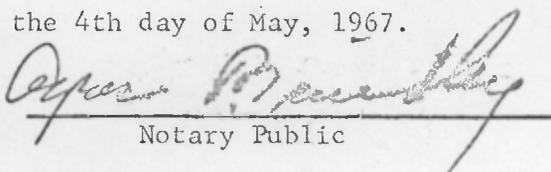
Section VI of the DECREE deals with the equalization of facilities. Both the local and State school authorities are hard at work accomplishing this in good faith.

Respectfully submitted,



Ernest Stone
State Superintendent of Education

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 4th day of May, 1967.


Notary Public