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January 15, 1963

DM:SJB:arg 7429
144-100-32-4

AIR MAIL

Honorable Edward L. Shaheen
United States Attorney
408 Post Office Building
Shreveport, Louisiana

Re: Angel v. Louisiana Board
of Education (Sowela School)
No. CA 1658

Dear Mr. Shaheen:

I am enclosing the text of a letter, furnished our office by the FBI, addressed to Judge West by Rex W. Smelser.

As you may be aware, we have not, in our present investigation of the Sowela school situation, requested an interview of Mr. Smelser. I know of no valid basis for his claim of harassment. As you know, there have been a considerable number of Negro applicants to the school since we settled this litigation, but none have been enrolled.

We do not intend to do anything with reference to Mr. Smelser's letter to Judge West, but I thought you would be interested in having a copy. If any developments along this line come to your attention, I would appreciate your letting me know.

Sincerely,

ST. JOHN BARRETT
Second Assistant
Civil Rights Division

CC:
Records
Chren.
Barrett
Marlin
Encl.
Trial File (Rm. 1140)