

Mr. O.L. Emerick, 16 March 1940 p.4

and state officials. They do not expect however the price of such cooperation to be the abandonment of their constitutional rights. I regret exceedingly that at the hearing before the Board of Education Tuesday, March 12, you saw fit to consider my statement that the citizens are determined to obtain their constitutional rights by all lawful means as a threat. It was not a threat, but it was a plain statement that the Negro citizens want better education and equal educational opportunity for their children who are now in school. This question of equal education is not theoretical. A solution years from now will not advantage the present Negro students. The individual Negro student now in school is not interested except generally in what may come after him. He wants his own individual chance to life and happiness, and to go forth in the community prepared to make himself a useful citizen and to meet the competition for jobs with other citizens white and black.

6. I have written you at this length because I wish to lay down our premises of action. I wish to express my understanding of the difficulties of your problem, but I do not wish to see the solution of these difficulties further saddled on the shoulders of the Negro students who have been getting the short end all these many years.

I sincerely trust the Board of Supervisors will approve the budget recommended and will send it back for further action on the question of bus transportation for Negro students. I further hope that of its own motion the Board of Education and you will either revise the budget or submit a supplementary budget providing for equal transportation of Negro students.

On the question of taxation, I repeat what I said to the Board of Education that it is cheaper in the long run to educate than to punish; to build schools rather than hospitals, insane asylums and jails; to pay teachers rather than policemen; and to educate the citizens adequately rather than to cheat on their education and swell the relief rolls.

I also say in a very sincere way that I trust the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Education will face the problem squarely that Loudoun County is going to have to spend more money on Negro education, either providing such education or fighting against providing it. You know my hope that the money will be spent on education directly, with all the benefits which will come back from a better educated citizenry. I made it clear that we do not want to take any education away from the white children. We do not want white children to have less education, but rather more education in the certain knowledge that the more education they get the more they will be tolerant and understanding with the ambition of Negroes to make themselves better citizens.

7. I trust that because I write frankly you will still believe me sincere in saying I have the utmost respect for you and