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Senator Stennis Civil Rights Correspondence B03F16L03

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TO SENATOR STENNIS

From: Lester Fant

re: Department of Justice and Northern School Segregation.

The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice contains the "Education Section" which consists of 25 Attorneys (33 are authorized) who work out of Washington and who are charged with bringing school desegregation suits all across the country. At present this section has one hundred and seventy five cases pending across the country. Of these one hundred and seventy five, only six are in the north and west, and the rest are in the deep south. Below is an analysis of the six non southern cases:

1. East Saint Louis, Illinois, this case was brought on the grounds that the faculty only was desegregated, and was settled by a consent decree.
2. Madison, Illinois This case was based on faculty segregation only, and was decided favorably to the government.

The remaining cases were brought to contest both faculty and student segregation. The Department of Justice, in each case, argued that the School Board, because of intentional gerrymandering and school construction had, in effect, perpetuated a system of de jure segregation.

3. Tulsa, Oklahoma This case was decided by the Federal District Judge adverse to the government, but the government has appealed. The decision has not yet been published.
4. Waterbury, Connecticut This case has not yet come to trial.
5. South Holland, Illinois This case was decided favorable to the government (301 F. Supp. 201 D.C. Ill 1969) and is being appealed by a group of parents who sought to intervene.
6. Pasadena, California This case was decided favorably to the government. The Judge in the opinion, which has not been published, went outside the grounds alleged by government, and relied on such non school board related matters as residential segregation. The case is now on appeal.