

Investigation File

August 19, 1966

RO:vtt

Reuben Ortenberg  
Attorney

DJ 169-1-1

Bennett v. Madison County, Alabama  
Board of Education

Mrs. Bill Reed  
2612 Arrowood Street  
Huntsville, Alabama  
Tel. 883-0286

Directions - From Albert Pick Motel South on Memorial Parkway to Weatherly Road, (directly opposite Haysland Square Shopping Center) East on Weatherly Road as far as can go - right on Valley Road - left on Vista. Reed's house on South-East corner of Vista and Arrowood.

Mrs. Reed told me that until early July, transfer application forms were not made available to anyone by the superintendent of schools of Madison County. She said that the superintendent had told her that he would not make forms available to troublemakers.

Concerning the summer enrichment program, the superintendent of schools told Mrs. Reed that he could not desegregate grades which were not covered in the court order because there were "farces in this State" that would bring him to court, for doing more than he was required to do.

Mrs. Reed indicated that the Negro community in Madison County is afraid of repercussions and for that reason many Negroes would withdraw their applications from white schools if white officials started making things difficult. She indicated that Mr. Lloyd Carter, a Negro leader in the County had been a school bus driver for about ten years, but may not have that job this September.

cc: <sup>Laudiberg</sup>~~Ortenberg~~  
✓A. Ross

Mrs. Reed said that close to 100 Negroes have applied to go to white schools and that Bill Luvass, a Vista worker, (telephone number 859-2599) would probably have a complete list of Negroes who have applied.

Mrs. Reed said she was surprised to see a representative of the Department after Phil Drapper of American Friends had called the Department in Washington because she said Mr. Drapper had been abusive over the phone. Mr. Drapper is now somewhere in Mississippi.

July 30, 1966

Robert S. Valder  
Auburn, Alabama  
Tel. 887-3592

I spoke with Mr. Valder on the telephone concerning Madison County desegregation plan. He said that on July 11, 1966 the plan was published in the Huntsville Times and it was indicated that transfer forms would be made available through August 19, 1966. He said on July 13, 1966 he drove a total of 65 people to the office of the superintendent of schools. Most of those people obtained transfer forms for themselves and filled them out at that time. Some of the people obtained transfer forms for friends and were permitted to take the forms with them.

NOTE: The July 11th issue of the Huntsville Times does not have the desegregation plan, or any related notice, in it.

July 30, 1966

Lloyd Carter  
Tel. 852-7029

Directions - Route 53 North approximately 15 miles to a sign saying "Toney" - left at intersection to first right-hand turn - North to third house on left past Toney School (white structure on left).

Mr. Carter is a farmer who has been employed as a school bus driver since 1954 for Madison County Board of Education. On July 5, 1966, Mr. Carter brought a group of 70 Negroes to the office of the superintendent of schools so that they could apply for transfer for their children from Negro to white schools. Immediately after he left the office, the superintendent's secretary called after him to come back and told him he was wanted on the phone. Mr. Hall, supervisor of buses, told him to turn his bus into the bus garage so that some work could be done on it. Mr. Carter turned the bus in. He said that since 1954 he has kept the bus at his house every summer and the only time work was done on his bus was when he turned it in to have specific mechanical difficulties corrected. He said that on July 5, 1966, there was nothing mechanically wrong with his bus that he knew of, and that since July 5th he has not heard from Mr. Hall or the superintendent. Mr. Carter considers himself fired.

Mr. Carter had a partial list of the Negroes he brought to the superintendent's office. They are as follows:

Mamie Crutcher	Rt. 1, Box 20, Harvest, Alabama
Emma Gaines	Rt. 1, Box 938, Harvest, Alabama
Wilson Gardner	Rt. 1, Box 23, Harvest, Alabama
Edward Gaines	
Rebecca Staten	Rt. 2, Archmore, Tennessee
Shirley Surles	Rt. 2, Box 463 Toney, Alabama
Patricia Surles	Rt. 2, Box 463 Toney, Alabama
Annie Bell Hachett	Rt. 1, Box 786 Taft, Tennessee

He said that Mr. Luvass may have a complete list but he doesn't know for sure.

Mr. Carter said that since desegregation began in Madison County two years ago, Negroes going to white schools, with the exception of the Jacob's boy, have been transported in separate buses.

The Toney School has outdoor toilet facilities located 300 yards from the plant.

July 30, 1966

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Jacobs  
Tel.

Directions - North on Palaski Pike to Bob Wade Drive. West to store - North to top of hill - Jacobs' house is white on left. Mr. Jacob's father lives on South-East corner of Palaski Pike and Bob Wade Drive.

Mr. Jacobs had nothing to add to information already received from Mrs. Reed and Mr. Carter. His son is the only Negro he knows of who rides to a white school on the same bus with white students. He has not taken any people to the superintendent's office.