

The File

Oct. 13, 1967

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DJ 169-74-4  
#42-201-17

Ross v. Eckels  
Houston, Texas

On October 12, 1967, the person who identified himself as Mr. Springer, of the Houston Post, called concerning developments in the election campaign for the school board. He said that a vicious, racist attack is being mounted by the conservatives against Mrs. White, a Negro member of the board, who is part of the liberal coalition. Some of the charges <sup>were</sup> that she wanted to bus Negroes out of the neighborhood into white schools, and also have the faculties of all schools rotated every two years so as to achieve faculty desegregation. Finally, he said that the administration of the school district was exacting money from teachers and principals to finance the campaign of the conservatives.

Mr. Springer wanted to make the statement in the paper that the Department of Justice was investigating this situation; he hoped that this would stop some of the abuses by the conservatives. I explained to him that I had no authority to commence an investigation of this type and that I would have to consult with Mr. Doar, who is presently out of town. I also said that I would have to look at the facts a little more closely before deciding whether a full scale investigation was necessary. Regarding the charges about the assignment of pupils and faculty, I referred him to the order of Judge Connally entered on September 5, 1967, which would govern many of these matters.

cc: Chrono

Fiss

J. Murphy

Top

Files, Western

On October 13, I had occasion to speak with Mr. Top while he was in Seattle. I brought this matter to his attention so that he could keep his eye on the situation <sup>for</sup> his forthcoming trip to Houston next week. I also asked him to have a research analyst in the Western Section to keep an eye on developments in this election through the Houston Post, and Houston Chronicle.