

August 9, 1937

Teachers' Club
Fla

MEMORANDUM

FROM: MR. MARSHALL
TO: MR. HOUSTON

Just a word to let you know that our Brevard County, Florida Branch is ready to file a case for the equalization of teachers salaries. They have retained the services of S.D. McGill of Jacksonville, Florida and have agreed to pay him five hundred dollars (\$500.). They are asking us to donate money for this case. I have written them telling them of our offer to cooperate and suggesting our plan of furnishing Counsel to cooperate with Mr. McGill. Of course, I do not know what to do about the five hundred dollars and a donation to it. Please let me know what to do about this. ♦

It seems to me that since we won the case in Maryland which is the most northern southern state, it would be well to jump from there to Florida at the bottom of the southern states so that the boys in between would know that we mean business.

I also think it advisable for me to run down there for conferences with this Branch and other Branches in Florida and with Mr. McGill on mapping out the procedure in this case. The Pullman and railroad fare is \$59.70, round trip. I, of course, would not go unless and until they definitely accept our plan.

Let me know about this at once. Will write you more about the Bar Association and everything else later on.

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We will have to go very carefully here and be sure of each step before we move. I agree
on the investigation trip but don't believe it worth while until there is much more
certainty about the case:

- ① Is it to be a taxpayers or teachers suit. How much support does the case have on the
ground? What will the Fla. teachers do; how much will they put up.
- ② How far have the administrative steps and appeals been planned out.
- ③ What studies have been made as to relative living costs; etc.
- ④ How carefully has the proposed plaintiff been selected?
- ⑤ How much is known about the white teachers, their qualifications and living
standards.
- ⑥ How much money from Negro teachers spent in the County
- ⑦ etc.

Basically I don't favor stepping about in this fight. Seems to me we ought
to clean up MA - all counties, then move on to Va, N.C., or Ky or Mo.
states where the apple is ripe. Then we won't dissipate our money and we
will be working in states where the public won't be afraid to support us. We

are up against it financially and must figure on getting back our money.
Fla. is too tired to bring us back what we need.

I don't favor your making the trip until the Branch case accrues us
of \$250 in its treasury. If that can't be done, how & why did they
jump in & make an agreement for \$500 without consulting us. You
see I want to know that there's more than an impulse behind this
case.

The Broward County case is fine if its soundly planted. If the
Branch has done the ground work but lacks the money, I'd say go
ahead with the investigating trip. If it has the money but
does not have the ground work done, I'd say go ahead &
invest there. But if it neither has the money nor has
done the ground work, there is no use taking the trip now.
Get the preliminaries over by correspondence, but be
sure to protect yourself when you write. Always figure
in writing this type of letter, that you may have to meet
up explain it some future day. I await further word from you

Lucie

Recd Aug 18/37