

J. S.
Florida
McGill

, March 4, 1938

S. D. McGill, Esq.,
610 West Duval Street,
P. O. Box 702,
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Mr. McGill:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 20 which has been called to my attention on returning to the office.

I fully understand the question which arises on the failure of the teachers' association to pay the full amount of your retainer. However, in this particular type of case, we have been able to raise money for the defense fund much better after the case has been filed. I hope that this will be true in your case.

In Maryland we have been successful in raising a defense fund to protect whatever teacher or teachers might be discharged as a result of the case. The same is being done in Virginia. It would be very helpful if a defense fund could be raised in Florida. I had hoped to come to Florida, before this case was filed, in order to assist you and also to assist in raising funds for the case. The National Office has furnished counsel in the other cases and we will be happy to cooperate with you in this one. However, in the other cases transportation and expenses have been paid by the local State groups.

As to the petition for mandamus and the

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memorandum brief, please send me a copy of the proposed petition at once so that I can have it as a guide in assembling our cases to submit to you for your brief. Our funds are very limited at the present time and I will be unable to come to Florida before the case is filed, but I do hope to be able to get there at the time of the hearing on the petition. In the meantime, I will work on assembling these cases and let you have them in time for filing your memorandum brief and will do everything possible to assist you.

The Florida Case will do much to bolster the program of the N. A. A. C. P. to equalize teachers' salaries. We are very anxious for a case in the deep South and the Florida Case is the answer. Since we believe this case to be so important, we are very anxious that it have the full support of the entire State of Florida and the support of the Country in general. If this case will be tried some time in the near future, I would suggest that I come down to assist you in the trial and at the same time to canvass the State through our branches and teachers' groups. Let me know how this idea strikes you also.

Very truly yours,

Thurgood Marshall
Assistant Special Counsel

TM:AG