

PETITION  
TO:

The Honorable Paul B. Johnson, Governor of the State of Mississippi and ex officio president of the Permanent Capitol Commission; Herber Austin Ladner, Secretary of State and member of the Permanent Capitol Commission; Walter Dell Davis, Commissioner of Insurance and member of the Permanent Capitol Commission; William Winter, State Treasurer and member of the Permanent Capitol Commission; and T. J. Lilly, superintendent appointed by the Permanent Capitol Commission:

Ten years after the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education declaring that so-called "separate but equal" facilities are inherently unequal in that their effect is to deprive Negroes of their dignity, and that the provision of separate facilities for Negroes deprives them of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment, many of the public washrooms, toilets and drinking fountains in state facilities located in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, are separately labeled for whites or Negroes or are reserved for whites only.

These state facilities include but are not limited to, the Governor's Mansion, the State Capitol Building, the museum in the Old Capitol Building, the Mississippi Coliseum, the State Board of Health Building, the various National Guard Unit buildings located in Jackson, and the State Department of Education offices.

This separate designation of public washrooms, toilets and drinking fountains in the aforementioned state facilities not only affronts the dignity of the Negroes of Jackson and of the State of Mississippi, but also violates the supreme law of the land in that, by its very nature, it deprives the Negroes of Jackson and of the State of Mississippi of their right to equal protection of the laws guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

As citizens of the State of Mississippi residing in Jackson, we respectfully petition you, as the officials responsible for the administration of all such state facilities located in Jackson, to remove all signs or other indicia which designate any public washrooms, toilet or drinking fountains located in state facilities in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, to be for the separate use and enjoyment of white persons or Negro persons only. We

further respectfully petition you to direct all state officials that all public facilities located in any office or building owned, operated or managed by the State of Mississippi are to be open to petitioners and all other Negro persons on the same basis that white persons are permitted to use them.