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, superin­
tendent 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 drink­
ing fountains in state facilities located in the City of Jackson, Missis­
ippi, 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 digni­
ity 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 de­
prives the Negroes of Jackson and of the State of Mississippi of their
right to equal protection of the laws guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amend­
ment to the United States Constitution.

As citizens of the State of Mississippi residing in Jackson, we respect­
fully 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.