For A. Adams

PETITION

TO ROY E. COX, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

We the undersigned parents and citizens of Madison County, because of our concern for the education and welfare of our children, do hereby petition and request that, within one week herof, a hearing be granted whereby the matters and requests stated below may be discussed and peacefully resolved.

1. On Tuesday, September 1, 1964, certain of us and of our children personally appeared at Canton High School and Canton Junior High School and requested that our said children be permitted to transfer to the said Canton Schools. At that time, those so appearing were instructed to return on Thursday, September 3, 1964, which, school officials said, was the proper date to apply for such transfers.

2. On September 3, 1964, certain of us and our children personally appeared at the said schools, and requested that the said children be permitted to transfer to the said schools. Our said children then completed the proper applications for such a transfer and our said children were then told to return to their former schools pending consideration by you of the applications for transfer.

3. By Tuesday, September 8, 1964, the date on which regular school sessions were to commence for the academic year 1964-1965, you had failed to advise the said applicants of your decision regarding the said application for transfer filed with you on September 3, 1964. Accordingly, certain of us and our children again personally appeared at the said schools requesting that our said children be admitted thereto as transfer students. At that time, a school official refused to admit our said children to the said schools as transfer students and our said children were told to return to their former schools.

4. All of your petitioners and our said children are Negroes. Our said children have always attended segregated schools in Canton wherein only Negro children are allowed to attend. The said Canton High School and Canton Junior High School are now, and have always been, restricted to use by children of the Caucasian or white race. Such a segregated school system is inherently unfair and discriminatory to our said children and results in our said children obtaining an education which is inferior to that obtained by the white children of Madison County thereby denyting to our children the equal protection of the law guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the United States.

5. In light of the foregoing facts, it is hereby requested that all of the public schools of Madison County be promptly and completely desegregated in accordance with the 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education forbidding such segregation in public schools and that all children in all grades be permitted to attend such schools as each such child may choose. Although ten years ahve passed since the said decision, public school education in Madison County continues on a segregated basis in violation of the constitutional rights of ourchildren as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court placed the obligation upon local school officials to implement desegregation in public schools, which duty you have not met.

We respectfully request that an immediate reply to this petition be given and a date be set for a hearing to be held one week hereof, to discuss and resolve these requests.

Citizens and Parents of Madison County

dated: September 11, 1964
Canton, Mississippi