

November 18, 1971

The Honorable William Wayne Justice
U. S. District Judge for the Eastern
District of Texas
Federal Bldg.
Tyler, Texas 75701

Dear Sir:

As you know, the Bi-Racial Committee as appointed by the Court in Memorandum Opinion and Order of July 8, 1971 met on three occasions in August 1971 to consider the specific charges given it in paragraphs Nos. 3 and 4 of the above mentioned Order. Their findings were duly presented to the Court and School Board.

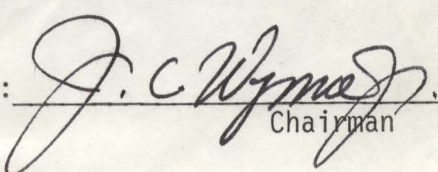
At the time of these meetings, the Committee did not take time to structure itself as they were most concerned with disposing of the issue before it as rapidly as possible. The entire Committee met again on 16 November to consider what action it should take, if any, on the request for a change in symbolism and/or name of Robert E. Lee High School.

The question was brought up as to when does the Committee act to investigate a problem in the Tyler school system. Does it act upon instructions from the Court or the School Board or does it operate independently from the School Board and Court? The majority of the Committee feels it should not interfere with the Bi-Racial Committees of teachers, parents and students with the hope that these groups can resolve the problems within the school system. Secondly, if the Bi-Racial Committee is to be charged with considering all issues that might come up in achieving a unitary system, then more frequent meetings will be necessary. If the Committee is to meet on a more frequent basis, then it will be necessary to have some type of rules to govern its operation. Specifically, who may call a meeting; what constitutes a quorum; and how many members should concur to render an opinion for the Committee. Most of the Committee felt we should seek some direction from the Court on these matters since the Court created the Committee. Certainly, the Committee itself is not in disagreement on any matters of order but did not want to undertake working out its own rules if the Court had something else in mind.

As Chairman, I do feel the Committee can cooperatively work out its own ground rules but was hesitant to do so without first seeking some direction from the Court. Although the Committee members certainly do not agree on all issues, they have worked together harmoniously and in good faith. We would appreciate the Court giving us some advice on these matters. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday night, November 23rd at 7:30 P.M. At that time, we are to consider action taken and issues discussed at the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Tyler Independent School District to be held on Thursday, 18 November 1971.

Respectfully yours

BI-RACIAL COMMITTEE

By: 
Chairman