History of Segregation at U.T., to Roy H. Beeler, October 17, 1942

P. J. Kruesi

Follow this and additional works at: https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_brehm

Recommended Citation
History of Segregation at U.T., to Roy H. Beeler, October 17, 1942, President's Papers, AR.0006. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Special Collections
General Roy R. Beeler,  
Nashville, Tennessee  

Mr. STATE ex rel. Michael v. Henry B. Wisham,  
Dean of the Law School of the University of Memphis, et al

Dear General Beeler:

Admiring, as I do, everything that represents your legal opinions,  
I shall look forward with interest to the receipt of the brief mentioned in your  
letter of the 16th. It has not yet come to hand, but probably will be in Monday's mail.

It is of little consolation to me here at heart the State's interest in its educational system, and in particular in its University, that  
the Supreme Court of the United States may 'nullify' and wrong in the Missouri  
decision. The more one reflects on the ultimate implications of that decision,  
the more disastrous to the economy of the state it becomes.

At the moment the only issue seems to be the admission of negroes to the Law School, but, admittedly, this is only a test case by the plaintiffs,  
referrers of the Ninth. The latter arguments will inevitably be used not only  
as to courses in home economics, but engineering, chemistry, and so forth. Furthermore, the extension of the philosophy (as I see it) laid down in the Missouri  
case, would indicate that sooner or later the demand will be made that  
where there are five or more teacher training schools so distributed geographically  
in the State as to serve a minimum of travel expense to the citizens of each school,  
these other negroes should be admitted to any of those institutions, or the capital and operating expenses of them should be duplicated by like institutions for negroes.

If we were really able to be independent we might ignore the Missouri decision, but we live so largely on Government "pap" that there would be  
an economic weapon available against us which would be compelling.

It is my understanding that the State Department of Education under  
Commissioner Dugger is diligently at work providing at Nashville for the same  
educational opportunities, but that this will really forever settle the question,  
even if and after such facilities are provided, takes a good deal of optimism to believe.

At all events, I appreciate the opportunity to read the argument  
made by you in the State Supreme Court, and have from acquaintance and experience  
that I am well able to compliment you in advance of the reading.

With regards, and esteem,  

Truly yours,  

P.S. D  
cc Dr. Hoskins