

PART FOUR: The Reaction, 1954-1959



WE URGE ALL AMERICANS WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY
TO SIGN THIS PETITION WHICH WE HAVE SIGNED

Mrs. Daisy Bates

Harry Belafonte

Mrs. Ralph J. Bunche

Rev. Edwin J. Dahlberg

Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Father John LaFarge, S. J.

George Meany

Don Murray APR 14 1959

Clarence Pickett

Rabbi Joachim Prinz

A. Philip Randolph

Walter Reuther

Jackie Robinson

Norman Thomas

Roy Wilkins

Charles S. Zimmerman

A PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

- WHEREAS EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL IS THE CENTRAL MORAL ISSUE OF OUR TIMES;
- WHEREAS ON MAY 17, 1954 THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DECLARED SEGREGATED SCHOOLS TO BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND A NEGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY;
- WHEREAS SOUTHERN YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING TO OBTAIN THESE RIGHTS HAVE SUFFERED INDIGNITIES, HUMILIATION AND VIOLENCE;
- WHEREAS THE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN SEGREGATED SCHOOLS THREATENS THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND EMBARRASSES OUR PROFESSIONS OF DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD;
- THEREFORE WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PETITION THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PUT INTO EFFECT AN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM WHICH WILL INSURE THE ORDERLY AND SPEEDY INTEGRATION OF SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

"A Petition to the President and the Congress of the United States,"
received 14 April 1959