

TRANSCRIPTION

Lester Banks Testified Before the General Assembly, September 5, 1956

Announcer: During the afternoon session a number of negro leaders spoke in opposition to all plans, among them Lester Banks, representing the state branch of the NAACP.

Lester Banks: The minds of many Americans having been conditioned to the theory that racial segregation was legal and did not violate the constitution have either supported opposition to the ruling of the Supreme Court in the school segregation cases or have given some sympathy to this opposition. However after two years it is now clear to all concerned that in nine of the southern states and in the District of Columbia, it has been demonstrated that desegregation can be started and completed within a reasonable time. Representing the membership of the Virginia State Conference of branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, may it please the committee we oppose all plans having for their purpose obstruction to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States requiring that public schools become desegregated with all deliberate speed.

Announcer: After Banks and several others spoke in opposition to all programs so far proposed Senator E. O. McCue of Charlottesville took the roster.

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