The American Jewish Committee, pioneer American organization combating bigotry, today hailed the unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court in banning school segregation with the following statement:

"The American Jewish Committee welcomes the unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court (in the school desegregation cases) as a forthright expression of this country's determination to continue to translate democratic principles into realities. In the midst of the free world's struggle against the forces of totalitarianism, America has once again demonstrated that democratic practices must constantly be invigorated. Therein lies the essence and the strength of the democratic spirit for all the world to see.

"The decision is of transcendent importance because it strikes down the legal fictions which up to now have often frustrated true equality of opportunity in America. For, as we pointed out in the brief we filed in the U.S. Supreme Court in these cases: 'The unchallenged finding (of the Court below) that segregation irreparably damages the child lifts (these cases) out of the murky realm of speculation on the issue of equality of facilities, into the area of certainty that segregation and equality cannot co-exist. That which is unequal in fact cannot be equal in law.' Others who joined with the American Jewish Committee in filing the brief were the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Ethical Union, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Japanese American Citizens League and the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice.

"All Americans should take comfort in the Court's ruling that there are no degrees or limitations of equality of opportunity based on differences of race or creed. We join in expressing the hope that the transition from segregation to desegregation will be marked by the good sense for which the American people are known and by their peaceable compliance with the Court's decree."

M.J.
May 18, 1954
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