

Melvin A. Glasser
62 Halsted Place
Rye, New York

May 21, 1954

Dr. John Slawson
Executive Vice President
American Jewish Committee
386 Fourth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Slawson:

You may recall when we lunched together I mentioned to you that Dr. Kenneth Clark and Dr. Otto Klineberg had testified in the South Carolina school segregation case. They had been asked to testify as expert witnesses on the effects of segregation on the personality development of children. Their testimony was based on the findings of the fact-finding studies of the Mid-Century White House Conference on Children and Youth.

By this time you doubtless have seen the full text of the U. S. Supreme Court decision in the school segregation case, with its heavy emphasis on the social and psychological effects of segregation. I understand much of this emphasis came from the White House Conference material. Footnote number 11 of the decision refers to Dr. Clark's White House Conference study and to Chapter VI of the final report "Personality in the Making," edited by Helen Witmer and Ruth Kotinsky.

I understand, very indirectly, that Justice Jackson said informally after the decision was rendered that he was well-impressed with some of the Clark material in the White House Conference Report.

Needless to say I am pleased not only about the decision but about the fact that the Mid-Century White House Conference was able to contribute to the evidence on which the decision was based.

I am sure you and the American Jewish Committee would wish to share in this pleasure, because you will recall that it was the financial assistance and staff advice from the Committee that in part made it possible for us in the White House Conference to undertake and complete this aspect of the work.

It is not often that we can show such a direct relationship between good research and desirable social action, but when we can it is certainly heartening.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melvin A. Glasser

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