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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

JAMES HOWARD MEREDITH, ET AL.,

Appellants,

VS.

CHARLES DICKSON FAIR, ET AL.,

Appellees.

NO. 19, 475

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, as Amicus Curiae and Petitioner,

VS.

CHARLES DICKSON FAIR, ET AL.,

Respondents.

HEARING ON RETURN ON CONTEMPT CITATIONS ISSUED AGAINST GOVERNOR ROSS R. BARNETT AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAUL B. JOHNSON, held on this 2nd Day of October, 1962, Room 222, Post Office Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, at 11:30 o'clock a.m.

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AGAINST GOVERNOR ROSS R. BARNETT AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

PAUL B. JOHNSON, held on this 2nd Day of October, 1962,

Room 222, Post Office Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, at

11:30 o'clock a.m.,

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BEFORE:

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THE HONORABLE RICHARD T. RIVES,

THE HONORABLE JOHN MINOR WISDOM,

and

THE HONORABLE WALTER P. GEWIN, Circuit Judges.

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APPEARANCES:

For the United States of America:

ST. JOHN BARRETT, Esq., Attorney, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice.

For the Appellant:

MRS. CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY, Attorney-at-Law, 10 Columbus Circle, New York 19, New York

For the Respondents:

THE HON. JOE T. PATTERSON, Attorney General of the State of Mississippi

JOHN C. SATTERFIELD, Esq.

and

CHARLES CLARK, Esq.,

Special Assistant Attorneys General

HELEN R. DIETRICH, Reporter.

PROCEEDINGS

JUDGE RIVES: The Court calls the case of <u>James</u>

Howard Meredith et al. against Charles Dickson Fair, et al.,

No. 19,475, and the Court will hear from Counsel for Governor Barnett and Lieutenant Governor Johnson.

MR. PATTERSON: Does the Court wish an announcement

as to counsel appearing?

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JUDGE RIVES: If you will.

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MR. PATTERSON: I am Joe T. Patterson, Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, appearing on behalf of Governor Ross R. Barnett, Lieutenant Governor Paul B. Johnson, and the State of Mississippi. I am assisted here by the Honorable Charles Clark, Attorney, of Jackson, Mississippi, and Special Assistant Attorney General, and Honorable John Satterfield, Attorney, of Jackson and Yazoo City, Mississippi, as Special Assistant Attorney General of the State of Mississippi.

JUDGE RIVES: You gentlemen may proceed.

MR. CLARK: May it please the Court, the matter that is before the Court this morning is a question with regard to the orders entered finding the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor in contempt of this Court. These orders, which form the basis for the proceedings this morning, stated that prior to court today the Governor was to show the Court that he was fully complying with the terms of the restraining orders. Do Your Honors have those orders in mind or would you prefer that I enumerate them to the Court at this time?

JUDGE RIVES: I think we have them very well in mind, Mr. Clark.

MR. CLARK: All right, Your Honor. And also he was required to cease forthwith all resistance to and

interference with the orders of the Court and the District
Court of the Southern District of Mississippi, and to maintain law and order at and around the University, to cooperate with the officers and agents of the Court in the execution of the orders of the Court, to the end that James H.

Meredith be permitted to register and remain as a student at the University of Mississippi under the same terms and conditions applicable to all other students, and, of course, the Lieutenant Governor's citation or order was exactly the same as far as the content is concerned.

The facts in the matter, while somewhat confused, are basically known to us correctly to be these:

James H. Meredith is registered as a student at the University of Mississippi, he is enrolled as a student there; he is presently attending classes as a student at that institution.

The Court, I am sure, is aware of the fact that there are many side circumstances and unfortunate events that have occurred. The United States marshals are present on the campus in great numbers; troops of the United States are present on the campus and the surrounding city, but no act which would constitute a violation of any order to the Governor or Lieutenant Governor under the terms of the orders of this Court has been committed or done by them.

There has been no interference in any order, in the execution

of any order of this Court by these men at any time.

The position that the State of Mississippi through its officials, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, who are appearing through counsel in this Court, take is that they have complied with the orders of this Court in every particular and that they are not in contempt of this Court's orders.

If the Court has anything of a specific factual nature that it cares to inquire about with regard to any part of this, these officers' performance of their duties and their actions since the orders of this Court, I would be happy to answer, if I can.

JUDGE RIVES: My understanding is that you and Attorney General Patterson and Mr. Satterfield appear as counsel in this hearing for Governor Barnett and Lieutenant Governor Johnson.

MR. CLARK: We have been requested so to do by those gentlemen, and that is our capacity before the Court at this time.

JUDGE RIVES: And you represent to the Court that they are, so far as they can do so, complying with the orders of this Court?

MR. CLARK: Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE RIVES: They are maintaining law and order to the best of their ability, and that they will continue .

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to, so far as possible, in the compliance with the orders of this Court?

MR. CLARK: Yes, Your Honor. You must know this, if it please the Court: There is no state police force of the State of Mississippi. It has, of course, under the command of its Governor in normal times a national guard, of which he is the commander-in-chief. That national guard has been federalized. He has no authority whatsoever over any member of the National Guard, to give orders or not to, to perform or not perform any act. He is powerless to call on the National Guard.

JUDGE RIVES: I thought you did have a State Highway Patrol force.

MR. CLARK: The State Highway Patrol force is assuming to act at the request of the Governor in areas where perhaps there is some legal question as to their authority to act, but nevertheless those forces have been used and ordered by the Governor at all times in compliance with the orders of this Court. There have been some news releases that might have indicated otherwise. That is positively untrue and I make that statement on the direct authority of the Governor of the State. At no time were they ordered by him to withdraw or quit the campus of the University. Two of the members of that force were struck in the battle by tear gas projectors, and at that time other

members of the force were forced to withdraw from the campus because they did not have sufficient gas mask equipment to stay in the gassed area, but they were never ordered withdrawn by the Governor for the purpose of provoking any violation of the Court's orders, and, in fact, were never ordered withdrawn -- period -- and upon finding that they had left the scene, they were ordered by the Governor to return to the campus, and they did do so as long as it was physically possible for them to remain there.

JUDGE RIVES: If it is at all possible to do so, the Court is more interested in the maintenance of law and order in the future and in the compliance with the Court's orders in the future than it is with any controversy as to just what has occurred in the past, and, if it is possible to do so, I would like to avoid having any trial at this time as to just what has occurred in the past in the controversy, as to what has occurred in the meantime.

MR. CLARK: Yes, sir. And I also would make a statement to the Court on behalf of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor that their prime motive for all actions that they will take will be the maintenance of peace and order and also with a due regard and the highest regard to the obedience of the orders of this Court, but they consider that their primary duty is for the peace and safety of the State of Mississippi and with this other order, of course,

paramount in their minds, and that will be their intention.

JUDGE RIVES: Mr. Attorney General.

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MR. PATTERSON: If the Court please, Mr. Clark has stated our position. Inasmuch as I am Attorney General of the State, I felt like I should place myself before this Court and reaffirm what Mr. Clark has just said, and our position briefly stated is to the effect that there has been no violation, deliberate violation, of these orders of the Court by the Governor of the State of Mississippi or the Lieutenant Governor since its issuance, that there has been and is now compliance with that order insofar as it is physically possible for them to do so. Only yesterday, I might say, I joined the Governor and came right behind him with a plea to the good people of our state to remain calm, remain at home, let's have law and order, and called on them for their assistance to see that we do have such, and these unfortunate things that have appeared in the paper insofar as I am able to ascertain certainly were not done at the direction of the Governor or the Lieutenant Governor, and I can assure you the Attorney General, and I think when once the real truth is known, it is going to be seen that not even the University boys and girls -- mind you, there are over 5,000 there, and, if any at all were involved, it is going to be relatively few, practically mil, and that these things that did happen were not at the instance of university students or of public officials of Mississippi. It's just one of those things that will happen.

JUDGE RIVES: I understand, Mr. Attorney General, you assure us as Attorney General of the State and as attorney for the Lieutenant Governor and for the Governor, that to the best of their ability, they will maintain law and order and will comply with the orders of this Court?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, sir.

JUDGE RIVES: Fine.

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MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, sir.

MR. CLARK: May it please the Court, I just wanted to give the Court citations as to two authorities, if you care to have them. One is an Alabama case in 50 So. 218 and the particular matter is at Page 223. The other reference is to 17 CJS 149, that is, Page 149 and the section is 109, on contempt, sir, and the United Mine Workers case, at Page 330, U.S. 258.

JUDGE RIVES: Thank you, sir. May we hear the recommendations of the United States?

MR. BARRETT: If the Court please, it seems to me that the showing made by Governor Barnett and Lieutenant Governor Johnson, through Counsel today, has not met the requirements of this Court's order. The Court ordered that the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor show to this Court by eleven a.m. today, first the Governor, that he had notified

all law enforcement officers and all other officers under his jurisdiction or command, first, to cease forthwith all resistance to and interference with the orders of this Court that are here involved and, secondly, to maintain law and order at and around the university and to cooperate with the officers and agents of this Court and of the United States , in the execution of the orders of this Court and of the District Court. Now, it seems to me that the representations by Counsel here today have not met that requirement of showing that the Governor has notified all law enforcement 11 officers and other persons under his jurisdiction to that effect. We, however, are concerned with the substance of compliance; we are concerned that law and order be maintained around the campus; that there be no interference with the officers of this Court and of the United States and that there be cooperation in maintaining -- both maintaining order 17 and in effectuating the orders of this Court. Accordingly, we do not recommend that immediate action be taken by this 19 Court at this time. We do, however, urge that a further showing should be made by the Governor and the Lieutenant 21 Governor that they have in fact complied with the full re-22 quirements of this Court order and we would hope that there 23 [would be no occasion for the settling of a factual issue; that there would be no issue of fact but should there be one, we 25 |would, of course, be prepared at that time to ourselves make a showing to the Court.

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JUDGE RIVES: Does the Appellant have any recommendations?

sition of the Government that there ought to be a further showing that law and order has been maintained on the campus and that this maintenance of law and order is with the cooperation of the Governor and the State Police in the State of Mississippi and we don't consider that the showing which has been made to this Court is a sufficient showing as to that matter.

JUDGE RIVES: Mr. Attorney General.

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MR. PATTERSON: I thought Mr. Clark and I made it plain in our opening statement to the Court that there was compliance with the orders of this Court by both the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, insofar as they were physically able to do so. I might state that on yesterday -- the Lieutenant Governor spent night before last and all day yesterday in the City of Oxford seeking to do that very thing and the Governor on September 30, which was Sunday, made a public statement over the radio, the TV and through the newspaper and I quote him in that statement: "I urge all Mississippians and instruct every State officer under my command to do everything in their power to preserve peace and to avoid violence in any form." I don't know how the Governor could put it any stronger in an effort to comply.

JUDGE GEWIN: Your position being that under the facts and the circumstances of the case, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor and you so represent to this Court that they have done all things within their power to comply, and that the eruptions or disturbances which may have occurred have been beyond their authority to stop, and that even with whatever force has been applied, there has been some eruption?

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, sir.

JUDGE GEWIN: In spite of the strength of the police officers and Army personnel there?

MR. PATTERSON: The National Guard as this Court knows, was federalized, and, of course, that took really the only weapon of law enforcement away from the Governor that he has in the State of Mississippi. We do not have a State Police like most States have. Our Highway Patrol is very limited in its authority as well as its number. There are only 200 of them.

JUDGE GEWIN: Is there any police force there under the law of the State which is under the direct command of the Governor or the Lieutenant Governor?

MR. PATTERSON: The nearest approach to it Your Honor is the State Highway Patrol, and the statutes, laws, providing for the Highway Patrol confine their duties mainly to enforcing the traffic laws on the public highways

of the State of Mississippi. They are not a police force outright as such, and our Supreme Court has so held.

JUDGE RIVES: Our direction is to: (a) show the Court he is fully complying with the terms of the restraining order and that he has notified all law enforcement officers and all other officers under his jurisdiction or command to cease forthwith all resistance and interference with the orders of this Court and the District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi; (b) to maintain law and order at and around the University and to cooperate with the officers and agents of this Court and of the United States in the execution of the orders of this Court and of the District Court of the Southern District of Mississippi to the end that James H. Meredith is permitted to register and remain as a student at the University of Mississippi under the same conditions as apply to all other students; and while the order, the direction, that you have read us gives no specifics, mostly just simply to the maintenance of law and order, you assure the Court, as I understand, that the Governor is and will comply with the orders of this Court in all respects?

MR. PATTERSON: Insofar as he is physically able to do so Your Honor.

JUDGE RIVES: Yes, sir.

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JUDGE WISDOM: Of course, there is apparently an

area of disagreement between the Government and the Governor of Mississippi insofar as the issue of compliance is concerned. Should we accept the recommendation of the Government, however, that we delay action for any time, if there is any doubt as to that area of disagreement we will have — the Governor will have some opportunity to vitiate that doubt.

MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, sir.

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JUDGE RIVES: May I say that this panel -- this order was entered by the Court en banc. All the members except Judge Cameron, who is ill, participated. Due to the fact that the State of Mississippi was involved and the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor were involved, we felt it was of sufficient dignity for all of the members of the Court to participate. The Court, as Judge Tuttle explained, is beginning an extremely busy Court and at this moment one panel of the Court is holding Court in Houston, Texas, another panel is holding Court in Jacksonville, Florida. Before any definite action is taken on this report, it will be necessary for me to communicate by telephone with all the members of the Court, which will mean long distance calls to Houston and to Jacksonville. It will not be possible for us to make an immediate announcement of the action of this Court on the report. We will probably pass the matter over for an hour or so to give an opportunity to do that, but I

understand that you gentlemen also represent the Chancellor, the Dean, the Registrar, and the members of the Board of Trustees, and the Institution of Higher Learning, and possibly some action should be taken on their matters at this same time.

MR. PATTERSON: Yes, sir.

JUDGE RIVES: If you or Mr. Clark are in a position to make some report on that or some request on that, we may be able to announce that at the same time.

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Clark will present that to the Court. Thank you very much.

JUDGE RIVES: Thank you.

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MR. CLARK: May it please the Court, I am sure 13 that the Court will recall that I was directed to report to 14 the Court on last Tuesday afternoon, which report was made, showing that the Chancellor was on the campus, the Registrar 17 was on the campus -- pardon me -- at that time I believe the Registrar was in Jackson, Mississippi, under the direct 19 requirements of this Court. He did remain there during the 20 hours required by the Court, and he has continuously since that time been at his office at the University in strict 22 compliance with the orders of the Court. The Chancellor took no action whatsoever in any way derogatory to the orders 23 of this Court, and he was at all times in full compliance with the orders of this Court. The same was true as to

Dean Lewis, the same was true as to the Board of Trustees. At this time we respectfully request the Court to discharge these gentlemen from the citation for contempt previously issued against them.

JUDGE RIVES: The Chancellor, the Dean, and the Registrar?

MR. CLARK: And the Board of Trustees too Your Honor.

JUDGE RIVES: And the Board of Trustees too.

JUDGE WISDOM: Can you give me any information as to what sort of evaluation the Registrar made of Meredith's credits, or do you know?

MR. CLARK: I do not have the information at all Your Honor.

JUDGE WISDOM: I was fust curious to know how he was being entered, as a Junior or --

MR. CLARK: Counsel might have the answer to that. I do not.

Judge Wisdom because we are not able to reach our client to determine whether the order has been complied with to that extent. We don't know what classification or what evaluation has taken place. It may be that Attorney General Patterson could get a call through to Oxford, but we were trying to check with Mr. Meredith to see whether as a matter

of fact, everything we heard on the radio and television was correct.

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JUDGE WISDOM: I would assume just from the newspapers that there had been substantial compliance, if the news report that he is a Junior is true.

MRS. MOTLEY: Well, that is what I say. All I know is what I read in the newspaper. I can't communicate with our client, and I can't say what the situation is, but, if they can get a call through so that we can talk to him, we might be able to clear that up.

JUDGE WISDOM: It might be very difficult to get a call through to Oxford today.

MRS. MOTLEY: That is what I am saying. We tried all day yesterday and couldn't get through.

MR. PATTERSON: I know nothing about the evaluation Your Honor that might have been made. Frankly, I thought the main point at issue here was admission.

JUDGE WISDOM: I think it was, I think it was admission. However, the credits do bear on whether or not there had been compliance, and I was curious to know to what extent he had been informed of the credits and how much value had been attached to them.

MR. PATTERSON: Well, I may have misunderstood the Court's opinion, but I didn't understand this Honorable Court to be taking the position of determining evaluation

of credits.

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JUDGE WISDOM: Oh, no, no. We are absolutely not. That is not --

MR. CLARK: You wanted to know if he had been evaluated as all other students?

JUDGE WISDOM: Yes.

MR. CLARK: That was the obligation I understood the Registrar had.

MRS. MOTLEY: Yes. That is what I had in mind, that the order of this Court of July 28th specifically said his credits had to be evaluated the same as all other students, and that is what I had reference to.

MR. CLARK: If this evaluation results in the status of Senior, Sophomore, Junior, or whatever, it has to be on the same basis as any other student.

MRS. MOTLEY: Right.

MR. CLARK: And I will do my best to try to find out for the Court the answer to the question, which I do not know now, but please do understand me, Your Honors: I am asking for a discharge of the Trustees as well. I have already reported to Your Honors the specific things you required. Entry of orders and instructions to University personnel have all been fully and meticulously complied with by the Board of Trustees.

JUDGE RIVES: You are asking for discharge also

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of Mr. Riddell? We have not heard his case, but his counsel did appear in Court and assure the Court that he would comply.

MR. CLARK: Yes, sir.

JUDGE RIVES: -- in the future. All of the other Trustees, we heard their case.

MR. CLARK: Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE RIVES: May I ask insofar as the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor -- I anticipate that it may be difficult to enter any definite order today, but if this matter is passed or set for hearing as to the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor on Friday of this week, will that be acceptable to Counsel on either side?

MR. CLARK: We presume it might be set at the same time as the temporary injunction hearing or some nearby time.

JUDGE RIVES: The same time as the temporary injunction, and that would be at eleven o'clock instead of ten o'clock, at eleven o'clock on Priday.

MR. CLARK: Yes, sir, that does meet with the approval of the State of Mississippi.

JUDGE RIVES: Would that be agreeable to you all?

MR. BARRETT: That would be satisfactory.

JUDGE RIVES: Would that be satisfactory to the

Appellant?

MRS. MOTLEY: That is right.

JUDGE RIVES: Well, we will reassemble, as I say -- I presume I will be able to get calls through and discuss this matter with the other Judges and get reassembled at two o'clock and make some definite announcement as to what the Court will do in the matter. The Court will stand in recess until two o'clock.

....Thereupon, at twelve o'clock Noon, Court was recessed until two o'clock p.m.....

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• . . . Pursuant to the recess, proceedings herein where resumed at 2:00 o'clock p.m., appearances being the same as heretofore noted in the record

JUDGE RIVES: Gentlemen, during the noon recess I have been able to communicate with all of the other judges by telephone, except Judge Cameron, who, of course, is not sitting in this case, and I find that Friday, October 12th, is the earliest date that, consistent with the other business of the Court, the Judges can get together. The Judges consider that it will be necessary or will be proper to hold an en banc court with all of the Judges present. In view of that fact, we are also passing the Motion for a Preliminary Injunction to Friday, October 12th and continuing the Restraining Order in effect.

The Judges have agreed upon two orders, one disposing of the matters so far as the Chancellor, the Dean, the Registrar, and the Members of the Board are concerned, and the other continuing the other matters for disposition on Friday, October 12th.

We have not had an opportunity to have these orders duplicated in any great numbers, but I think there are probably enough copies here to supply the needs. I will read them briefly. The substantive order is this:

From the testimony heard on the 24th day of September, 1962, and from the

reports to this Court made pursuant to

its order of that date, it appears to the

satisfaction of the Court:

1. That John Davis Williams,
Chancellor, Arthur Beverly Lewis, Dean
of the College of Liberal Arts, and
Robert Byron Ellis, Registrar of the
University, have at no time been, and
are not in civil contempt of any judgment or order of this Court.

2. That on September 24th, 1962, the President and all members of the Board of Trustees of Higher Learning, including Board member Tally D. Riddell, Esq., through his counsel, announced in open Court that they would thereafter perform all things ordered and directed by -- and would comply with this Court's orders, and that each of them has since said date acted in compliance with this Court's orders.

IT IS NOW, THEREFORE, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

A. That John Davis Williams, Chancellor, Arthur Beverly Lewis, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and
Robert Byron Ellis, Registrar of the
University, have not been and are not
guilty of civil contempt of this Court.

B. That the Court does not enter a judgment of civil contempt insofar as the President or any of the members of the Board of Trustees of Higher Learning, are concerned and does vacate and dismiss the citation for civil contempt as to the President and each of the members of the Board of Trustees of Higher Learning.

The other order, which is very brief, continuing

the matters:

The matter of the entry of further orders as to civil contempt insofar as concerns Governor Ross R. Barnett or Lieutenant Governor Paul B. Johnson, Jr., the motion for preliminary injunction, and all other motions or matters in this cause are set for hearing in the courtroom at New Orleans, Louisiana, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., on Friday, October 12, 1962.

The restraining order heretofore issued by this Court shall remain in full

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force and effect until such time.

Those are the orders, gentlemen. Unless there is some question, --

MR. PATTERSON: On the matter going to the Board of Trustees, Your Honor, that also includes their secretary, Mr. E. R. Jobe. He was a party-defendant.

JUDGE RIVES: Yes, sir. Let me take that back and make that correction, please, sir. I am sorry we overlooked Mr. -- what is his name?

MR. PATTERSON: E. R. Jobe, J-o-b-e.

JUDGE RIVES: And his official capacity?

MR. PATTERSON: He is merely the Executive Secretary for the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning.

JUDGE RIVES: E. R. Jobe, Executive Secretary. I am sorry we overlooked Mr. Jobe. We are entering him in the first group finding them not guilty of contempt. By interlincation we have included in paragraph one Mr. Jobe's name, so that it would now read:

1. That John Davis Williams,
Chancellor, Arthur Beverly Lewis, Dean
of the College of Liberal Arts, Robert
Byron Ellis, Registrar of the University,
and E. R. Jobe, Executive Secretary of
the Board of Trustees of Institutions of

Higher Learning have at no time been,
and are not in civil contempt of any
judgment or order of this Court,
and in Paragraph A. of the Order:

That John Davis Williams, Chancellor,
Arthur Beverly Lewis, Dean of the College
of Liberal Arts, Robert Byron Ellis,
Registrar of the University, and
E. R. Jobe, Executive Secretary of
the Board of Trustees of Institutions of
Higher Learning, have not been and are
not guilty of civil contempt of this Court.

The carbon copies will need to be corrected.

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Are there any other questions?

MR. SATTERFIELD: May it please the Court, in connection with the filing of briefs on the motion, we will prepare and file our brief on Friday. I believe the Government will prepare and file a reply on Tuesday. I wonder if our response to the Government's reply might be filed on Thursday so it will be in the hands of the Court prior to the 12th.

JUDGE RIVES: Yes, that will be agreeable, Mr. Satterfield. Are there any questions on behalf of the Government or the Appellant?

MRS. MCTLEY: No, Your Honor.

MR. BARRETT: No, Your Honor.

JUDGE RIVES: Court then will stand adjourned, subject to further orders.

....Thereupon, at 2:04 o'clock p.m. the proceedings were adjourned to Friday, October 12, 1962, at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, Helen R. Dietrich, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing (26 pages of typewritten matter) is a true and correct transcription of the stenographic (Stenotype) notes of the proceedings herein, taken down by me, and transcribed partially by me and partially under my supervision, on the day and date hereinbefore noted, in the acove-entitled and -numbered cause now pending before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 2nd day of October, 1962.

Then R. District