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March 21,
1940

Mr. O.L. Emerick
District Superintendent
Loudoun County Public Schools
Leesburg, Virginia

Dear Mr. Emerick:

I am in receipt of letters this morning from Mr. John W. Wanzer, Mrs. Daisy Allen and Mrs. Amanda Coe, stating that they do not want any further action on my part at this time until you and the Board of Education have had a chance to work out a program for improving Negro education in Loudoun County.

I appreciate the position that they and many other Negro citizens of Loudoun County find themselves in and have the greatest sympathy both for them, for you and for the Board of Education. It is not my idea to start a fight. If the fight comes it will be because you and the Board of Education are violating the law and either fail or refuse to correct said violations.

On the other hand, to date so far as I know, no definite improvements to Negro education have been made or promised. This is not the point at which I can stand still.

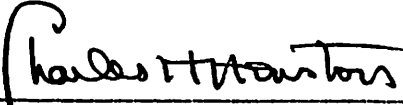
I understand that you and some members of the Board have inspected the Loudoun County Training School since our meeting and that you are planning repairs regarding the fire escape there. I deeply appreciate this action on your part and the part of the Board, but I am sure you appreciate that it is a mere scratch on the surface of the problem.

Mr. O.L. Emerick-----2
March 21, 1940

I am coming to Leesburg on Saturday, March 23, representing certain named clients in Loudoun County Parent-Teachers Association to inspect the minutes of the Board of Education and the receipt and disbursement records of the Loudoun County Schools from 1930 to date. The law of the Commonwealth gives this privilege to every citizen of the county. I see no reason why it should be considered hostile action that Negro citizens should desire to exercise this legal right.

If you are available for conference on Saturday, I would appreciate a chance to talk with you about the contents of my letter of March 16. I appreciate the difficulties of your position but cannot permit myself to allow such difficulties to excuse a violation of constitutional rights. I am quite sure that you will find this attitude still consistent with a reasonable approach to the problem.

Yours very truly,



Charles H. Houston

CHH:NO