

APPENDIX I

HONORABLE THOMAS B. STANLEY, *Governor of Virginia*

On August 30, 1954, Your Excellency appointed the undersigned to a commission charged with the duty of examining the effect on this Commonwealth of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the school segregation cases handed down on May 17, 1954, and of making such recommendations, based upon its examination, as they deemed proper.

Your Commission met on September 13, 1954, and elected the undersigned chairman and Harry B. Davis vice-chairman. An executive committee was provided for, consisting of the two named officers and nine other members of the Commission.

Immediately following the appointment of the Commission, its members began to receive a large volume of mail from the citizens of Virginia. In addition, a great many citizens talked with members of the Commission and stated their views on the question of integration, requesting that they be transmitted to the proper authorities.

The Commission held a public hearing on November 15, 1954, in the City of Richmond. The widest possible publicity was given to this hearing and all citizens and groups were invited to attend or send representatives to express their views on the question of what course Virginia should follow in the light of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the school segregation cases. The hearing was held in the Mosque in order to accommodate the more than two thousand persons who attended. It began at 10:00 A. M. and extended late into the night. Opportunity was given everyone who had indicated a desire to do so, to express his opinion.

As the record of the public hearing shows, the great majority of those appearing there expressed opposition to integration and requested those in authority to afford them relief from the effects which they anticipated would result therefrom. Spokesmen for the Negro race and various Negro organizations, and a lesser number of white persons, urged immediate integration; in some instances conflicting viewpoints developed among members of the same organization.

The hearing was well attended, orderly, and apparently representative of the views of the people of the entire State, and it is presently the view of the Commission that further public hearings would result only in cumulative testimony, rather than fresh viewpoints.

The testimony at the hearing brought into sharp focus the nature and intensity of the feeling as to the effect that integration would have on the public school system. Not only did the majority of persons speaking at the hearing feel that integration would lead to the abolition or destruction of the public school system, but some groups indicated, through their spokesmen, that they *preferred* to see the public school system abandoned if the only alternative was integration.

It is noteworthy that fifty-five counties, located in various parts of the State, through resolutions adopted by their representative governing bodies, have expressed opposition to integration in the public schools and that of the fifty-five counties only twenty-one have over fifty percent Negro population. A number of school boards have expressed opposition to integration of the races in the schools, as have many non-governmental