STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS

The President and I had a friendly and constructive discussion of the problem of compliance with Court orders respecting the high schools of Little Rock.

This trip to Newport has been worthwhile from my point of view.

I recognize that the situation calls for clarification, and I have assured the President of my desire to cooperate with him in carrying out the duties resting upon both of us under the Federal Constitution. In addition, I must harmonize my actions under the Constitution of Arkansas with the requirements of the Constitution of the United States.

I have never expressed any personal opinion regarding the Supreme Court decision of 1954 which ordered integration. That is not relevant. That decision is the law of the land and must be obeyed.

At the same time it is evident even from the language of the decision itself that changes necessitated by the Court orders cannot be accomplished overnight. The people of Little Rock are law-abiding and I know that they expect to obey valid Court orders. In this they shall have my support.

In so doing it is my responsibility to protect the people from violence in any form. As I interpret the President's public statements, the national Administration has no thought of challenging this fact. In meeting this obligation, it is essential that, in proceeding to implement the orders of the Court, the complexities of integration be patiently understood by all those in Federal authority.

When I assured the President, as I have already done, that I expect to accept the decision of the Courts, I entertained the hope that the Department of Justice and the Federal Juciciary will act with understanding and patience in discharging their duties.

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