

Mr. Rountree—"Since you think I was lying about it, I think we need some kind of support because you don't have any confidence in me."

Mr. Rich—"Well sir, what we are talking about here is we are certainly happy to meet with you and your board, and that's what we said the other day, and with school officials of the school system, but we are not authorized to discuss this sort of business with the members of the public at large, and we feel that this is an advantage to you as well as to us, plus the fact that of course, as we made it clear, we don't expect this tape recording to go outside the school officials, but we also made it clear that you certainly could talk to the newspapers, and tell them what you wanted to and we didn't restrict you. We restricted ourselves, and we discussed this about half an hour the other day, and called you up to remind you."

Mr. Rountree—"We told you we were recording this for our own purposes, and we were not going to release it to the press."

Mr. Billy Walker—"Mr. Rountree has just not invited people at random off the streets for the sake of having someone here, only people whom he feels should be here—he has a position as other members of the Board of Education, quite responsible, and they need the support of the community and county, otherwise their programs are hopeless; they cannot achieve their purposes and it is quite difficult to tell the people of this county and McRae and this school system that we must do this in order to comply with this or that. On the other hand, we have a group of people here who hold positions in other organizations that will be interested in issues that will come up here. It makes it somewhat easier to them; they are not trying to shift the burden, but they are trying to get in position whereby they can substantiate whatever position they must take at the conference. Mr. Rountree is not trying to deter you in any way, but this is aid to the purpose. That's the whole matter."

Mr. Purdue, Foreman of Grand Jury in session at this time stated that they had statutes to support their stand on not opening Grand Jury discussions to the public, and asked Mr. Rich if he had such statutes to support his position.

Mr. Rich—"Yes sir, there is something in the guidelines, and there may be."

Mr. Purdue—"In the what?"

Mr. Rich—"The guidelines."

Mr. Purdue—"I said in the law"

Mr. Rich—"That is part of the law"—"these were issued under the Civil Rights Act 1964"—"These require that certain matters remain confidential."

Mr. Walker—"Mr. Rich, you can't very well accomplish your purpose by holding confidential those matters you seek to promote here. The public must know about it."

Mr. Rich—"We do not feel that we have been directed to make these matters public on our side."

Mr. Williams—"We cannot keep these matters we are going to discuss here to-night confidential under no conditions."

Mr. Rich—"We cannot state them to the public—you can go out and talk to the public afterwards."

Mr. Williams—"The Board of Education has nothing to hide."

Mr. Rich—"I'm sorry, our director and directive of the guidelines, which are part of the law, and therefore we try to avoid a discussion such as we are in before the group."

Mr. Rountree—"Does your director say that when you come down in a community that you are to contact only the Negro patrons, and not the white patrons?" "Does your director tell you that?" "To visit only the colored schools and not the white schools." Did you contact anybody except the colored people?" "Monday when you came into our community, did you contact any white people or white patrons?" "The other day you said you didn't."

Mr. Rich—"White patrons—what do you mean?"

Mr. Rountree—"Citizens, the people in the county."

Mr. Rich—"Other than school officials?"

Mr. Rountree—"Anybody, did you contact any white people Monday when you were visiting around."

Mr. Rich—"We called you ahead of time."

Mr. Rountree—"I'm talking about Monday."

Mr. Rich—"No, we didn't but we notified you we were coming down."

Mr. Walker—"I cannot to save me understand how you can take position that anything could be more public by nature than a matter that concerns the public schools. How could it be.—"These people aren't here to criticize you or to make