

that large numbers of poor black and white students are being denied a decent education in the State of Alabama.

Instructional Quality.—Instructional quality was higher at the traditionally white schools than at the black schools. Miss Sadie Allen who was an honor student at Southside High School in Greenville, testified that she was rejected by St. Margaret's School of Nursing. Miss Allen—ninth in a class of 114—was not accepted for admission because her achievement test scores in science, mathematics and verbal ability were far below acceptable minimum standards.

O. B. Carter, Arthur Jones and Theodore Gibbs, officials of the Eufala School System testified that Eufaula High School, more than 90 percent white, had a distributive education course, under which students received classroom instruction and on-the-job training with employers engaged in merchandising. They stated that students had been placed in doctors' offices, hospitals, grocery stores and banks. A similar course was not offered at McCoo High School, the all-black school, which instead provided a trade training program, offering carpentry and cabinet work and involving no on-the-job training. Thus whites were trained to work in doctors' offices and banks while blacks were trained for carpentry.

Gene Stroud and Charles Newton, officials of the Butler County School System, testified that the black high schools were inferior to the predominantly white high schools because of the inferior preparation of the black teachers. As in the Eufaula School System, they testified that the white high school, but not the black one, offered a distributive education course in sales and merchandising. The black high school offered courses in auto mechanics, cosmetology, masonry, and construction trades. They also stated that the library at the black high school was inferior to that at the white high school. They agreed that the school system bore part of the responsibility for the fact that the achievement of black students was not equal to that of white students because over the years better teachers and more funds had been going to the white schools.

The number of elective courses offered to high school students generally is greater at all-white or formerly all-white schools than at black schools. In the 16 county school systems during the 1966-67 school year, white high schools offered 117 elective courses that were not offered at black schools, but only 88 elective courses were offered at black schools which were not offered at white high schools.¹ Not only did the white schools offer a larger number of courses than black schools, but the quality of course offerings were more substantial. In a compliance review of the schools in Autauga County in January 1967, DHEW investigators found that "[c]ourses such as geography, journalism, speech, speed reading, advanced foreign languages, business math and English are offered at one of the predominantly white schools but are not offered at either of the two Negro schools."

There were generally fewer library books per student in black schools than in white schools in the 16 school districts. In the white schools, there was an average of 13.8 books per child, while there were only 5.9 books per child in black schools.

The State of Alabama assesses the quality of a school's instructional program through the process of accreditation. Accreditation is particularly important for students who want to go on to college. In the 16 county school systems, every white high school was accredited by the State of Alabama in 1966-67, but only 66 percent of the black high schools were accredited.² In Clarke County, only 34 percent of the black high schools were accredited; in Sumter County the figure was 60 percent.

In addition to the State, the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools—a regional accreditation body—accredits high schools in Alabama. The accreditation standards of the Southern Association are much higher than those of the State of Alabama. Thus many high schools accredited by the State of Alabama are not accredited by the Southern Association. For example, the two black high schools in Butler County are accredited by the State of Alabama, but not by the Southern Association. Butler County has three white high schools, however, all of which are accredited by the State and two of which are accredited by the Southern Association. In Greene County there are two black high schools and one white high school, all accredited by the State but only the white high school accredited by the Southern Association.

¹ See Brief of the United States in *Lee v. Macon County*.

² *Ibid.*