

STATEMENT OF CLAIMANT

Claim No. 1703

Date. June 12, 1962

Complainant Ernest C. Smith

Address 3209 Pingree

Telephone TY. 7-4698

Respondent Detroit Board of Education

Address

Telephone

In accordance with Sec. 7(c) of the Act, I here-
by designate Commissioner Fuller
to make prompt investigation and adjustment
of this complaint.

.....
Chairman

Date.....

Alleged Violation 3(a) Failure to transfer

Race Color Religion Natl. Origin Ancestry

Date of Alleged Violation June 8, 1962 and before

Facts of Alleged Violation: **I, Ernest C. Smith, do hereby make formal claim against the Detroit Board of Education charging it with a clear-cut pattern of racial discrimination in the assignment of teachers to schools throughout the city. On January 9th of this year I applied to the Personnel Department for a transfer to Redford, Cooley, Mumford, or Cass high schools. On January 19, 1962, I received a formal acknowledgement from Evalyn J. Bonnington that my request for transfer had been duly received and recorded. On Friday, June 8, 1962, I called Miss Bonnington to see if any action had been taken on my request for transfer. She informed me that there was a long waiting list and people with seniority were given priority as well as people who had applied previous years. These are methods used to keep Negroes out of "all white" schools because first year teachers without experience, no seniority, or master degrees are assigned to these schools. Both Dr. Remus Robinson, member of the Board of Education, and the recent Committee on Equal Educational Opportunities, have documented the discriminatory practice of the Personnel Department of the Detroit Board of Education. Many "all white schools" are that way because of a deliberate pattern of assigning teachers. Negro teachers are normally assigned to schools with a large Negro population. The schools that I applied for a transfer have few Negro students and few, if any, Negro teachers.**

I feel that I am more than qualified to teach in the schools that I applied for a transfer to. I have a B.S.E. degree from Northern Illinois University and I have a Masters degree from New York University plus 30 hours beyond the Master from New York University. I was listed in the 1951 Who's Who in American Education. I'm a member of PhiDelta Kappa. I was president of my college senior class as well as captain on the track team. I've been a member of the following three professional organizations for the past ten years: The American Sociological Society; the Society for Applied Anthropology; The American Academy of Political and Social Science.

I have also taught in the Detroit public school system for the past six years; plus having my Michigan Secondary Permanent Certificate.

I have not commenced any action, civil or criminal, based upon the grievance set forth above, except:

/s/ Ernest C. Smith

Signature of Complainant

....., being duly sworn, deposes and says: thathe is the Com-
plainant herein;he has read the foregoing complaint and knows the contents thereof; that the same is true of h^{is}
own knowledge except to matters therein stated on information and belief; that as to those mattershe believes same
to be true.

/s/ Ernest C. Smith

Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me

This 12th day of June, 1962

at Detroit, Michigan.

Claim Taken By Slade

My commission Expires 11/19/65

/s/ J. O. Slade

Notary Public

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Facts of Alleged Violation: continued - page 2

I believe that I have been denied fair consideration for a transfer because I am a Negro.

I have not commenced any action, civil or criminal, based upon the grievance set forth above, except:

/s/ Ernest C. Smith

Signature of Complainant

....., being duly sworn, deposes and says: that ...he is the Complainant herein; ...he has read the foregoing complaint and knows the contents thereof; that the same is true of his own knowledge except to matters therein stated on information and belief; that as to those matters ...he believes same to be true.

/s/ Ernest C. Smith

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