

LEGISLATOR

Well, now, that gets a bit more complicated. If the city has got more than 15,000 residents--which I know Wyandotte does--the city can decide whether to have separate schools for your people and mine. Now, that's just in the grades. In the high school, you can all go together.

LILLIE

Oh, I thought you said no discrimination should be made on account...

LEGISLATOR

Just telling you the law, young lady. And, if I'm not mistaken, Wyandotte has separate schools for the younger colored students.

LILLIE

But I guess I don't understand. Why wouldn't everyone go to the same schools in the Free State?

LEGISLATOR

Used to be that way. But, you know, Kansans are pretty independent people. And now, we've got all these new immigrants coming into the state and no town likes the State Legislature telling them what they can or can't do when it comes to their own schools. We just decided the most sensible thing is to let the bigger cities make their own decisions in this matter.

ALICE

Why wouldn't the small towns also make their own decisions?

LEGISLATOR

Doesn't make economic sense. You have a small school population, doesn't make any sense to operate two different sets of schools.

ALICE

I guess if we settle in our own towns, it wouldn't make any difference.

LEGISLATOR

That's right, in the black colonies, you'd be with your own people anyway. Now, Nicodemus already has a school, and...

ALICE

Thank you, but I think I'll go ahead and get the information my parents asked me to get.

LEGISLATOR

That's all right, you go right ahead.

(LIGHTS FADE.)