

PEARSON

(pulling Boulware off to the side) I'm a simple man. I want to do what is necessary, and this is causing a lot of excitement with my neighbors. Everyone knows the risk I'm taking, and I guess they appreciate it. But how soon do you think this can be resolved?

BOULWARE

Mr. Pearson, I'm aware of the difficulties you're suffering because of this. I know that when you were ready for spring planting, your credit had been cut off in town. I've been told that you had to cut down some of your timber and sell it for cash just to raise enough for planting.

LEVI PEARSON

That's not a problem. I've set aside this week from my fields to be here. And I don't intend to let the good people who are behind me down. I just want you to know that. But a week off from the fields is all I can afford. That's all I meant...

BOULEWARE

(someone from audience hands Boulware a document; he looks at Pearson, again at audience)

(then to Pearson:)

BOULWARE

I'm afraid you've set aside this week for nothing, Mr. Pearson. We have been thrown out of court. The school board checked your tax receipts, and it seems that your farm is on a line between school districts. The court has decided that we have no legal standing in the case.

LEVI PEARSON

You don't expect us to give up over that, do you? Can't we just begin all over again? There are plenty of other black farmers who won't have the problem of property lines. I hate to ask them to do this, but...

BOULEWARE

That's right. And this time the stakes will go higher. Because Thurgood Marshall and I have decided that the burden is too much for one citizen to bear alone. This time we're going to get together a group of twenty plaintiffs. And the issue won't just be worn out, broken down school buses. There are plenty of other disgraceful things going on in the black schools in your county as well: inferior buildings, lower teachers' salaries, inferior teaching materials. This time we aren't going to just go after some school buses. We're going to go after everything guaranteed to you by the Fourteenth Amendment.