

OLIVER

Of course it is. You went to Monroe yourself. But our organization has been attending School Board meetings for a long time now, asking the question of why, on account of color, some children are made to travel outside their neighborhoods to go to school.

LEOLA

Those meetings have kept many of you there well after midnight sometimes, I know that. The Board gets all other business out of the way first, hoping we will tire of the meeting and go on home before our topic comes up.

OLIVER

The feeling in the organization is that the time has come. I'm inclined to do it if you have no objections.

LEOLA

What do you expect will happen?

OLIVER

I'll take Linda's hand; we'll walk up the steps. I will ask to see the principal and attempt to enroll my daughter at Sumner School. I think we all know what the answer will be.

LEOLA

We do indeed. Are you going to be the only one?

OLIVER

Not at all. A number of other parents, mostly mothers, will be doing the same with their own children. We are together on this if you agree.

(Lights fade on Browns; up on Thurgood Marshall)

MARSHALL

I'm happy to be here before you today. Citizens of Topeka, you are not alone. You've no doubt heard of the Levi Pearson case in South Carolina, which has now been expanded. But we at the NAACP office in New York are aware of the work you've been doing here in Topeka. We do not come here to claim your work, or to take it over. Your own local attorneys--Elisha and Charles Scott, Mr. Bledsoe--are doing a marvelous job.

I will not be able to join you in Topeka even if you invite me. My work load has become so pressing, with a number of test cases around the country being prepared for trial, that I will send my very able associate, Robert Carter, if you want his assistance. But the case is in your local hands.