

August 7, 1958
Arlington, Virginia

J. Lindsay Almond, Jr., Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
Governor's Office
Richmond

Dear Sir:

I am a boy of fourteen and have residence in Arlington. I have written you before on the school integration crisis here in Arlington.

Please thank your Administrative Assistant for answering my last letter to you while you were out of state.

I do not wish to get personal about the meeting with the President you are to have on the Arlington school crisis, but I would like to know why you do not seem to happy about having one.

Don't get me wrong. I'm no Eisenhower fan and never will be. But it seems a shame that schools here won't open because of this crisis. I'm no integrationist either, but how can we open the schools here without colored children attending? It seems to me that people here want some measure of integration. "Some measure" can never be. I know, from previous experience in the nation's capital.

Why cannot public schools here be abandoned as is the idea in Prince Edward if schools there are integrate before 1965?

And what happened to the Southern Manifesto? Surely a document of its importance could not be left rotting in a file drawer. Are the men who signed it going to let Arlington schools integrate as they did those in Little Rock? These men promised to do something about the nine dictators who "with no legal basis for such action, undertook to exercise their naked judicial power and substituted their personal political and social ideas for the established laws of the land".

Two years have passed since the document became known and only one law has originated in Congress to curb the outrageous laws and rulings passed by the Supreme Court. It has passed the House and is expected to pass the Senate. When our President vetos this law Congress will probably be adjourned and integration will be running full steam in the South before this law can do anything to stop integration, even if repassed by a two-thirds vote.

If you wish to answer my questions my address will be below.

What a pity that the United States must lose men and blood fighting wars against dictatorships only to let nine men start a dictatorship here.

I am sir, and always will be,

Respectfully yours,

Norman La Salle
5608 N. 8th Place
Arlington, 5, Virginia