



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of American History

Minnijean Brown Trickey - Expulsion Appeal Letter to Little Rock School Board, February 17, 1958

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 02:31:51

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of American History as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of American History website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of American History or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of American History. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

1117 Ringo Street
Little Rock, Arkansas
February 17, 1958

Members of the Little Rock School Board
8th & Louisiana
Little Rock, Arkansas

Gentlemen:

This is a request by us, the parents of Minnie Jean Brown, that the Board not approve the recommendation by Superintendent Virgil T. Blossom that Minnie Jean be expelled from Central High School, for the balance of the term. We think such a penalty unduly severe, in the light of the attendant circumstances.

Mr. Blossom has charged that the reason for the expulsion is the failure of Minnie Jean "to adjust". We feel that this charge is unfair, when it is considered the type of treatment she was expected to adjust to. We all know the attacks have been planned and were intended to occur daily.

The Superintendent extracted a promise from Minnie Jean in effect that she would not retaliate in any manner to attacks made upon her person, but would report the incident. We realize this is a statement of the law everywhere. However, this standard is based upon the assumption that law and order prevail. In the absence of law and order, the individual must of necessity protect himself.

Repeated attacks have been made upon our daughter. In some instances, she has been assaulted physically and no steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of these attacks. On one date, she was kicked by a boy, and as yet, no disciplinary action has been taken against him. The numerous attacks made upon her person, and the lack of adequate protection, has left her no alternative but to protect herself.

These incidents are not casual ones, but are premeditated with the intent to cause an incident whereby Minnie Jean would be expelled. We, too, have instructed her not to retaliate, but the attacks upon her are of such nature that she must take some means to defend herself from violent physical attacks, or else, be very seriously injured.

We respectfully ask that this Board deny the request of the Superintendent for the expulsion of Minnie Jean Brown.

Very truly yours,
Mr. & Mrs. W.B. Brown

1117 Ringo Street
Little Rock, Arkansas
February 17, 1958

Members of the Little Rock School Board
8th & Louisiana
Little Rock, Arkansas

Gentlemen:

This is a request by us, the parents of Minnie Jean Brown, that the Board not approve of the recommendation by Superintendent Virgil T. Blossom that Minnie Jean be expelled from Central High School, for the balance of the term. We think such a penalty unduly severe, in the light of the attendant circumstances.

Mr. Blossom has charged that the reason for expulsion is the failure of Minnie Jean "to adjust". We feel that this charge is unfair, when it is considered the type of treatment she was expected to adjust to. We all know the attacks have been planned and were intended to occur daily.

The Superintendent extracted a promise from Minnie Jean in effect that she would not retaliate in any manner to attacks made upon her person, but would report the incident. We realize this is a statement of the law everywhere. However, this standard is based upon the assumption that law and order prevail. In the absence of law and order, the individual must of necessity protect himself.

Repeated attacks have been made upon our daughter. In some instances, she has been assaulted physically and no steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of these attacks. On one date, she was kicked by a boy, and as yet, no disciplinary action has been taken against him. The numerous attacks made upon her person, and the lack of adequate protection, has left her no alternative but to protect herself.

These incidents are not casual ones, but are premeditated with the intent to cause an incident whereby Minnie Jean would be expelled. We, too, have instructed her not to retaliate, but the attacks upon her are of such nature that she must take some means to defend herself from violent physical attacks, or else, be very seriously injured.

We respectfully ask that this Board deny the request of the Superintendent for the expulsion of Minnie Jean Brown.

Very truly yours,
Mr. & Mrs. W.B. Brown

Minnijean Brown Trickey - Expulsion Appeal Letter to Little Rock School Board, February 17, 1958
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Mar-28-2024 02:31:51



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of American History

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)