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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
STATE INSTITUTIONS  
TALLAHASSEE

MINUTE BOOK "4"  
Page 188  
Dated January 14, 1964

"PETITION FOR RELEASE OF JUVENILES WILLIE CARL  
SINGLETON, SAMUEL WHITE, AUDREY NELL EDWARDS  
AND JOANN ANDERSON

The Board, at its meeting today, considered a Petition filed by Earl M. Johnson, Attorney, on behalf of Willie Carl Singleton and Samuel White, minors, who are detained in Florida School for Boys at Marianna, and Audrey Nell Edwards and JoAnn Anderson, minors, who are detained in Florida School for Girls at Forest Hill, pursuant to the judgment and order of the Judge of St. Johns County Juvenile Court. On August 27, 1963, the parents of said juveniles declined to accept custody under certain conditions set by the Court. However, at a hearing on December 12, 1963, the parents acquiesced in the conditions for probation previously set by the Court. Without objection, the Board authorized release of the said minors into the custody of their parents under the terms and conditions set by the Court".

A TRUE COPY:

*Lula L. Mullikin*  
Secretary, Board of  
Commissioners of  
State Institutions

Singleton v. Board of Commissioners



Jl-FL-0001-0036

PETITION

TO: THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS

Comes now Nora Singleton, Eliza Edwards, Hurley Anderson and James White, parents and next friends of minors Willie Carl Singleton, Audrey Nell Edwards, JoAnn Anderson, and Samuel White, by and through their undersigned attorney, and petition said Board of Commissioners of State Institutions for the release of said juveniles from their present detention in the Florida State Schools for Boys and Girls.

In support of said petition the following is alleged:

1. That said juveniles are detained in the Florida State School for Boys at Marianna, Florida and the Florida State School for Girls at Lowell, Florida pursuant to the judgment and order of the Judge of the St. Johns County Juvenile Court adjudging them to be delinquents within the meaning of the Florida Statutes, Section 39.01. Said Judgment and Order were entered on Tuesday, July 23, 1963.

2. That the basis of finding of delinquency by the Juvenile Court was the participation by said juveniles in a "sit-in" demonstration in protest against racial segregation in St. Augustine, Florida. Said juveniles did nothing more than seek service in stores which refused to serve members of their race, and failed to obey the commands of the proprietor to leave the premises.

3. That a motion for release of said juveniles to the custody of the petitioning parents or on bail was denied by the Juvenile Court on August 27, 1963 on the grounds that the parents of said juveniles would not accept custody under conditions barring the juveniles from engaging in picketing and other demonstrations in protest against racial discrimination.

4. That at a hearing December 12, 1963 before said Juvenile Court, on a second motion for release of said juveniles, these petitioning parents acquiesced in the conditions for probation previously set by said Court. The motion was denied on January 3, 1963.

5. That said juveniles have been incarcerated for over five months for an infraction of the law not involving any showing of basic criminal tendencies or incorrigibility. To the contrary the juveniles participated in what they conceived to be free speech protests against unfair racial indignities. There was no property taken or destroyed, no violence or harm done to anyone present. The juveniles sought only to communicate their beliefs in racial desegregation to the conscience of the store owners of St. Augustine, Florida. The issue of whether a trespass law can be used to enforce racial segregation now awaits decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. It is all the more imperative to save said juveniles from present punishment when the basis of the adjudication of delinquency involves substantial constitutional questions and may shortly be found void.

6. That said juveniles have not been granted the hearing on appeal from the judgment of the Juvenile Court before the District Court within the 30 days mandated by Sec. 39.14 of the Florida Statutes. As the final disposition of the appeals has been greatly delayed, and no indication has been given of when such appeals may be heard, release of said juveniles is all the more pressing.

*Earl M. Johnson*

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