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NOV 18 1941

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November 17, 1941.

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Memorandum: to office  
From: Thurgood Marshall  
Re: "Saving the Race"

Special Delivery

### Background

Left New York October 31 for two days in Washington with enough clothes for one day and a tooth brush - still on the road.

### Old Texas Primary Case

Only way to get to Dallas in time for the meeting on Wednesday, November 5th was to fly by way of New Orleans to Houston and then to Dallas. On Tuesday night before I arrived in Dallas Charlie Brackins and some other members of the local committee made some rather bad statements about "messing up" the case etc. Had to take most of the time Wednesday pointing out to Brackins and others the true difficulties in the case and the benefits of filing another case. All agreed that if we did not get another case started all of us would have to leave the U.S. and go live with Hitler or some other peace loving individual who would be less difficult than the Negroes in Texas who had put up the money for the case.

### New Case????

The gang in Dallas swore that they had a good plaintiff for a new case. We immediately started drafting a new complaint to fit this situation. By the time the man returned to town we discovered that he was not sure when he tried to vote. On checking the dailies we found that he had attempted to vote in the "run-off" primary in 1940 and we were right where we started-out in the street. Checked again and could find no cases in Dallas. Next stop Houston - still not anxious to go live with Hitler. This was on November 8th.

In Houston talked with Dr L. E. Smith who is alleged to have attempted to vote at the right time. Checked his story as best I could. Started drafting complaint. Davis' stenographer can't type worth a dime. Tried for a day to get a stenographer who specialized in typing - no such animal available. Called Carter Wesley and drafted his secretary who really can type.

Had to go to Court House to find names of officials involved in case. Got the name of the County Clerk. Tried to get the names of the elections judges. Could only get the name of the election judge. Called this man and told him I was a reporter for a local daily and wanted the name of his associated judge. Got the name and called this man who admitted he was the associate judge in the particular precinct. Drafted complaint Thursday and

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Friday. Made an original for the Court, copy for each of the three defendants and one for us. Went to file the case on Saturday. Court Clerk said: "What, you here again". Discovered that needed another copy for the Court. Telephoned Carter again and drafted his secretary once more. Well, that case is in the fire. Departure from the United States was thereby delayed at least.

Came to New Orleans again yesterday and I arrived on the same day as the most illustrious leader of the Negro race, the Hon. Arthur W. Mitchel who is to speak here tonight. Feel very bad because the people met Mitchel and gave him a sweet bouquet of roses (quite appropriate), and did not give me any. Speaking about giving Mitchel roses, I know a whole lot of things about him but never suspected that-did you.

Please note attached letters about Virginia and Minneapolis cases.

Our case is to argued here on Wednesday and will prepare the brief today and tomorrow. One of our leaders here was told by a leader of the other race Saturday that the powers that be here cannot afford to let a "northern nigger" win a case against them so they want to settle. Will you please respect the fact that I am now a northern nigger.

Texas Branches

While talking with Maceo Smith and Rev. Lucas we agreed that since the national office was to take over financing of new case we would have to build up the branches and make money out it.

Here are the suggestions: WW should come to Texas for about ten days to hit the high spots to be followed by a filed representative to stay for a couple of months or as long as possible. Tyus has been to Texas and stole his wife from there. He is very well liked and all agree he is the man for the job if it can be worked.

Next year is an election year. We can build a part of our program around this case and raise some real money. Texas trip next spring of course depends upon whether we are going to keep or abandon national drive idea.

Regards to the office

TM.