

My Fellow Citizens:

For a few minutes I <sup>want</sup> would like to speak to you about the

serious -- indeed the sad -- situation which has arisen in Little Rock.

In that city, under the ~~premediated~~ leadership of demagogic extremists,

disorderly mobs have <sup>deliberately</sup> prevented the carrying out of proper orders of a

Local authorities have not succeeded Federal Court acting in conformity with the requirements of the Constitution of the United States. <sup>in circumstances that violent opposition and, under the law, I yesterday issued a</sup>

proclamation calling upon the mob to disperse. <sup>This morning the mob again gathered in front</sup> When it becomes necessary for the Executive Branch of the

Federal Government of this nation to use its powers and authority to uphold

<sup>the President's</sup> Federal Courts <sup>responsibility</sup> is <sup>manifestly</sup> clear.



I have today issued an Executive Order authorizing and directing

the use of <sup>under Federal authority</sup> Federal troops to aid in the execution of the law at Little Rock,

Arkansas. This <sup>became</sup> was necessary <sup>when</sup> because my Proclamation of yesterday

~~calling upon all persons in the area to refrain from obstructing justice was~~

not observed. Indeed, the situation has progressively worsened. ~~Con-~~

~~sequently, no reasonable choice remained open to me.~~

It is important that the reasons for my action be completely clear

and fully understood. . .

*and change unconstitutional*

As you know, the Supreme Court of the United States has declared

that separate educational facilities for the races are inherently unequal.

*Our personal opinions as to the accuracy of the decision have no bearing on the matter; the authority of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution is unquestioned.*

*The contents of this order of Little Rock, Arkansas, are being disseminated by the Army and Navy to all military and naval personnel.*

*by the Supreme Court*

Local Federal Courts were instructed to issue such orders and decrees as might be necessary to achieve admission to public schools ~~on a~~ *without regard to race, and* ~~racially nondiscriminatory basis~~ with all deliberate speed.

During the past several years, many communities in our Southern States instituted public school plans for gradual progress in the enrollment and attendance of school children of all races in order to bring themselves into compliance with the law of the land. *They* We thus demonstrated to the world that we are a nation in which ~~the~~ law, not men, ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> supreme.

*concessions of liberty was not observed in*  
I regret to say that this ~~was not~~ the case at Little Rock. It was

my hope that this localized situation would be brought under control by local and State authorities. ~~if~~ the use of local police powers had been sufficient, our traditional method of leaving the problem in those hands would have been respected. But when large gatherings of obstructionists made it impossible for the decrees of the Court to be carried out, both

*and the* the national interest ~~and the~~ law *and* demand that the President take action.



Here is the sequence of events in the development of the Little Rock school case.

In May of 1955, the Little Rock School Board approved a moderate plan for the gradual desegregation of the schools in that city. It ~~contemplated~~ <sup>provided</sup> that a start toward integration would be made at the present term in the high school, and that the plan would be in full operation by 1963. This plan was challenged in the courts by some who believed that the period of time as proposed was too long.

The United States Court at Little Rock, which has supervisory responsibility under the law for the plan of desegregation in the public schools, <sup>then approving a gradual rather than an abrupt change from the existing system,</sup> dismissed the challenge. It found that the school board had acted in good faith in making effective a school system free from racial discrimination.



Since that time, the court has issued orders <sup>on three separate occasions</sup> <sup>denying</sup> ~~ordering~~ that the plan be carried out. All persons were ~~in~~ <sup>instructed</sup> ~~rected~~ to refrain from interfering with the efforts of the school board to comply with the law.

Proper and sensible observance of the law then demanded the respectful obedience which the nation as a right to expect from all the people. This, unfortunately, has not been the case at Little Rock.

It must be clear that Federal Troops are not being used here to preserve peace and order in the community. That few times belongs to local and state authorities and the under the laws of the laws Federal Troops may not be used for the purpose intended by the Governor of the State and of them.

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Certain ~~numbers of people~~ there have insisted upon defying the law and have sought to bring it into disrepute. The orders of the court have thus been frustrated.

The very basis of our individual rights and freedoms rests upon the certainty that the President and the Executive Branch of Government

will support and insure the carrying out of the orders of the Federal Courts ~~with all the means~~ when necessary at the President's command.

*sure, when necessary, with all the means*

*The President did so,*  
Unless ~~this were the case~~, anarchy would result. There would be no

security for any ~~ones~~ except that which each one of us could provide for *himself.*  
~~ourselves.~~ The interest of the nation in the proper fulfillment of the law's

*opposition and*

requirements cannot yield to <sup>1</sup> demonstrations by some few persons. Mob

rule, ~~even in one area of the nation~~, cannot be allowed to <sup>rule</sup> ~~override~~ the

decisions of our courts.



*(insert)*

The proper use of the powers of the Executive Branch to enforce the orders of a Federal Court <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ limited to extraordinary and compelling

circumstances. Manifestly, such an extreme situation has been created

in Arkansas. This challenge must be met with such measures as will

preserve to the people as a whole their lawfully-protected rights and

legal processes in a climate permitting their free and fair exercise.

The overwhelming majority of our people in ~~the~~ <sup>various</sup> sections of the

country are united in their respect for observance of the law -- even in those cases where they may disagree with that law. They deplore the call to violence of extremists.

see of us, neighbors  
THE GREAT SEAL

I have confidence that the overwhelming majority of the people

in the South are of good will, united in their efforts to preserve and

respect the law even if they disagree with it. They do not reject the sympathies until now and they have proved themselves in two great wars their loyalty call to violence of extremists. They recognize their moral and public responsibilities. They are keenly aware of the tremendous disservice to the South, as slaves, citizens

to and their readiness to sacrifice for the Americas, part of America is our nation's respect for law.

that has been done to the people of Arkansas in the eyes of the nation, and

that has been done to the nation in the eyes of the world.

I call upon all citizens of the State of Arkansas to bring to an

immediate end all interference with the law and its processes. If re-

sistance to the Federal Court orders is brought to an immediate end,

the further presence of Federal troops will be unnecessary. It is my

hope that proper order will soon prevail.

~~The Report of the law and the courts will promptly return to normal and peaceful living in Little Rock, Arkansas and the city of Little Rock will return to its normal peaceful habits.~~

The decisions of the Supreme Court concerning school integration affects the South more seriously than it does other sections of the country. In that region I have many warm and personal friends; it may warm I have deemed it a just personal privilege to spend those hours duty while in the military service and enjoy the recreation points in a

This time duty while in the military service and enjoy the recreation points in a