## WHITE RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND THE LITTLE ROCK CRISIS



## White Religious Leaders and the Little Rock Crisis

STATEMENT MADE BY
16 MINISTERS OF LITTLE ROCK
3 Episcopal 2 Christian
4 Presbyterian # Methodist
3 Episcopal 2 Christian 4 Presbyterian 4 Methodist 3 Baptist and remember
We, the undersigned ministers of Little Rock, strongly protest the
action of Gov. Faubus in calling out the armed forces of the state to surround
Central High School, thereby preventing integration in compliance with the
Supreme Court's decision of May 1954 and the order of the Federal Court of
August 1957.
We deplore: (1) the overriding of the authority of the local school
administration; (2) the disregard of national law; (3) the abuse of the
autonomy of the local school district; (4) the policing of the great majority
of the law sbiding youth of the city; (5) the exciting of racial tensions;
(6) the reflections cast upon our local law enforcement officers; (7) the
destruction of the respect of our citizens, young and old, for proper constitu-
tional authority. If violence should now occur in our city, the Government
must assure a large share of the blame.
We appeal to every citizen to unite with us in earnest prayer to God
that justice will be brought about and a right example set for every child of
our community. We call upon the Federal authorities to take steps that will
restore public peace and tranquility.
This statement was made the afternoon of the first day of school, September 3rd,
1957 and was the first public protest to the act of placing the National Guard
to prevent the 9 negro children from entering Central High School.
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"Statement Made by 16 Ministers of Little Rock," September 3, 1957 (Bishop Robert R. Brown Papers)

**Handwritten**: [Top] As I remember [Bottom] It brought an advertisement from the White Citizens' Council calling upon each of these men by name to integrate their congregations and thereby show their sincerity."