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SAINT LOUIS

Jan. 3, 1944

In re: Miss Edith Louise Massey

Mr. S. W. Canada, Registrar
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Mr. Canada:

This acknowledges receipt of copy of your letter of December 28 to Mr. Hogsett on the subject of the application of Edith Louise Massey for admission to the School of Journalism.

Mr. Hogsett's letter to you of December 31 sets forth the law applicable to this situation. I concur in that opinion.

Under the law, if no journalism school at Lincoln University is available to Applicant, she is entitled to enter Missouri University. This would be true, unless she is a party to, or a conspirator in, a movement in bad faith to close the School of Journalism at Lincoln, with the purpose of fomenting strife and creating a situation in which she will have to be admitted to the Missouri University. There is no information available to us upon which to base an opinion upon the subject of her bad faith. We may only conjecture and surmise as to that.

That there is a movement, however, of the character mentioned, I have long recognized. That it is fostered and promoted by President Scruggs of the Board of Curators of Lincoln University, I have long felt.

The enclosed memorandum and data tend to substantiate my feeling. This data comes from Dean Wm. E. Taylor, of Lincoln University Law School.

The existence of such a movement, and the possible connection of the Applicant with it, may present

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questions not capable of solution between now and the opening of school next semester. Suspicion in that realm would not justify excluding Applicant from the University. One is

disposed to recommend an investigation by the Legislature, or other body, concerning the good faith of President Scruggs in, so to speak, "allocating" away all funds available for the schools of law and journalism, and in otherwise appearing to act so as to defeat the policy of this State. An investigation as to Applicant's connection with such an organized movement is also suggested. In view of the time element, however, I see no course to pursue but this. Representatives of the University of Missouri might well call upon the Governor, explaining to him the situation, and the basis for the suspicions entertained. He, it appears, is equipped, within the limited time interval, to take action concerning the Lincoln Board and President Scruggs, such as would cause them to reopen the Journalism School at once, if circumstances so warranted. I recommend such action.

If the School of Journalism, with facilities, etc. substantially equivalent to the University of Missouri Journalism School, is reopened or continued, Applicant would not then be entitled to enroll in the University of Missouri.

Respectfully yours,

Kenneth Tesdale

KT :MG

cc-Mr. William S. Hogsett
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Kansas City, Mo.