

VIOLET MAY TAYLOR,

a witness of lawful age, being first duly sworn testified as follows. I am principal of the Cowdensville Elementary School, which is a public elementary school in Baltimore County. I have a certificate from the State Board of Education. I have been teaching in Cowdensville about six years. I know Margaret Williams. The report card of Margaret Williams (Petitioner's Exhibit No. 1) is in my handwriting. The signature in my handwriting. The signature "Violet May Taylor" is mine. I promoted Margaret Williams in June 1934 when she was in the seventh grade. She took an examination given in Catonsville. My promotion of Margaret Williams was based upon that examination. It was based upon my work in school with her. I have never been officially informed, either by the Board of Education, or any official thereof, as to Margaret's marks at the Catonsville examination. I have never seen her copy of that examination. I had nothing to do with the giving of that examination. After Margaret took the examination in 1934, she came back to me and repeated the seventh grade. I gave her the same course of study given to the other pupils in that grade. In June, 1935, I marked her card "Promoted" again. Margaret's name was listed on my report to the County Superintendent, both in 1934 and 1935 as being promoted. It was also included in those years in the list marked "Graduates" in the end column of the sheet. By "Graduates" I meant those completing seven years work. Margaret Williams satisfactorily completed the seven years elementary course and was a good student so far as I was concerned. I gave Margaret an examination in 1934 before promoting her to see from that and her school work together, whether she was qualified to pass the seventh grade.

At one time I received instructions from Mr. Herschner to discourage those whom I thought would not be able to pass the examinations for free scholarship to the high school. I think I recall receiving a letter from Mr. Herschner in 1934 with a form in it to be filled out concerning the examinations. I remember being requested to put a star beside certain names. I understood that

to mean to star those whom I thought would be able to gain a free scholarship to the high school.

I put the figures on Margaret Williams report card (Petitioner's Exhibit No. 1). I put those Roman numbers on the front of it. I did not see any erasure on the card. I use Roman figures most of the time in marking the grades on these cards.

CROSS EXAMINATION.

This mark was put on the card in June, 1935. There was no blank on it when it left my hands. I do not recall that the card was returned to me and that I was requested to fill something in the blank. I do not recall that when it first left the school, it had only "Promoted" on it and that the space in which the V and the three III's now are was blank. I do not recall that the card was returned to me by anyone with the request to fill in the blank. There is no eighth grade in Baltimore County. As a rule when students leave my seventh grade, they go to the eighth grade in the city. I have never been instructed to mark my cards otherwise. I fill in all my seventh grade cards that way. I have never seen any other cards in the colored schools in Baltimore County than my own. I would not write the word "Promoted" on the card because "Promoted" was already on the card. I have been instructed that is the custom ordinarily in the seventh grade. I have never seen it on any other cards. I do not have any pupils in the seventh grade who are promoted merely so they can go to work. I have five seventh grade students. I have never promoted a pupil merely to enable him to leave school. I have had only two pupils to repeat the seventh grade in seven years. I have never known any student to be recommended for free tuition from the Baltimore County Board to the Baltimore City High Schools who had not successfully passed the examination.

ELIJAH L. GWYNN,

a witness of lawful age having been first duly sworn testifies as follows. I am principal of the Loreley Elementary School in Baltimore County. I have been principal