

Subj: **Frank Burton Ellis**
Date: 7/16/2010 6:24:07 PM Central Daylight Time
From: ellissg1@att.net
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http://www.tulanelink.com/tulanelink/judgefrankellis_08a.htm

I am the oldest son of Frank B. Ellis. The first thing you need to correct. This is an completely erroneous statement.

December 5, 1962, Ellis's ruling in *Guillory v. Administrators of Tulane University of Louisiana* would reverse the hard-won gains for racial equality in education that had been made by Judge Wright, and it set a strong precedent for restricted racial freedom for years to come.

"He approached civil rights litigation with a strong concern for local white opinion and a determination to avoid drastic actions that would destabilize established educational institutions. Ellis' early years on the bench were marked **by his evident desire to slow down and scale back Skelly Wright's ambitious agenda for integration of New Orleans Public Schools, and he approached the Tulane case in a similar spirit of judicial retrenchment.**"⁶

I went to his office the day before that ruling was published. There were 5 NAACP attorneys in his waiting room and a deal was struck behind closed doors. If my Father would rule that Tulane was a "Private Institution", Tulane had agreed to admit 2 qualified African American girls, and change their policy going forward.

Also, when Bobby Kennedy called my Father into his office the day before the Judgeship appointment was announced, he instructed Dad to reverse Judge Skelly Wright's decision to integrate all 6 grades of elementary school simultaneously, and integrate the 1st grade only, then each year, the subsequent grades would be integrated so the kids would learn to grow with each other. New Orleans was erupting in protest before that change, and Bobby Kennedy was very smart to tell my Dad what to do. The City made the transition with much less violence.

Please contact me with any questions you might have regarding those times. My Family would really appreciate it if you our Father in the correct light. We want the record set straight!!!!

**Stephen Grima Ellis
318=235=2840**

Subj: **RE: Frank Burton Ellis**
Date: 7/19/2010 4:56:59 PM Central Daylight Time
From: ellissg1@att.net
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Carl:

This is easy to understand. Just check the date of the Tulane ruling, and the date of the subsequent admission of the two girls. Do you really think that was just a coincidence? I had dinner with my Father every night. He told us what happened, but it was never made public, as far as I know.

Bobby Kennedy's instruction wasn't only a request.....he made it a prerequisite to my Father's appointment. My Father was a "Bull in a china shop" in Washington. He wasn't in the JFK circle of friends, and his position was sub-cabinet, although he was a member of the National Security Council. He was going to be replaced, and that was before the Assassination. He accepted the Federal Judgeship appointment.....happily. However, he had gone from a lucrative Law practice in New Orleans, to a \$35,000 a year position. That started his financial downfall.....he sold our yacht.....our house on St Charles Avenue. He always wanted to be a big name in politics, and when he had the success of being JFK's campaign manager in Louisiana, Russell Long and Hale Boggs talked JFK into offering him the position of Chief of Civil Defense Mobilization, which later became the Office of Emergency Planning, and now FEMA.

Growing up, I NEVER heard him say anything derogatory thing about blacks. He had three servants. He provided them with housing, and paid all their medical expenses. Rosie Pierce, Ethel Waters, and Sidney Grant, loved him like their Father, and he loved them back.

He was the main reason Louisiana received the funding to build the first span of the Causeway. They almost called it "The Frank B Ellis Causeway."

My Brother, Sister, and I resent the way this article has depicted him. He was not, as you say, hell bent in keeping segregation alive in New Orleans. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. Let's talk about how you are going to revise this information to reflect the truth. Your article says, "strong negative response by the white citizenry and the effect on the business community to any abrupt change in the public schools." Strong.....? They were disrupting the city. They were, as a race, going to boycott all public schools. Anyone who tried to bring their kids to school were threatened, crosses burned in their front yards. You could just feel the fear in the air.

You and I should talk. While I agree that his Ancestors were segregationist, even believing, as did many southern whites, that they were superior as a race to blacks, my Father put that upbringing behind him.

We should talk!

Stephen Grima Ellis
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