

note and return

7 9-6-60

AN OPEN STATEMENT

Because of our conviction that the promotion of human dignity is an essential ingredient of the educative process, because of our unwavering faith in democracy and because of our belief that the achievement of rightness is first a responsibility of those themselves who would be free, we make the following statement:

The effort for the opening of all the facilities of Thalhimers and Miller & Rhoads department stores to all of the customers is a matter of high principle with us. We must, therefore, continue to withhold our patronage and to support those who call attention to this injustice. We shall ourselves and urge all others who will listen to stay out of Thalhimers and Miller & Rhoads department stores until these stores make available their facilities without the restriction of race.

To this end we have by unanimous vote made our decision and we direct Dr. J. Rupert Picott, Executive Secretary, Virginia Teachers Association to make public our position in this important matter of the advancement of democracy for all people in our times.

-- VTA Leaders

In session, Slaughter's Hotel, Richmond
Saturday, September 3, 1960