

Cincinnati, Ohio,
August 16, 1966.

Honorable Emanuel Celler,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.,

My dear Mr. Celler:

Here are some criticisms of the Civil Rights Bill pending in Congress. I preface them with a reminder or two of the first legislation of our Nation. The Declaration of Independence says: "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT: THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL; THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALLENABLE RIGHTS; AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS! THAT WHEN ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT BECOMES DESTRUCTIVE OF THESE ENDS, IT IS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO ALTER OR ABOLISH IT AND TO INSTITUTE A NEW GOVERNMENT, LAYING ITS FOUNDATIONS ON SUCH PRINCIPLES AND ORGANIZING ITS POWERS IN SUCH FORM AS TO THEM WILL SEEM MOST LIKELY TO EFFECT THEIR SAFETY AND HAPPINESS."

The Preamble to the Constitution reads: "WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, ESTABLISH JUSTICE, INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE, PROMOTE GENERAL WELFARE, AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND TO OUR POSTERITY, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

Article 1 of the Amendments to the Constitution gives the right to the people to PEACEABLY ASSEMBLE.

Article 4, Section 4 of the Constitution reads: "THE UNITED STATES SHALL GUARANTEE TO EVERY STATE IN THE UNION A REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT, AND SHALL PROTECT THEM AGAINST INVASION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!"

I shall show where our Constitution has been violated, and our Civil Rights infringed upon.

We have at this time in our country a population of about 204,500,000. Of this number approximately ten (10%) per cent is colored, or Negro. Since our government is a democracy operating under majority rule, how do you account for such a bill as the Civil Rights Bill ever having been written? It certainly does not represent the will of the majority! Hence it is unconstitutional, illegal, undemocratic . . . and it will not work! And just who was the author of this bill? Was it conjured up simply to get the colored vote?

Prior to the launching of this Civil Rights Bill, there was a widespread spirit of friendliness and cooperation between the white man and the colored man. Now there is only hatred and suspicion engendered solely by this political boomerang! Take a look at the country since the inception of this bill. Riots and bloodshed! KILLINGS! Destruction of millions of dollars of property, lootings! Certainly the Negro has been ill-advised, whether by the Communists or members of his own race masquerading under a flag of CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP! Under this leadership Negroes have invaded CALIFORNIA, FLORIDA, NEBRASKA, ILLINOIS, OHIO, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, NEW YORK AND ALABAMA. Now, I mean invaded! Since these marchers for the most part did not live in these States, they were INVADERS. Can anyone deny that they were organized and their incursions planned with the definite purpose of disturbing and irritating the citizens of these States? And why did not Congress do something about it? Article 4 of the Constitution says: ". . . and we shall protect them against invasion and violence!"

The cornerstone of our American civilization rests upon the family and the home. Our forefathers fought the Revolutionary War to protect the sanctity of the home, its freedoms and its rights. They fought for a principle. They were not cowards. Now the freedom of our homes is being challenged!

For one hundred and ninety years American parents had the responsibility of rearing and educating their children; the right to make their own decisions in their own homes; the right to dispose of their properties as they saw fit. Now there is an attempt to usurp these rights and privileges by the Federal Government!

THE OPEN HOUSING BILL IS AIMING A "DAGGER" INTO THE VERY LIFE BLOOD OF THE CONSTITUTION! A threat to take away man's God-given rights, seeking to make his decisions! -- to rob him of his privacy, his freedom and his liberty, to disturb his TRANQUILITY through invading the sanctity of his home!

Article 4 of the Amendments to the Constitution reads: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable search and seizure, SHALL NOT BE VIOLATED!" This Open Housing Bill then, is in direct violation of this Amendment since it is a seizure of HUMAN RIGHTS. These rights are the sole property of each American family. By what right, with what authority does the Government seek to take over? And, finally, from Article 6 of the Constitution: "THIS CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH SHALL BE MADE IN PURSUANCE THEREOF, AND ALL TREATIES MADE OR WHICH SHALL BE MADE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES, SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND, AND THE JUDGES IN EVERY STATE SHALL BE BOUND THEREBY!"

Since God was the co-sponsor of our Constitution, it might be well to recall a few lines from Genesis: "In the beginning, God said, LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH EVERY LIVING CREATURE AFTER HIS KIND." Now, there is an absolute, irrefutable, immutable, unchanging LAW which prohibits a JUMP from ONE KIND TO ANOTHER KIND. There are many varieties within certain species, yet they are all of one Genus. THE GREAT LAWGIVER AND CREATOR OF ALL THINGS, PRE-OR-GAINED STRICT OBEDIENCE TO HIS LAW.

This law is absolute, from the lowest to the highest kingdoms of life, even to the vegetable and mineral kingdoms. There are hundreds of varieties of birds in the world, yet there is distinct separation of all of the bird families, although they are all Aves. The male Redbird dares another male Redbird to enter his domain. In other words, families are inviolate. Had God's law been flexible, we would have a nation of half breeds and mongrels. The different races of mankind are not only separated by color -- white, black, yellow, red -- but they are separated by their physical and mental traits, their customs and their characters. These differences, in addition to their religions and philosophies, have been the greatest causes of dissension. Throughout the centuries the different races all over the world have fought to retain their beliefs. There is no other feeling that is so deeply imbedded in man's soul as his basic beliefs. One of the difficult problems in Viet Nam is the problem of the Buddhist.

"BY THEIR WORKS YE SHALL KNOW THEM!" The white man has risen in spite of obstacles and handicaps. With his help, America has developed the highest living standard in the world. He has conquered disease and greatly increased longevity. This has taken work, work, work!

It is true that the colored man has been hampered by lack of good housing, good jobs, and in some instances by job discrimination. Certainly we are in favor of him having every help to bring out his best. However, it means ambition, it means effort, it means study; and it will take time. Given all these opportunities, who shall say to what heights he may not rise? We have many fine colored people who abhor the marches, the sit-ins, the lie-ins, the rioting, looting, destruction of property, and the killings. They know that such behavior only widens the chasm between white and colored. They know that force compels resistance. Since they know that inter-marriage is basically unsound, they also know that they must develop their own society within their own groups and associates; and I am sure the majority want it that way. Now, you, Mr. Celler, spoke of a revolutionary spirit that is sweeping the land! I agree with you. There is a great spirit of rebellion, a seething undercurrent all over the country; but it is not the one YOU have in mind! It is the roaring and rumbling of some one hundred and eighty-five million white Americans whose voices are yet to be heard. It is the seething undercurrent of dissatisfaction that is being aroused by self-seeking politicians.

Sincerely,

Maudie E. Mason

Maudie E. Mason

354 Thrall Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220