

BISHOP PAUL MOORE, JR.
Chairman

The "Committee of 100"

IN SUPPORT OF THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

SUITE 1900 / 1776 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 / Telephone (212) 586-8397

Dear Friend:

Before dawn, Saturday, April 22, the house Alberto Charles and his family were to move into later that day was set afire. The Charles family is black; the neighborhood is white. The location -- not the Deep South or the Middle West -- but Staten Island, part of reputedly "liberal" New York City.

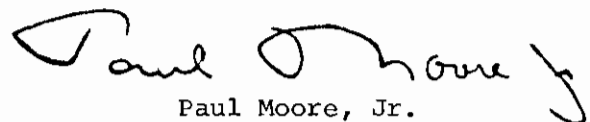
This arson followed by just a few months the fire-bombing of a black-owned home endangering the lives of two little children in Briarwood, another section in New York. Nor can we forget the screaming mob of middle class whites who threw rocks at construction trailers in Forest Hills where public housing is to be built to accommodate low-income families, most of whom will be black or Puerto Rican, and retired elderly people, who will be largely white.

These shocking events in the "civil rights capital of the U.S." measure the deep resistance the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) must overcome in its efforts to secure equal access to housing for Negroes. Yet, as the enclosed folder indicates, LDF is winning some of its housing battles.

To secure livable housing for all, LDF attorneys must unravel a complicated fabric of interwoven practices, public and private, to expose the strands of racial prejudice to the courts. The task is time-consuming and exceedingly intricate. Yet, as suits are won, more Americans -- black and white -- begin to experience life in multiracial communities where day-to-day existence side-by-side dispels the fears which have so long divided us.

With your help, LDF can work to eliminate restrictions on the use of land which deny homes to many and pit race against race and suburb against city. To speed this essential work toward reconciliation, an extra \$400,000 is needed. That translates to 16,000 new gifts averaging \$25 each. Because we cannot expect widespread public support for a court battle so clearly on the frontiers of the struggle for equality, may I ask you to be unusually generous? Whatever you send, large or small, will be put to work in the dogged legal struggle to bring about a free and open multiracial society.

Thank you,



Paul Moore, Jr.
Chairman

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The NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND is the principal legal agency using the courts to secure constitutional rights for America's racial minorities and the poor. It operates with its own directors, staff and budget. It is not a part of any other organization.

Contributions are deductible for U.S. Income Tax purposes.

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