

PAUL MOORE, JR.

Dear Friend,

Would you ever willingly contribute to a racist institution that openly and flagrantly discriminates against blacks?

I am sure your answer is a resounding "No!", but the shocking fact is that, unwilling as you may be, the present Administration has recently taken the decision out of your hands.

By granting tax-exempt status to Bob Jones University, Goldsboro Christian Institute and other schools that practice racial discrimination, President Reagan has made you, me and all other taxpayers contributors to their support.

The enclosed flyer of New York Times stories describes the Administration's action as "a lawless, racist policy," "tax-exempt hate" and more. Indeed, the national cry of revulsion has been so great that the President has attempted to disguise his intentions by calling on Congress to reinstate the very IRS rulings denying tax exemption that he himself had revoked.

But I am writing to you on behalf of The NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) to let you know that there is no disguising the true intentions of this Administration.

The frightening reality is that the present Administration has embarked on a course of systematically undermining or destroying 40 years of advances in Civil Rights.

Tax exemption for Bob Jones University and other bastions of bigotry is not an isolated incident. Just take a look at the following:

1. The Department of Justice is now opposing affirmative action, even such affirmative action as the Supreme Court has approved.

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2. The Department of Justice will no longer file class action suits in employment discrimination cases. This means that even if the Department does file an action on behalf of an individual victim of employment discrimination, the relief won for minorities as a whole will be extremely limited.

3. The Office of Federal Contract Compliance is charged with the responsibility of seeing that government contracts do not go to companies that discriminate. Its staff has been reduced and it will now police only 4,000 firms, as compared to 17,000 at the beginning of 1981.

4. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission still does not have a chairman, and its activities have virtually come to a standstill.

5. Many pending school discrimination cases being handled by the government have been placed on "hold." As a result, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, which had been attacking school segregation in Houston and Kansas City (Kansas) is now taking no action. Lower courts had required the state of Texas to stop discriminating against the children of Mexican nationals, but the Justice Department has withdrawn from the case, although they had previously supported the children.

6. Acting under federal court orders, the Department of Education had been requiring formerly segregated state systems of higher education to bring about some measure of integration. But in the part of the case dealing with North Carolina, the Department of Justice entered a settlement that requires the state to do nothing of substance, and the Department is moving in the same direction in several other states.

7. The Administration is supporting only a watered down version of the Voting Rights Act, which would be difficult to enforce.

8. In years past, the Legal Services Corporation has financed lawyers in many worthy cases involving fundamental rights. But the Administration has urged Congress to abolish the agency, cut its

funding by 25%, and put people in charge who are unsympathetic to legal services for the poor.

I think it is clear that there has not been a time since Bull Connor's police dogs assaulted Martin Luther King, Jr.'s freedom demonstrators in Birmingham when equal rights have been attacked as relentlessly as today.

But Bull Connor's assault occurred against a rising tide of Civil Rights activism. It defeated him and contributed to passing the Civil Rights Act of 1965.

But today, because many people have become complacent, the level of activism is low, and Civil Rights are dangerously vulnerable to attack.

That is why the work of the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) is so important, and why I urge you to become one of its supporters.

For over 40 years, LDF has been a leader in the legal struggle to affirm, establish and advance Civil Rights. We have been fighting black poverty by opposing job discrimination...working for equal education...voting rights and more.

When black men and women suffer discrimination, they turn to LDF for help. And we must turn to you.

Can we get the job done today in the face of powerful opposition from the highest levels of our national government? With your support, I am confident that we can.

During the Nixon Administration, when the Department of Justice and John Mitchell tried to slow down school integration, busing and more, LDF court challenges produced more classroom integration in fact in the public schools than has ever been experienced at any other time -- before or since.

Please join hands with me and those who need our help by sending your tax-deductible contribution of \$25, or more if you can spare it, today.

(over please)

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of private citizens like you. Together, we can fight to see that equal rights remain strong in America, and you can be sure we will continue to fight against lily-white education wherever that is necessary.

Sincerely,



Paul Moore, Jr.
Chairman

P.S. Please make your check payable to NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND. Your gift is tax deductible. If you do not itemize, you may still lawfully deduct up to a total of \$25 for gifts made to IRS-approved groups in 1982.

The
"Committee
of 100"

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