

*Continue
invest.*

JULY 10, 1964

Police

HON. RAY GIRARDIN
POLICE COMMISSIONER, CITY OF DETROIT
1300 BEAUBIEN AVE.
DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN

DEAR MR. GIRARDIN:

LAST FRIDAY, JUNE 19, REV. DONALD SCHROEDER, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY LIFE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE DETROIT COUNCIL OF CHURCHES; THE VERY REV. THOMAS RUFFIN, OF ST. GEORGE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH; MR. HORACE SHEFFIELD, ADMINISTRATIVE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL; AND MR. SOL I. LITTMAN, MICHIGAN DIRECTOR OF THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH, WERE HONORED TO HAVE BEEN INVITED BY THE POLICE ACADEMY TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT ACADEMY CLASS.

SOME OF US HAVE HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CLASS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, AND SOME OF US WERE DOING THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

WE ARE WRITING TO YOU AFTER CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT, TO EXPRESS SOME OF OUR CONCERN AS A RESULT OF OUR AFTERNOON WITH THE POLICE ACADEMY. FRANKLY, WE WERE DISTURBED BY THE EVIDENT LACK OF UNDERSTANDING BY THESE POTENTIAL POLICE OFFICERS IN THE AREA OF RACE. WHILE WE DID NOT EXPECT A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED APPROACH TO THIS SUBJECT, NEVERTHELESS WE WERE DISTURBED TO FIND THAT SOME OF THESE POLICE CANDIDATES QUESTIONED NOT ONLY THEIR ABILITY, BUT ALSO THE DESIRABILITY OF REMAINING OBJECTIVE IN POLICE WORK IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF RESPECT THEY FELT FOR THE NEGRO COMMUNITY.

WE FEEL IT NECESSARY TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN BECAUSE WE ARE GENUINELY FEARFUL THAT SOME OF THESE YOUNG MEN, SHOULD THEY BE HIRED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WILL SERVE AS A SOURCE OF DEEP EMBARRASSMENT TO THEIR DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS A SOURCE OF CONFLICT WITH THE NEGRO COMMUNITY. WE COULD NOT HELP ASKING OURSELVES WHAT TYPE OF SCREENING PROCESS WAS INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION OF THESE POLICE CADETS. WE COULD NOT HELP WONDERING ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OF THE POLICE ACADEMY, AND ITS FAILURE TO TEACH THESE YOUNG MEN ANYTHING ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE THEY WILL BE WORKING WITH.

WE WERE EQUALLY AMAZED TO FIND THAT SOME OF THESE YOUNG MEN FELT FREE TO VENT EXPRESSIONS OF HATRED WHICH WERE OBVIOUSLY HURTFUL AND EMBARRASSING TO THE FEW NEGRO CADETS PRESENT.

THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN TO THE ACADEMY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS HAVE NEVER BEFORE FELT THE SAME SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE NATURE

RECEIVED
JUL 13 1964

MAYOR'S OFFICE

HON. RAY GIRARDIN

- 2 -

AND QUALITY OF THE DISCUSSION. AT ANY RATE, NEVER HAVE ATTITUDES AND INTENTIONS BEEN SO FREELY AND CLEARLY INDICATED.

WE ANTICIPATE THAT YOU WILL WANT TO TAKE YOUR OWN ACTION IN TERMS OF TIGHTENING UP THE SELECTIVE PROCESS AND PROVIDING A BETTER, FULLER HUMAN RELATIONS TRAINING FOR YOUR CADETS.

SINCERELY YOURS,

REV. DONALD SCHROEDER

THE VERY REV. THOMAS RUFFIN

HOMAGE SHEFFIELD

SOL I. LITTMAN

cc: HON. JEROME CAVANAGH/
MR. RICHARD MARKS