

Letter From Detroit Jail

An Open Letter to Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh

April 9, 1968

Dear Governor Romney and Mayor Cavanagh:

This letter is being written and signed by a number of your fellow citizens who, at the moment, find themselves imprisoned for demonstrating their respect for the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We would have liked to join you and the rest of the Michigan establishment in Atlanta, but since we lacked the financial resources, we felt that the only way to show our outrage at Dr. King's murder was to march, as you did, in a silent procession. For this we were arrested.

We have challenged your imposition of police-state conditions because it was unnecessarily prolonged, inconsistently and unjustly enforced, and clearly used to stifle peaceful expressions of sorrow and commitment.

On Easter Sunday, April 14, we are once again, as so often in the past, asked to assemble together to demonstrate our concern for racial justice in our city, our state, and our nation.

But we believe the time for such demonstrations has passed. The time for forth-right **action** has come.

The leadership of our city, our state, and our nation, will henceforth be judged not by how many demonstrations they attend, nor how many miles they march, nor even by how many tears they shed. They will be judged by what they do.

The following demands have been made for many months by a wide range of civic, religious, and political groups. They must be implemented immediately:

- 1) The appointment of a black Police Commissioner.
- 2) The hiring of 500 black policemen within the next 30 days, and the hiring of 1,000 additional black policemen within 12 months.
- 3) Passage of a district system for the election of the Detroit Common Council.
- 4) \$10,000,000 to be appropriated as a rebuilding fund in the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 5) Official endorsement of Dr. King's Poor People's March and its goals.

White institutions, white leadership, and white individuals must understand that further delay is suicidal.

Symbolic action alone is hypocrisy in a time of crisis.

Sincerely yours,

Name	Occupation	Organization	Name	Occupation	Organization
William K. Beeman,	Teacher		David Cohen,	W.S.U. Research Aide	
Leslie Biederman,	Teacher	People Against Racism	George D. Colman,	Clergyman	Interfaith Action Council
John Cherveney,	General Mgr.,	Ferndale Coop.	Julia M. Colman,	Teacher	
Jesse Christman,	Clergyman	Interfaith Action Council	Richard H. Dick,	Teacher	A.C.L.U.

Name	Occupation	Organization
Sarah K. Dick,	Teacher	A.C.L.U.
Philip H. Doster,	Clergyman,	Interfaith Action Council
Jerald Fair,	Volunteer	People Against Racism
Al Fishman,	Systems Analyst	State Vice-Chairman Mich. Conf. of Concerned Democrats
Margaret Fishman,	Secretary	Mich. Conf. of Concerned Democrats
M. Carolyn Flint,	Teacher	People Against Racism
Ernest Foss,	Volunteer	Am. Friends Service Comm.
Susan Fisher,	Volunteer	Am. Friends Service Comm.
Sandy Feldheim,	Student,	W.S.U.
Charles Gorevitz,	Auto Parts,	People Against Racism
Duane Hamel,	Volunteer	
Joe Hansknecht,	Insurance Co. Executive	Interfaith Action Council Chm., Church and Synagogue Committee, Archdiocese of Detroit
Nora Hansknecht,	Student,	Immaculata
Kai Holman,	Teacher	
Bill Houghton,	Volunteer	Amer. Friends Serv. Com.
Doris Herreshoff,	Housewife	A.C.L.U.
Dennis Holmberg,	Clergyman	
Tom Jackson,	Clergyman	
Christopher H. Johnson,	Professor,	W.S.U. Liberal Conf. 17th District Democrats
Lois Ann Johnson,	Housewife	
Barry Kalish,	Teacher	
Elaine Kalish,	Volunteer	
Alan W. Kamens,	Clergyman	
Martin Kech,	Clergyman	
Joseph Kransdorf,	Student	

Name	Occupation	Organization
Joseph E. Lenzo,	Psychiatrist	
Sara McCoy,	Volunteer	Amer. Friends Serv. Com.
John McConnell,	Instructor,	W.S.U.
Sandra Monaghan,	Teacher	
Thomas P. Monaghan,	Student,	W.S.U.
Bob Nechal,	Programmer	Rec. Sec. People Against Racism
Dennis I. Nordmoe,	Clergyman	
Lynn Hudson Parsons,	Professor,	W.S.U. Vice-Chairman, Det. ADA
Donald Palmgren,	Clergyman	St. Philip Workers
John Leo Phalen,	Priest	So. Macomb Human Rel.
Karen Pike,	Student	People Against Racism
Joel Raitt,	Volunteer	People Against Racism
Sarah J. Rousseau,	Student,	W.S.U.
Gertrude Saxton,	Housewife	
Tanya Sabaroff,	Secretary	
H. Elizabeth Shaffer,	Volunteer	Am. Friends Service Comm.
Melvin Small,	Professor,	W.S.U.
Robert Lee Thompson,	Assembler	
Athan Theoharis,	Professor,	W.S.U. Chairman, W.S.U. SANE
David L. VanWinkle,	Clergyman	
E. Douglas White,	Clergyman	Interfaith Action Council
Martin E. Wellin,	Engineer	
Pearl Wellin,	Housewife	
William T. Witt,	Teacher	Chairman, People Against Racism
Jack Yorke,	Volunteer	Archdiocese of Detroit

(Organizations listed for purposes of identification only)