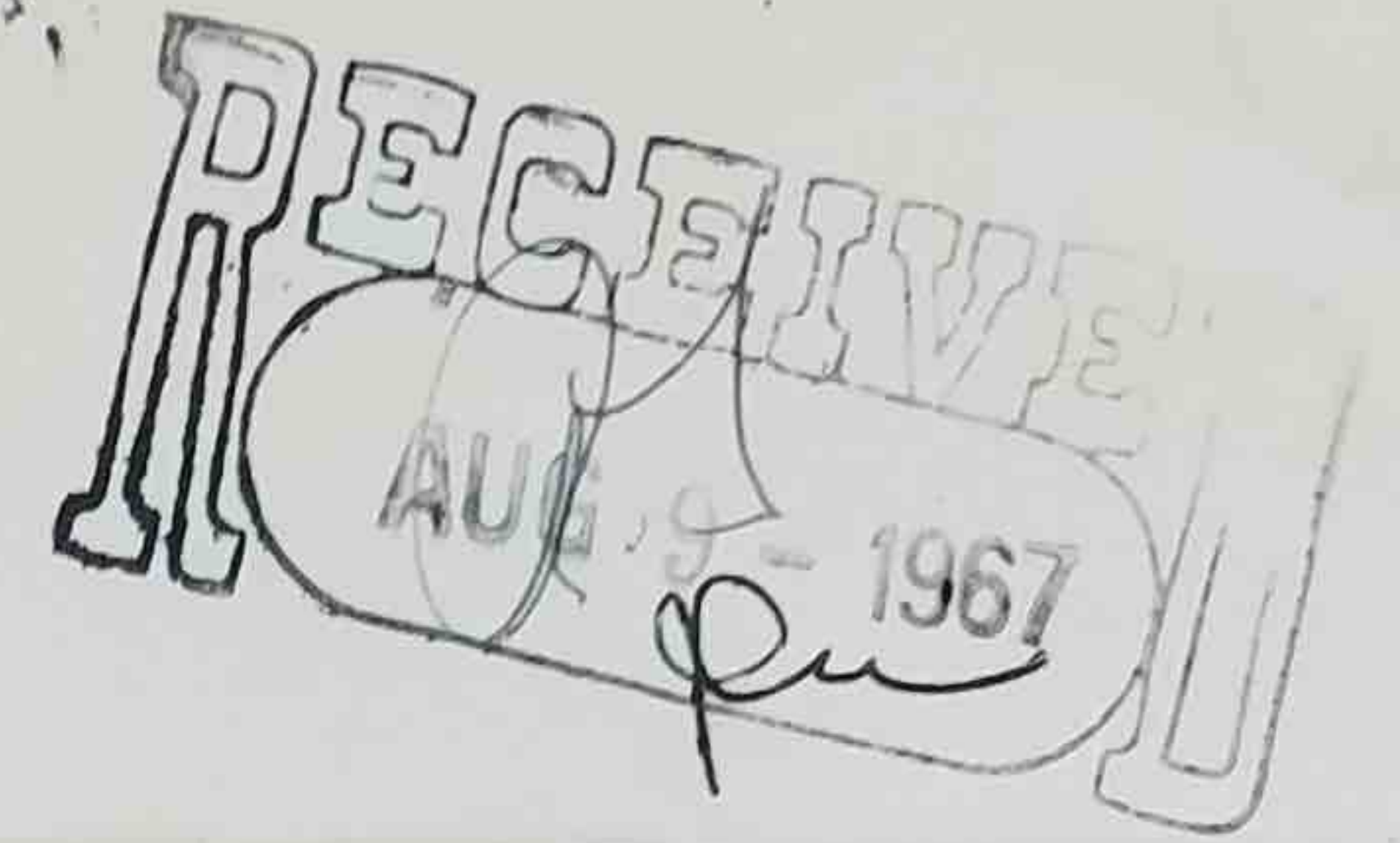


2000 Glynn Court
Detroit, Michigan 48206

August 8, 1967

Detroit Branch of the N. A.A.C.P.
242 E. Warren Avenue
Detroit, Michigan



Dear Sirs:

I am a public school teacher employed by the Detroit Board of Education. I have always considered myself a law-abiding citizen, a veteran of World War II, a worker in the community in which I live and the school community where I teach. I am highly respected by both communities and take great pride in my family life and civic responsibilities.

I am writing this letter in protest of the injustice, humiliation, and indignity suffered by my family and self due to the National Guard, State Police and Detroit Police Officers breaking into my home at 2000 Glynn Court on Wednesday, July 26, 1967 at approximately 9 o'clock A.M.

Having stayed awake most of the night before, my wife and I were awakened by our eleven year old son who informed us that our street and house were surrounded by guns and a tank. In a state of shock, from concern as to what was going on outside, I went to the front door. As far as I could see, there were guns aimed in firing position. I waited for a few moments but no one asked me to come out or open the door. My only thought was to get my family to the basement where I felt it was safe. Before we had gotten to the basement, we heard both doors of the house being kicked in. At this time someone called out, "Is anyone in here?" We immediately replied and were asked to come up with our hands up. We were held at gun point by several men while the entire house was being searched.

Our home was searched from top to bottom without any explanation or reason for the search. You can't imagine the fear we suffered unless it happens to you. I am mostly concerned about the effect this personal experience had upon my eleven year old youngster. My son's room was wrecked, drawers emptied on the floor, his box spring mattress was ripped with a bayonet, emptied linen closet, and searched other rooms and closets. We tried to assure the men that we had nothing to hide in the manner of loot or ammunition. Had they asked me to open the door or called out, I would have done so gladly. Instead, we were treated as if we were criminals or guilty of some unlawful act. None of the questions we asked were answered as to the reason for coming to our house. To cause my family personal damage as well as to my property without alerting the occupants, was entirely unnecessary.

I do feel however, as a law-abiding citizen I should have been asked to open the door. We had not received any communication that Martial Law had been declared. For this unnecessary cruelty, our locks and doors will have to be replaced to insure security. What agency in the city should I turn to for the damage done to my home? Many of our neighbors tried to explain to the guards that we were home and offered to ring the door bell, but were denied permission.

I realize too, that these men were only doing their duty, but I still maintain that after searching my home and finding nothing incriminating, they should have made an apology for the humiliation caused my family and the personal damage to the pride of my eleven year old son. I am sure you know that this kind of treatment may never be forgotten. As a result, you will never know the effects this nightmare will have on my family for years to come. I truly feel that we will never be the same.

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Estus

Charles J. Estus

TO 8-2676

cc

Governor George Romney
Congressman John Conyers
Councilman Nicholas Hood
Mr. Hubert Locke
Mr. Philip A. Hart
Detroit Branch of NAACP
Commission on Community Relations
Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh