

# AN OPEN LETTER TO SAM OLSEN

Dear Sam:

We don't know how much longer you will go on thinking Negroes in this city are fools and that you can continue whitewashing every police brutality case that comes along. The Cynthia Scott case is the last straw. The monstrous lies concocted by the police to cover up one of the most cruel and cowardly acts ever committed only further insults the intelligence of every good citizen.

Now that Marjorie McGowan works on George Romney's staff and is no longer on your payroll, we don't know which Negro apologist you will pick from your staff to run around the Negro community explaining what a nice "liberal" you are. It just won't work any more Sam. Nearly every Negro voter knows you are not only the most bigoted official holding public office in this town, but the worst prosecuting attorney in recent memory. Why? **Because more colored citizens have been falsely arrested, intimidated, beaten, tortured, falsely convicted, and murdered under your administration than any other previous administration.** You have made it crystal clear to every policeman in this city and county that he can treat any Negro citizen any way he wants to, for any reason he wants to.

Take the Cynthia Scott case. A sick, Negro-hating policeman senselessly shoots a citizen twice in the back, in front of witnesses, after your No. 2 alibi-artist, Max Silverman, conducts a coverup investigation, you issue a statement "exonerating" the policeman saying he had a legal right and a duty to murder this woman. For what? How much longer are we going to stand by and let mad-dog cops murder our men, women and children? What kind of justice can you get from Detroit Courts, when a few months ago another Detroit policeman went on a rampage and shot down a Negro in cold blood, hid the body in his car, was arrested while driving around looking for a place to dump the body — and then a Recorder's Court judge named O'Hara can't figure out that this is first degree murder! Or Judge Wood in Traffic Court who sentences a Negro to a jail sentence for staring at a white girl and when he gets a lawyer to appeal the case, the judge sends him to prison before the appeal can be filed. The police, the prosecutor's office, the traffic and criminal courts in this town are unfair to Negroes. Why else is it that the majority of people charged with crimes and given traffic tickets are Negroes?

What you apparently cannot understand is that this is a new day and that you are dealing with a new brother! That march down Woodward on June 23 was just what it said: A March to Freedom! And you Sam Olsen were not there — you refused to walk with a quarter of a million Negroes who were serving notice on the world that, as Rev. King puts it: "We want all of our rights, we want them here and we want them now." **ALL, HERE, NOW!** Sam, we the undersigned most assuredly guarantee you will be turned out of office in August, 1964 when your name next appears on the ballot.

By placing our names on the attached petition below, we hereby re-dedicate ourselves to this historic struggle for freedom that is now taking place in the United States. We give our oath that we will work, fight and, if necessary, die — like Medgar Evers and Cynthia Scott to make the promise of democracy a reality for every black citizen in the United States of America.

July 26, 1963

Dear Friend:

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory. If you agree with the sentiments in it, please join hundreds of us who are securing signatures of our friends, relatives and neighbors. To make this letter a petition, simply staple or scotch tape a sheet to this letter.

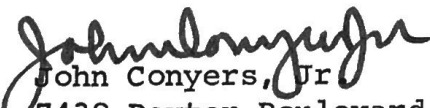
Since the mess in the police department and the prosecutor's office is getting worse instead of better, we may have to initiate recall proceedings and send Sam on his way before the election next year. Therefore, the signatures you obtain are very important for these are the people who we will rely on if further action becomes necessary.

If each of us would get 30 of our friends, relatives and neighbors to read and sign this petition, we can easily secure 65,000 signatures - but don't be surprised if we get 165,000 signatures! You might also remind your neighbors who agree with us to make sure that they are registered or have had their registrations transferred so they can vote at the voting booth nearest their homes. Let's impress everybody that this time we mean business, because if you don't vote, you don't count.

If additional petitions are needed, please contact: William Conyers, WEBster 3-0616.

Please bring all signed petitions to a brief meeting at Rev. William Ardrey's church, St. Paul AME Zion, 11359 Dexter at Lawrence on Saturday, August 3. The meeting will start promptly at 3 p.m. and will end at 4 p.m. We will be interested in the reactions that you observed, and any unusual experiences you may have had while getting these names.

Sincerely yours,

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
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Detroit 6, Michigan  
TYler 5-7145