

FREEDOM



JUSTICE

BATTLE CREEK SENIOR BRANCH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

P. O. BOX 1436

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN 49016

November 11, 1981

TO: All-American City Award Committee
FROM: Battle Creek Chapter of the NAACP
RE: Resolution in Opposition to the City's bid for the
All-American City Award

We, the Battle Creek Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, resolve that we are opposed to the nomination of the City of Battle Creek for the 1981-1982 All-American City Award. The Chapter's objections stem from our concerns about the city/community commitment to provide adequate housing, fair employment opportunities, and impartial police protection. These city services, we feel, have not been provided sufficiently to blacks and minorities - certainly not to the extent that the city should merit the prestigious All-American City Award.

Two points must be emphasized at the outset. First, the NAACP is deeply committed to Battle Creek. We maintain the faith that the people of Battle Creek are imbued with the spirit of a sharing community. We hope and expect this resolution in opposition to the award will be a catalyst that will lead to improved social, political, and economic welfare of all its citizens.

We have no intention of shirking our responsibility to help improve the socio-economic climate in the area. We, as an organization, representing minority citizens, look forward to a much more active role in those activities which directly affect the lives of all people.

We feel we are an integral part of the community, having as much at stake in its revitalization as any other part of the community. We have been, and always will be willing partners in the area's progress.

We, therefore, commend the tremendous efforts of business, government, and local citizens for the progress achieved with the Franklin Neighborhood Citizens District, the railroad consolidation, and the revitalization of the Central Business District. All of which, we hope, is the genesis of a Battle Creek working and living in concert.

Presently, however, living and working in Battle Creek is not compatible with the All-American ideal.

Secondly, we regret having to take our concerns to an organization outside the municipality. We would much rather address our concerns locally. On the other hand, we have found in our previous dealings with city officials and organizations, that their response has regarded our concerns as either too exotic to be corrected

or too common to be addressed. Working with outside sources has often helped stimulate relief for the injustices endured locally.

It was an outside newspaperman's article on the city's special population - the mentally and physically handicapped, disabled veterans, and parolees - that brought about action from local officials, businessmen, and social agencies. However, in this situation we are aggrieved that the city is more concerned about business profits than they are about people's lives.

This is why we are using the National Municipal League's citizen forum on self-government to call attention to our concerns.

Table after table of figures on female and minority population in the area's labor market, as listed in the most recent edition of the Affirmative Action Information Report, indicate an intolerable imbalance in employment opportunities.

But even more dramatic evidence of that imbalance can be found by visiting area department stores, restaurants, and other businesses. In a city with a quarter of its population that is black, few minorities can be found employed in even the most menial jobs. We contend that the situation is much worse for minorities in managerial and supervisory positions. However, our investigators found that statistics and data to support these contentions had either not been maintained, had been destroyed, or were withheld from us.

Policy making boards of major organizations and governmental units fail to have sufficient minority representation - certainly not in proportion to their numbers in the community.

Housing for minorities remains a disgrace despite the enactment of the Rental Certification Program. Though noble in its intent, the program has resulted in the reduction of the number of rental facilities available for low income residents. This program should be reassessed because so much housing is being destroyed without adequate replacement.

Recently a letter to the editor appeared in the local newspaper in which the author, a local minister, posed a question surrounding the fact that social intermingling among the races in Battle Creek remains at dismal levels. His question was, "What did we (blacks) do wrong?"

We too are asking that question. We would like to know what we did wrong to be excluded from jobs in the city's illustrious 3,000 acre Fort Custer Industrial Park?

What did we do wrong to be excluded from political leadership, both appointed and elected?

These are issues Battle Creek officials and organizations have not adequately addressed. As one city official surmised less than two years ago at a meeting of the newly formed Coalition to End Police Brutality, an underlying cause of racial tension is that minority group members, "don't have a piece of the rock," in the city's economy.

We recognize the progress made in police-community relations, but also serve notice that the tension has far from subsided. Whether the exclusion from the piece of the rock is by design or by accident - sins of commission or sins of omission -

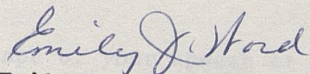
November 11, 1981

the net effect on minorities is the same. The exclusion withers the spirit - the spirit of a shared part in the community.

For these reasons the Battle Creek Chapter of the NAACP resolves that our opposition to the city's bid for the All-American City Award will stand firm until such time that a mechanism is activated and a structure in place to remedy these exclusions.

— The above resolution was drafted by the Executive Board Resolution Committee and has the majority support of the Battle Creek Chapter of the NAACP.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily J. Word, President
Battle Creek Chapter NAACP

copies to:

Mayor Floyd Oglesby
Mr. George Dunn
Mr. Peter Christ
Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Dan Martin - Enquirer and News
Mr. John Grabber - Channel 3 News
Mr. Mark Crawford - Channel 41 News
Mr. Tom McHale - WBCK
Mr. Jim Childress - WOTV
Mr. Carl Breeding - State President NAACP Branches
Rev. Charles H. Smith - Deputy Exec. Dir. National NAACP
Mr. Rick Darah - WKNR-WKFR

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FREEDOM



JUSTICE

BATTLE CREEK SENIOR BRANCH
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

P. O. BOX 1436
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN 49016

November 16, 1981

Rev. Charles Smith
Deputy Executive Director
1790 Broadway
New York, New York 10019

Dear Rev. Smith:

The Branch has sent Mr. Penn a copy of our resolution to The Mayor of Battle Creek and to the League. We also wanted you to have a copy.

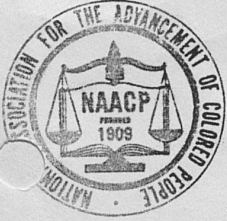
Our members have been sharing the tape of your speech at our banquet. People are saying that you remind them of Martin Luther King in the way you talk and the way people respond to you. The people listen to you and want to follow you.

Take care of yourself, don't let yourself become ill from so much traveling, but keep talking to the people, because you are an inspiration to many. Your kind of approach is needed. The people say you are so human. Someone they can approach.

God Bless You!

Emily J. Word, President
Battle Creek NAACP

P.S. I was feeling pretty low when I heard you in Ft. Wayne, but after your speech I felt better and more courageous. My neice is joining the Ft. Wayne Youth group all because of you.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

SEVENTEEN NINETY BROADWAY •

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 • 212-245-2100

April 21, 1982

Mr. Horace Lashley
Senior Education Officer
Commission for Racial Equality
Elliot House
10/12 Allington Street
London SW1E - 5EH

Dear Mr. Lashley:

It was a pleasure to meet you in our office here in New York the other day. I am only sorry that our paths only crossed and we were not able to discuss our mutual concerns. My role as Deputy Director of the NAACP, dealing with its multiple problems on an administrative day-by-day basis for the entire country, forces me to interface with your institution on an informal basis while in England attending a weekend seminar. In order for you to understand the nature of my trip, I am enclosing an agenda.

It would be desirable spending some time meeting and sharing with those in your country that are facing the same problems we do daily. Maybe, we can be of mutual assistance. My travel schedule is enclosed. Please contact me at your earliest convenience. If printed resources from our files can be of any assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Smith
Deputy Executive Director

CHS:dt
Enclosures

MAY 10 1982
MAY 10 1982



COMMISSION
FOR RACIAL
EQUALITY

Elliot House
10/12 Allington Street
London SW1E 5EH

Tel: 01-828 7022

Rev Charles H Smith
Deputy Executive Director
National Association for the
Advancement of Coloured People
Seventeen Ninety Broadway
New York, NY 10019
U S A

Date: 30 April 1982

Our Ref: HL/WA

Your Ref:

Dear Charles

Thank you very much for your letter of the 21 April. It was as much a delight to hear from you as it was to meet you recently.

Immediately on receipt of your letter I contacted my Department's acting Director Dr Aaron Haynes so that he can begin to make arrangements for you to visit the CRE and make contact with representatives of the Black Community in Britain.

He observed that you have two uncommitted periods, a short one immediately before, and a longer one after the Conference. He therefore suggested that it ought to be possible, if you are so inclined, for a short briefing meeting on the Black British Scene during the morning of Friday 21 May. This ought to last no more than an hour and a half, bearing in mind you have to catch a train at 1.50p.m from Paddington.

On your return to London he suggested that Monday 24th May would be more convenient for a CRE arranged programme. This would entail all of that day culminating in a late afternoon early evening function for you to meet representatives of the Black community. Earlier in the day you will be able to meet with staff at the CRE and time permitting make one or two visits into the community.

Under separate cover I am sending you some materials on the current happenings in the area of race relations generally and more specifically on particular issues of concern to the Black community.

I do hope the suggested programme meets with your approval.

Looking forward to meeting you again.

Yours sincerely

Horace

Horace Lashley
Senior Education Officer

cc: Peter Tucker
Aaron Haynes
Clifton Robinson

New York/Kennedy To London, Thursday, May 20, 1982

LV Kennedy 10:00 A.M. British Airways #178

AR London 9:40 P.M.

London to New York/Kennedy, Tuesday, May 25, 1982

LV London 6:00 P.M. British Airways #179

AR Kennedy 8:35 P.M.

Round Trip # 732

Cumberland Hotel Night of May 20, 1982

NW Corner of Hyde Park (Approx. \$85⁰⁰ per Night)

Hotel is About a 10 minute taxi ride from

Paddington Station -- Hotel is Centrally located

Free lodging at Ditchley House on cong time

Booked at Cumberland on May 20, 23, 24, 25

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Shiloh United Church of Christ Apostolic Worldwide

Affiliated with Shiloh International Ministerial Fellowship

Communications Office :

47 Wellesley Road
West Croydon
CR0 2AJ, England
Telephone 01-688 0515



The Executive Board

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Vice-Chairman : The Rev. H. G. Francis B.D.
Hon. Treasurer : Rev. S. S. Wadley

Please reply to :

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General Secretary

I. G. McKenzie, B.D.
Overseer
Tottenham

Rev. A. A. Miller
Brixton

Rev. Bob R. Hankson, B.D.
Ghana, West Africa

Rev. James Adjei-Frompong,
L.Th., B.D.
Ghana, West Africa

Rev. C. A. Bennett
Area Elder

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Mrs. I. Ramsay, L.Th.
President

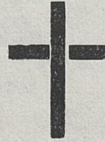
Mrs. E. Wadley, L.Th.
Women's Supervisor

Mrs. L. Thompson
Assistant Supervisor

Mrs. Y. Acre
National Evangelist

Mrs. E. Jackson
Secretary

Your Ref.
Our Ref.



Rev. Charles Smith
Deputy-Executive Director
NAACP
1990 Broadway
New York
NY 10019
USA.

26th May, 1982

Dear Revd Smith,

I refer to your recent visit to England to attend the Dishley Conference and your subsequent meeting with community workers at the offices of the Commission for Racial Equality on Monday 24th May.

I found our meeting most encouraging, firstly as Mr. Cummings correctly said you had the concern to seek a group of people with whom you could share your remarkable experience, and secondly what you had to say about the role of Black Churches as we are designated in England. From the enclosed information you will note that our Church has been pursuing a similar approach to the Church-concept with which you work.

I wish to inform you that we would be very happy to co-operate with NAACP in using our Church and community resources to provide the springboard for a Civil Rights Movement. We have the framework of an administrative infrastructure from which to operate, we have developed analyses of several situations as they affect the Black community and we are willing to reach out to other religious and community bodies to the extent to which they may be willing to take joint action on various issues.

If you consider this response to your concern worthy of further attention we would love to hear from you. There is a loose federation of Black Churches called the Afro-West Indian United Council of Churches of which I am Chairman and to which I would be happy to recommend the general principles and objectives of an NAACP programme.

I recally you mentioned an impending Congress of NAACP affiliates and it

Revd. Charles Smith

- 2 -

26th May, 1982

and it may be a suitable occasion for basic proposals if Mr. James Cummings of our Community Affairs Section could attend. He attended the meeting at which you spoke and I believe you took a picture of him just before he addressed you. He has twenty-five years experience of voluntary and community work in England, including educational activities, counselling, family therapy, writing, public speaking, and making representation.

Could you please send me as quickly as possible the information about the Congress and any assistance financial or otherwise which NAACP may be able to contribute to his attendance.

Hoping this will be the beginning of a lasting relationship between our organisations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Ramsay', written over a horizontal line.

The Most Rev. M. Ramsay

Encl.

May 26, 1982

Ms. Carol Arnold
The American Ditchley Foundation
39 East 51st Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Ms. Arnold:

Enclosed please find a copy of our travel agency's invoice for Rev. Charles H. Smith's trip to Oxfordshire, England on May 21-23, 1982 to attend the "Violence in Contemporary Urban Society: Causes, Conditions and Cures" conference.

Please send check in the amount of \$732.00 payable to the NAACP to the following:

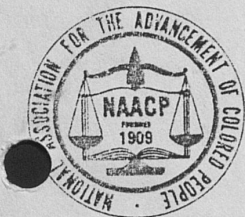
Rev. Charles H. Smith
NAACP
~~179~~ Broadway, 12th Floor
New York, N. Y. 10019

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Doris Terrell
Administrative Assistant to
Rev. Charles H. Smith

/dt
Encl.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

SEVENTEEN NINETY BROADWAY •

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 • 212-245-2100

May 28, 1982

Ms. Cecelia S. Lerch
Box 1855
DODDS - A
APO N. Y. 09241
London, England 01-868 1971

Dear Ms. Lerch:

So good to have met you on last Monday at the CRE.
My trip was most interesting and enjoyable.

I would like for you to make history by the
creation of our first branch in Britain, then we can
service not only the branch but others in the London
area as well. We need fifty (50) members to establish
a branch. With the racism apparent in London, it must
invade the base and U. S. subjects.

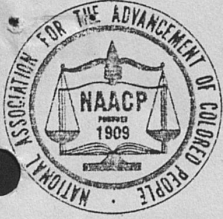
Enclosed are necessary forms. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Smith
Deputy Executive Director
NAACP

CHS:dt

Enclosure: Membership Forms



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

SEVENTEEN NINETY BROADWAY

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 • 212-245-2100

June 3, 1982

The Most Reverend Malachi Ramsay
47 Wellesley Road
West Croydon
CRO 2AJ, England

Dear Bishop:

Thank you for your letter dated May 26, 1982
inquiring about our Annual Convention.

Enclosed you will find information concerning our
Convention and the necessary forms. Unfortunately, we
have had to terminate ten (10) staff persons and have
no budgeted financial assistance but I do feel the
Convention would be worth Mr. Cummings' investment.

I have forwarded a box of printed materials to
Horace Lashley at the CRE that would be very helpful
to you.

Again, it was good hearing from you. The Church
is still the secret.

Respectfully,

Charles H. Smith
Deputy Executive Director

CHS:dt
Encls.

cc: Mr. Lashley

June 15, 1982

Mr. Horace Lashley
Senior Education Officer
Commission for Racial Equality
Elliot House
10/12 Allington Street
London SW1E 5EH

Dear Horace:

As you can see from the enclosed letter which is addressed to Mrs. Joscelyn Barrow it was opened and returned to me with the attached note.

I wonder if you would be so kind as to see to it that Mrs. Barrow receives this letter. My sincere appreciation for your help.

My best regards,

Sincerely,

Charles H. Smith
Deputy Executive
Director

CHS:dt
Encl.

JUN 14 1982

Mr. Smith,

Please note that Mrs. Jocelyn Barrow has no connection with the Commission for Racial Equality; and I am therefore returning the enclosed letter.

Thank You
Secretariat.

8th, June, 1982.



COMMISSION
FOR RACIAL
EQUALITY

Elliot House
10/12 Allington Street
London SW1E 5EH

Tel: 01-828 7022

Send to ATTA: Horace Lashley

with compliments