

March 23, 1971

Mr. John Matzer, Village Manager
Village of Skokie
Skokie, Illinois

Dear Mr. Matzer:

I have been concerned for some time about the ill-considered, sometimes thoughtless and sometimes tactless statements which Mr. Goldmeier makes in public and to the press, and have spoken to him about specific incidents several times, apparently without effect.

The latest such incident^{is} the full-page article in the March 18 issue of the "Skokie Life" on "Suburban Open Housing." In this article, which Mr. Goldmeier says quotes him substantially correctly, he:

1. Alleges a conspiracy to keep housing accommodations "to a minimum level so that you'll always have a greater demand than supply."
2. Quotes from the HRC annual report to the Board of Trustees before it has been given to the trustees -- an act which will surely fill the trustees with joy.
3. Accused community leaders of panicky "trickery and persuasion" in inducing the second black home purchaser in Skokie, some ten years ago, not to buy a home adjacent to the first black home-owner. Judged by hindsight, and in the light of today's community attitude, such an action seems unnecessary; but at the time, the community was close to panic and violence, and the men involved were justifiably proud of their handling of the situation.
4. Makes a questionable attribution to Congressman Pucinski's telling white people to run and playing into the hands of panic peddlers.
5. Makes the confusing and somewhat threatening statement that the Commission will attempt to "go beyond conciliation" and enforce the "letter and the spirit" of our fair housing ordinance, although the spirit of the ordinance is to obtain compliance by conciliation whenever possible.
6. Downgrades the people who attended our recent workshop for real estate men and industrialists as "middle management executives, who have little actual corporate power."

I believe it is necessary that some firm curbs and guidelines be drawn up for him, and while I would be glad to work with you in formulating them, I think they must come from you, since Mr. Goldmeier is responsible to you.

Sincerely yours,

Herman S. Bloch

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