

September 29, 1970

Mr. Louis Hennes  
8738 Harding Avenue  
Skokie IL 60076

Dear Mr. Hennes:

Your letter of September 26 has been received.

Thank you for calling your thoughts to my  
attention.

Sincerely,

Albert J. Smith

mc

← bcc: Dr. Herman Bloch:

Attached is copy of letter received and my reply (a practice of acknowledging all correspondence to my office). Thought this letter might be of some interest to you and the Commission members.

Very best regards.

2016.003.025

SEP 29 1970

VILLAGE OF SKOKIE

September 26, 1970

Village of Skokie  
5127 Oakton Ave.  
Skokie, Ill. 60076

Gentlemen:

Thank you for the Village Report which was mailed to me. In this report, you suggest that I maintain my home because it preserves my investment in property. If I maintain my home, meet the mortgage payments, and pay the taxes, then it would seem reasonable to assume that my home is mine; it is mine just as my car or furniture are mine. Therefore, if my home is my property, then I should have the right to dispose of it or sell it to whomever I choose. However, this is not the case. Skokie's so-called fair (forced) housing ordinance deprives me of my freedom of choice, my freedom to choose my neighbors and associates, and violates my property rights. Furthermore, if a prospective buyer were Caucasian and I considered him objectionable for some reason, and refused to sell to him, he would have no recourse. But under Skokie's ordinance, other races are treated as a special, privileged class. Therefore, the ordinance itself is discriminatory. If my home is not entirely mine, why should I maintain it for the benefit of a buyer to whom I may be forced to sell against my will?

I am a former resident of Chicago's Fillmore District. The bitter memories of my youth in that district will never be erased from my mind. I have too much consideration for my neighbors to allow the slightest possibility of a crime-infested slum such as the one I escaped from to get started in Skokie. We don't need any more victims of black crime such as Fohrman, Gutmann, Gans, and most recently, John Thompson who was viciously murdered at North Ave. Beach. We don't need any murdered Police Officers such as Kaner, Severin, Rizzato, and Alfano. We don't need any Cabrini-Green housing projects, dope, crime, vandalism, riots, and blackboard jungle schools in Skokie. Rather than risk the possibility of such conditions getting a start in Skokie, I would level my home to the ground before selling to a buyer who was not of my choosing, ordinance or no ordinance.

Yours truly,

Louis Hennes  
8738 Harding Ave.  
Skokie, Ill. 60076

*Louis Hennes*