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Letter from Oliver L. Thompson, Jr. (March 5, 1962)

Oliver L. Thompson Jr.

The Rhode Island Association of Real Estate Boards

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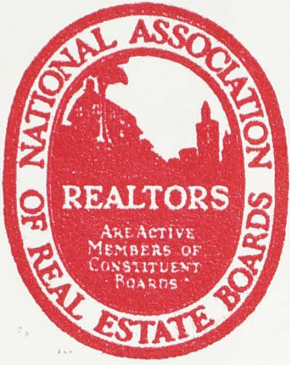
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3/6/62

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Dear Representative:

We are opposed to any so-called fair housing Legislation and urge you to vote to defeat the present Senate Bill (S24), for we hold steadfastly to the principle that the right to own, occupy, administer, and dispose of real property is inherent in the American tradition, guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and indispensable to the maintenance of a free society of free men. We resist aggressively any trend that invests in government, at any level, control over private transactions, the privilege of prejudiced or preferential taxation, or ownership of property for rental to private uses.

This bill transcends the traditional Christian principle of justice and involves inevitably the denial of claims of justice according to due process of law, as understood for centuries by the civilization of the west. This denial is reductively a negation of the traditional Aquinas-Locke-Jefferson concept of freedom.

"John Locke had stated this proposition with great eloquence. The founding fathers of the United States had assented. The idea was that for a man to be truly free, neither his person, nor his spiritual, nor his material goods could be touched in any way that was not demonstrably just, and the touchstone of the unjust was that a man should have taken from him by extra legal means what the law of the land recognized as being his own. There was no dictate of political or economic expediency that could override this metaphysics of justice. The belief was institutionalized in constitutions and bills of rights."

A man may be deprived of ownership of his property, by force, by pillage, and by plunder against which the law guarantees him the right to protect his property to the fullest extent. He may also be deprived of ownership by legal and legislative means. This bill constitutes LEGISLATIVE plunder of a man's private property.

We urge you to use your good offices to defeat this Legislation.

Yours very truly

Oliver L. Thompson, Jr., President
Rhode Island State Association of Real Estate Boards

OLTjr:sw
March 5, 1962