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Letter from Rev. DeWitt C. Clemens (March 20, 1962)

DeWitt C. Clemens

Citizens United for a Fair Housing Law in Rhode Island

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Citizens United for a Fair Housing Law in Rhode Island

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MARCH 20, 1962

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DEAR FRIEND,

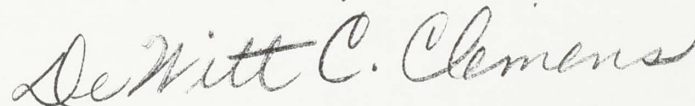
RECENTLY, ADVERTISEMENTS HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS OPPOSING FAIR HOUSING LEGISLATION. THESE ADVERTISEMENTS REFER TO THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO THE USE OF THEIR PROPERTY BUT THEY COMPLETELY IGNORE TWO BASIC FACTS: THE RIGHT OF ALL PERSONS TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY; AND THE OBLIGATION OF PROPERTY OWNERS TO ACT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

FORTUNATELY, THESE BASIC QUESTIONS WERE EXPLAINED CLEARLY IN AN EDITORIAL OF "THE PROVIDENCE VISITOR" OF JANUARY 19. A COPY OF THIS EDITORIAL IS ENCLOSED, TOGETHER WITH THE REPRINT OF A FULL PAGE ARTICLE BY REV. RICHARD J. ROBERTS, S.J., WHICH SURVEYS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF FAIR HOUSING LEGISLATION.

I URGE YOU TO TAKE YOUR TIME NOW TO READ CAREFULLY THIS EDITORIAL AND THIS REPRINT. I AM CONVINCED THAT YOUR THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATERIAL WILL CONVINCED YOU THAT FAIR HOUSING LEGISLATION IS PROPER AS AN EXERCISE OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, AS IT IS NECESSARY, IN ORDER TO HELP SECURE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN HOUSING TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE, FREE OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

WE OF CITIZENS UNITED URGE YOU TO GIVE THIS SERIOUS MATTER YOUR MOST SERIOUS THOUGHT, AND TO VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE TO ASSURE THE PASSAGE OF FAIR HOUSING LEGISLATION DURING THE PRESENT SESSION.

SINCERELY YOURS,



REV. DEWITT C. CLEMENS
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

ENCL/